



NEVADA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Jim Gibbons
Governor

Notice of Funds Available

The Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, in collaboration with Medicaid, announces funds are available to meet the following goals and outcomes under the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Program.

The funding period is February 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Completed applications must be received no later than November 16, 2010 @ 5:00 pm

Goal: Nevada's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) strives to implement employment supports and focus on the welfare of persons with disabilities in their efforts to gain greater independence. Nevada recognizes the importance of maintaining health care services as an employment support for persons with disabilities and is committed to providing health insurance through the buy-in component, benefits counseling, education and training, improving the coordination of services, and enhancing networks.

Expected Outcomes: To develop a comprehensive employment system that maximizes employment for people with disabilities; increase the State's labor force through the inclusion of people with disabilities; and protect and enhance workers health care, other benefits, and needed employment supports.

Primary Focus Areas, Examples, and Funding: It is the intention of the MIG program to fund proposals in each of the following focus areas. However, the MIG Evaluation Committee may only consider proposals which meet the proposal parameters as outlined in this manual. This may affect the funding distribution in any of the focus areas by redirecting funds into another area. Total amount of funds available will be based upon the federal grant award.

1) Benefits Counseling & Work Incentive Programs – Up to \$50,000 available

Increase knowledge about employment supports through benefits counseling to provide employment information, resource assistance and advocacy to persons between the ages of 16 and 64 years of age, and provide guidance and education to a minimum of two hundred persons with disabilities statewide. Expected outcome: beneficiaries will have greater self-sufficiency through work, in making informed choices, and establishing employment related goals.

Project Examples:

- a. Provide work incentives benefits counseling services, including services to targeted groups such as youth in transition.
- b. Develop online benefits counseling tools.
- c. Build linkages/relationships with other agencies to sustain benefits counseling supports and programs.
- d. Increase knowledge and use of Social Security work incentives.
- e. Develop/increase benefits counseling capacity.

2) Improve Coordination of Services – Up to \$65,000 available

Improve coordination of services among state agencies and community organizations that have direct responsibilities to persons with disabilities. Expected outcome: Persons with disabilities will pursue competitive employment and have successful job placement among the Ticket-to-Work holders in Nevada. Individuals will experience greater work participation, increased economic stability and improved social welfare.

Project Examples:

- a. Build partnerships with employers/business organizations (e.g., Business Leadership Networks (BLNs) and formalize relationships with other agencies to sustain employment networks.)
- b. Develop employment technical assistance (TA) networks on supported/customized employment practices.
- c. Develop interagency collaboration to streamline services, intake coordination, and employment supports to make transition more fluid by removing agency specific policies and practices.
- d. Develop comprehensive strategies/tools for hard to reach populations to access services and employment placement.

3) System Integration & Networking – Up to \$90,000 available

To improve interagency cooperation by developing system integration programs and networking processes. Develop strategies to reach persons with disabilities, their families, community agencies, schools, and larger systems for transition services and employment supports. Expected outcomes: Persons with disabilities and their families will receive streamlined transition services and employment supports from various resources allowing for multiple interventions to meet their needs.

Project Examples:

- a. Create non-traditional funding streams for job development/coaching to support people with disabilities in the workplace.
- b. Develop creative area-specific solutions on transportation barriers and gaps in service through agency collaboration and utilizing existing resources.
- c. Build collaborative effort with other employment support systems to develop resources, such as web application, instrumental in adding persons with disabilities with employment systems.
- d. Develop a community mapping process which identifies service gaps, streamlines resources, and promotes policies to sustain effective practices.
- e. Implement data-sharing practices, research meaningful supported employment data, and pull accessible data into one source for service providers and policy makers.

4) Employment Training & Education – Up to \$80,000 available

Identify educational best practices to assist persons with disabilities, learn to earn, enhance their job development skills through technical and nontraditional training, employment transition, career development, and retirement security through collaborative employment partnerships to assist consumers in gaining better quality employment results. Expected outcomes: Moving persons with disabilities more successfully and quickly toward their educational and employment goals, helping build self-esteem, and linking them to role models by adopting an instructional strategy that integrates the teaching of literacy skills and job content.

Project Examples:

- a. Provide “best practice” training to consumers on practical job skills and employability
- b. Employer education on all types of disabilities, related benefits & cost savings
- c. Provide early self-advocacy/self determination training
- d. Develop peer networks and link program participants with role models
- e. Develop policy advocacy to establish a self-sufficiency standard to target workforce development, education, job training, and social and health resources.

Grant applications are available at www.ddsuite.org

This is a web based application and must be submitted via the website. Attendance at technical assistance training is mandatory for grant proposal consideration. All questions should be directed to

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