NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

­­­Project Status Summary

 FFY’ 22 Second Quarter Project Status Summary

For the period of January 1, 2022 through March 1, 2022.

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# GOAL 1: (In House) Individuals with I/DD and/or family members of individuals with I/DD will be able to make more informed decisions about their lives by improving access to information on services, supports and rights.

# Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, not knowing what services are available, not enough or can't access services, targeted disparity (racial/ethnic and rural communities).

## Objective 1.1

Council members and staff will provide and participate in public education activities that increase Nevadan’s awareness of disability services, policies and practices.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Individuals with I/DD, families and professionals will report being better informed on disability services, policies and practices thus increasing their sense of choice and control in making informed choices.
* Participation in 25 Public Awareness Events by 2026.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Self-Advocacy coordinator will create and distribute a statewide quarterly newsletter in English and Spanish via email, direct mailing and social media that provides resources, information and supports in plain language on advocacy, current policy issues, health, mental health, social services, housing, transportation, employment, education, transition, quality assurance and other subjects relevant to the North, South and Rural areas of the State.

Activity B) Self-Advocacy coordinator will regularly collect input to gauge impact and inform future newsletters.

Activity C) Council members and staff will participate in at least 5 Public Awareness Events in communities across the State to inform individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and professionals about resources and/or topics of concern identified through public input for this State Plan.

**Of Note:**

The Self-Advocacy coordinator attended the NCED’s 30th Anniversary Celebration where they had several displays on their many projects and many representatives demonstrating and answering questions. For DD awareness Day we had a Virtual Coffee Break with Assemblywoman Tracy Brown May which was an hour one on one discussion with the assemblywoman and NGCDD Executive Director Catherine Nielsen. This event was put together by Self-Advocacy Coordinator and Assemblywoman Tracy Brown May’s office. We can say that this event was very informative and successful number wise as we had 46 participants attend virtually. Since March was DD Awareness Month, we also were able to share the Proclamation received from Governor Sisolak. The Self – Advocacy Coordinator and Executive Director also were on the virtual Disability Policy Seminar in March. We also met with Senator Rosen’s Office and discussed some topics up for discussion that are reflected on bills that bring up concerns by self-advocates and hope that will be backed by our representatives.

Update: The Executive Director has received proofs of Special Publication with RNR and we are currently working on how we will be distributing. Worked on CHW requirements to fill position.

## Objective 1.2

Council members and staff will participate in a minimum of 6 (councils/committees/coalitions) to promote communication within and between agencies to ensure cohesive information about services and supports is available to more individuals with I/DD and their families.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Ensure people with I/DD are represented in Statewide Councils, Committees, and Coalitions.
* Information will be shared across agencies individuals w/I/DD and their family members, ensuring a more cohesive delivery of services and supports for people with I/DD and their families.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Council members and staff will participate in statewide committees and councils comprised of multiple agency representatives.

Activity B) Council members and staff will regularly report on information gathered to Council members and self-advocates. Self-Advocacy coordinator will include this information in the quarterly newsletter.

* Catherine attends the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee (NRAC) quarterly.
* Marisol attends the Carson Agency Action Network (CAAN) meetings monthly via zoom.
* Ellen regularly attends the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).
* All staff have recently attended a few of the local Aktion Club Self-Advocacy meetings and are working to attend other Self-Advocacy Club meetings throughout the state, this upcoming year.
* Catherine now regularly attends calls and Zoom meetings with the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Public Policy Committee, Interagency Coordinating Council (appointed member), DD Network Partners (NDALC/Jack and NCED/Randall), Disability Partners (Statewide Independent Living Council, the North and South Centers for Independent Living, NDALC, NCED, Aging and Disability Services, Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada, Nevada Federation of the Blind, Nevada Commission for Persons Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, etc.) and NCED's Consumer Advisory Committee. These meetings are especially vital during this COVID-19 crisis, allowing for increased communication within and between agencies statewide on the needs and barriers faced by individuals with I/DD which leads to increased interagency collaborations and ensuring more cohesive delivery of needed information and services.
* Catherine has been regularly participating in various meetings pertaining to the emergency planning for the State of Nevada.
* In an effort to be well educated on many disability related projects in the community, staff is trying to be in attendance at the NDALC and NCED board/CAC meetings as well.

**Of Note:**

The Self-Advocacy Coordinator as well as the other council staff have been involved in attending the Self-Advocacy Planning Committee for the upcoming Self-Advocacy Conference. The meetings are taking place monthly and it’s a platform for all self-advocates to give their opinion and decide what they want to see at the conference. Since the Conference is for self-advocates, we put emphasis in voicing their concerns and suggestions as well as what they want and need. Like the previous year this Conference will bring together various self-advocates who will be able to take advantage of the many speakers and educational breakout sessions. Aside from these important meetings the Self-Advocacy Coordinator and staff have attended other meetings like the Nevada Pandemic Response Plan Mid-Stakeholder meeting, White house Stakeholder meeting, attended Aktion Club meeting and informed them of open registration for upcoming conference. The Executive Assistant also attended a NDE-SEAC meeting.

This information does not change often, due to a majority of these being recurring standing meetings. Additionally, the Council on occasion closes our office to the public to account for the increase of COVID-19 cases in our area. When there is a spike in cases, this also includes closing offices to the public for our meetings. Since this can be unpredictable, we will ensure that zoom meetings are provided for the foreseeable future.

## Objective 1.3

Reduce identified barriers to accessing technology and digital information for individuals with I/DD representing racial and/or ethnic disparities, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Visually Impaired and/or those living in rural communities.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026 individuals with I/DD (including identified targeted disparity groups) will report a significant increase in their ability to access and use the technology and tools required to get the resources and information provided through digital technology.
* Council will provide best practice recommendations and work with providers to ensure best practices.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity 1A) Use information gathered from Council efforts and other stakeholder input to educate technology service providers and policymakers on the barriers faced by people with I/DD and recommendations on best practice for systems change.

Activity B) Work with digital providers and policymakers to implement best practice recommendations.

Activity C) Provide ongoing, coordinated outreach to Hispanic, Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Rural communities statewide on resources and supports for accessing digital information needed to make informed decisions, and track outcomes to inform future needs.

**Of Note:**

During our initial Conference planning we had not considered going virtual. After thinking and reviewing budgets the council ED decided that we should also make our conference virtual for those who cannot attend our live and make it even more accessible conference. This being said the Self-Advocacy Coordinator started looking for a virtual platform company who could help with this hard task. After meeting with several companies and looking for the best fit for a short, staffed office we were able to find VFairs and they will be the company who will help us bring the virtual part of the conference to our self-advocates and make it accessible for anyone not attending live or wanting to connect via their personal computers or other devices. We have now opened registration to go virtual for our upcoming Silver Sage Self-Advocacy Conference and hope to deliver a platform that is inclusive to everyone and is accessible and helps reduce attendance barriers. This is the first time NGCDD has brought a virtual platform to self-advocates for any of our conferences. The NGCDD contracted with Continental Interpreting and is being used for the PIP class for Spanish translation by the Exec. Assistant.

# GOAL 2: (In House) Individuals with I/DD will have the information, education and training necessary to participate in local and state advocacy and policy making activities.

# Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, Education (school aged through college), DD Act Mandates for Advocacy, DD Network Collaboration, Youth and Leadership.

## Objective 2.1

Council members and staff will establish or strengthen a minimum of one State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with I/DD in Nevada.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Individuals with I/DD will identify common barriers, increase advocacy, knowledge, policy activities and connections to create a stronger unified voice and educate policymakers on key issues.
* Increase strength and leadership of self-advocacy groups led by individuals with I/DD in Nevada.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Support individuals with I/DD to participate in Legislative sessions by providing information on current policy initiatives and meeting with their legislators to educate them on issues important to them.

Activity B) Provide annual funding opportunities for individuals with I/DD to attend disability-related conferences and summits to increase their knowledge and share that knowledge with other Nevadans with developmental disabilities.

Activity C) Self-Advocacy coordinator will collaborate with DD Network Partners and other DD stakeholders to facilitate a DD Network Statewide Self Advocacy Summit every other year, led by individuals with I/DD for individuals with I/DD, to identify common barriers, increase advocacy skills, knowledge and connections to create a stronger unified voice within the I/DD community.

**Of Note:**

The SAC continues to strengthen their communications with AzulBlue which continues to engage in our efforts. We got a good amount of interest from various advocates from Azul Blue and did accept one self-advocate into our PIP. As we continue to show our support, they continue to show us their interest in growing and learning. The Self-Advocacy coordinator has also been working closely with the Aktion Club in Douglas County to get more self-advocates registered to our upcoming conference. The Aktion club has started to get out more into the community and their director has found our lifestyle books to be very useful and we have given them several at their meetings.

## Objective 2.2

Council members and staff will annually support individuals with I/DD who are considered leaders, to provide leadership training to 15 individuals with I/DD who may become leaders.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026, 75 students with I/DD Statewide will have information on self-determination, advocacy, post-secondary education, employment, and other transition options before graduation in order to become better leaders once they graduate.
* Self-Advocate leaders will provide leadership training.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Self-Advocacy coordinator will annually implement curriculums such as the NGCDD Youth Empowering Students Y.E.S. peer to peer education model in a total of 3 schools throughout the state (North, South and Rural) to provide students and teachers with information on self-determination, advocacy, post-secondary education, employment and other transition options upon graduation.

Activity B) Council members will participate in the implementation of curriculums as appropriate.

**Of Note:**

We are still working on getting our Y.E.S. video out and has been delayed because of editing issues. We are still working on getting out this great video while keeping it as accessible and appealing as possible. We are hoping to have the videos completed by the Month of May as we are still working on voice overs and editing stages. As soon as we can get these videos out we will be working on distribution to several schools.

## Objective 2.3

Council members and staff will support people with I/DD to participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse Coalitions.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026 25 individuals with I/DD will have or will be now participating in cross disability and culturally diverse coalitions statewide.
* Individuals with I/DD will be better included and represented in their communities.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Self-Advocacy coordinator will work with Council members and advocacy groups to annually identify 5 individuals with I/DD representing North, South and Rural areas of the state who want to participate on cross-disability and culturally diverse Coalitions.

Activity B) Self-Advocacy coordinator will work with Council members to support identified individuals to find Coalitions that would best fit their interests and support education to those Coalitions on the benefits of including individuals with I/DD, and how best to include them.

**Of Note:**

As noted above, a lot of the focus in quarter one was connecting with self-advocacy organizations and culturally diverse organizations across the state. This also took a lot of time to reconnect after the pandemic. The SAC was able to provide education on our upcoming PIP class to the local Latinx Self-Advocacy organizations, resulting in the acceptance of 5 Spanish speaking students.

## Objective 2.4

DD Network Partners: Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD) and Council members; Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (NCED); Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC), will annually support leadership training for a minimum of 20 individuals with I/DD and/or family members of individuals with I/DD.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* By 2026 100 people w/I/DD and family members will have increased leadership abilities thus becoming better advocates for themselves and others.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Council staff will facilitate training.

Activity B) Council members will participate in trainings as appropriate.

Activity C) DD Network Partners will provide support and sponsorship as appropriate.

Activity D) DD Network Partners will recruit and promote training.

Activity E) DD Network Partners will provide staff as needed.

**Of Note:**

The Self – Advocacy coordinator has been working with theExecutive Assistant in the translation of the forms that are being used for the Spanish part of the Partners class as well as translating for our Spanish student in class. A lot of the translation is in form of forms emails and homework assignments. The SAC has also helped with understanding the translation services needed and translation of their work as well as other important translation. Currently the Exec. Assistant is still holding PIP classes 3 times monthly and have 14 students in total.

Update: The Executive Assistant is still working with the translating service.

GOAL 3: Develop and strengthen systems that improve quality services and access to quality services and supports for individuals with I/DD and their families.

# Areas of Emphasis and identified barriers addressed: Quality Assurance, Employment, Health, Education (transition services in high school), Transportation and Housing, not knowing what services are available, not enough or can't access services.

## Objective 3.1 - Transportation

Create systems change through the implementation of policies to reduce the barriers to transportation for people with I/DD in Nevada.

### Transportation Grant

Organization: N4

Project Director: Amy Dewitt-Smith

Project Period: Oct 01, 2021 to September 30, 2022

Fiscal Year: FFY 22

Total Grant Funds: $ 40,000

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* Policies will be created that promote accessible transportation that reduces barriers to transportation for people with I/DD. Measurable progress will be made in reducing barriers to transportation for people with I/DD. More people with I/DD will have prominent roles in reduction of barriers through participation on transportation boards.

**Grantee Proposal:**

N4 will partner to develop a transit association to create a model for effective, efficient, economical, and socially equitable transit system in Nevada. This will also include advocating for a voice to transit providers and community members, and advocating for dedicated state funding for transit, particularly in the rural areas where funding for operating costs is scarce.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity 1) Develop transit association comprised of various stakeholders across the state.

Activity 2) Create a model for an effective, efficient, economical, and socially equitable transit system in Nevada.

Activity 3) Advocate for funding for transit, with specific focus on the rural communities where funding for operating costs is scarce.

Activity 4) Expand on current recommendations and solutions listed in the NGCDD Transportation White Paper.

Activity 5) Work with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for a feasibility study for the State Transit Association.

Activity 6) Attend the Community Transportation Association of America’s Annual Conference in May 2022.

Activity 7) Identify stakeholders to include transit operators, state and local agencies, non-profit and for-profit organizations, community members with transportation concerns, and people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and/or their family members.

Activity 8) Identify priorities of stakeholders and draft final project materials to present and disseminate to decision-makers to create sustainable systems change and long-term advancements in transportation.

Activity 9) In October of 2021, the Statewide Mobility Leadership Circle (MLC) will convene a Statewide Mobility Leadership Circle (MLC) virtual meeting to review human-centered design process and project plan for the development of a state transit association and related white paper recommendations and proposed solutions.

Activity 10) In November/December 2021, research various state transit associations and present at the ITS America.

Activity 11) In January 2022, host Statewide Mobility Leadership Circle virtual meeting.

Activity 12) In February/March of 2022, create draft initial report and findings from MLA meeting and state transit association outreach activities. This will include an exchange of data with NDOT’s consultant for the State Transit Association Feasibility Study.

Activity 13) In April 2022, host Statewide Mobility Leadership Circle virtual meeting.

Activity 14) In May/June 2022, attend CTAA’s Annual Conference and finalize project materials for dissemination.

Activity 15) In July 2022, Statewide Mobility Leadership Circle virtual meeting.

Activity 16) In August/September 2022, conduct face to face meeting and presentations with elected officials and transportation decision-makers across the state; distribute project reports and materials.

**Of Note:**

N4 provided us a revised version of the Transportation White Paper, (please see Attachment 1). N4 has conducted a Statewide Mobility Leadership Circle (MLC) virtual meeting and review the human-centered design process and project plan for the development of the state transit association and related white paper (Attachment 1) recommendations and solutions. Additionally, the grantee met with Sandy Stanko (Program Director, MTM) to share the report and collaborate on this effort.

Due to the impact COVID left on our community, securing a consultant for the feasibility study has been delayed. N4 is actively recruiting for a new transportation program coordinator to take over this grant. While the grantee had previously hired a staff for this position, they resigned quickly and the process has started over again.

Through N4’s statewide transit project (funded by ADSD and NDOT), free ride vouchers are being provided to community members in urban and rural communities to allow people to utilize local transportation services for free. N4 will continue to apply for state and federal funding to allow more community members to have increased community access and more transportation options. Each ride voucher is tracked for data and impact studies.

N4 conducts numerous presentations to community groups, coalitions, and initiatives to inform people about our transportation projects and invites people to join our Mobility Leadership Circle meetings. If someone is unable to attend an MLC meeting, they are encouraged to schedule a meeting with N4 and/or send comments and feedback via email.

As discussed, the State transit association report has been drafted (Attachment 1). N4’s transportation program coordinator (when hired) will continue to work on this report into the next quarter. NDOT has not hired their consultant yet for the state transit association feasibility study.

We encourage Council Members to read through the report (Attachment 1) and provide feedback via email to Catherine Nielsen, cmnielsen@dhhs.nv.gov, who will ensure the appropriate contact receives it.

## Objective 3.2 – Integrated Employment

A minimum of 10 strategies identified in the Strategic Plan for Integrated Employment will be implemented through collaboration with major stakeholders.

### Integrated Employment Grant

Organization: Kenny Guinn Center

Project Director: Nancy Brune

Project Period: Oct 01, 2020 to March 31, 2022

Fiscal Year: FFY 21-Final report

Total Grant Funds: $ 40,000

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* State policies will be created that promote integrated, competitive employment options.
* More people with I/DD will have integrated, competitive wage jobs in Nevada.

**Grantee Proposal:** The Kenny Guinn Center (KGC) will build the skills of Employment Specialists, supervisors & key paraprofessional staff who work w/ people w/ I/DD to improve competitive, integrated employment outcomes. They will also provide outreach & training to employers/human resource groups to dispel myths & fears, and to educate them about hiring people with I/DD, the benefits to doing so, & the job supports available to sustain these employees. KGC will develop communications & marketing, including social media, career fairs & job announcements that encourage qualified applicants with disabilities to apply and create a state team that shares experiences with other organizations regarding the advantages of hiring people with I/DD.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity 1) The grantee will continue to host conversations and convene informal cross-sectoral groups to identify supportive employers and identify concrete steps to expand internships and workplace opportunities for students with I/DD.

Activity 2) The grantee and partners will work to develop outreach and communications strategy to share with employers.

Activity 3) The grantee will help identify and expand opportunities for paid or unpaid, hands-on work experiences including career-based assessments, internships, job shadowing, mentorships, volunteer work, and summer jobs.

Activity 4) The grantee will stand up a statewide advisory council comprised of self-advocates, state agencies, and nonprofits to help strengthen employer engagement, expand employment opportunities for those with I/DD, promote the "meaningful day" model, and promote opportunities for individuals with I/DD in all employment opportunities.

Activity 5) The grantee will provide outreach training to employers/human resources employees to dispel fears about hiring people with I/DD and educating them on the benefits of doing so and the job supports available to support/sustain these employees.

Activity 6) The grantee will create a network of businesses/regional leaders or a state team, that will lead discussions with peers and other organizations regarding the advantages of hiring people with I/DD.

Activity 7) The grantee will promote the use of the "Health in all Policies" model and include individuals with I/DD in all policies and programming.

Activity 8) The grantee will invest in building the skills of employment specialists, supervisors and key paraprofessional staff who work with people with I/DD throughout the state, to improve competitive integrated employment outcomes by providing education and support.

Activity 9) The grantee will develop communications and marketing to be distributed throughout social media, career fairs and job announcements that encourage qualified applicants with disabilities to apply.

Activity 10) The grantee will leverage information from recent surveys by convening 2-3 focus groups with employers to discuss perceptions and challenges around hiring individuals with I/DD.

**Of Note:**

The Guinn Center has partnered with UNR NCED to launch an informal, statewide working group of stakeholders to begin working on integrated employment outcomes. The working group launched in November and is meeting monthly. The group has started discussing advocacy and legislative priorities.

The Guinn Center hosted a webinar that highlighted the work that national and local employers are doing to hire individuals with different abilities. After the webinar they also hosted a focus group with employers and national expert Jonathan Martinis. The Guinn center has drafted a 2-page handout that can be shared with employers which they will be sharing with the Chambers of Commerce groups as well as some trade groups. The other focus group also shared information with employers about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities, the programs available to support employers and some of the legal context. They also made a focus group for employers, human resource specialist, supervisors etc. which focused on the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.

Additionally, The Guinn Center helped make a valuable connection with The Garden Foundation and a local employer. In reference to Activity #7 The Guinn center has been able to increase funding for CTE programs and outreach to students/families with IEP’s which is from the proposed grant component that directs funds to NDE. The creation of the 2-page handouts has also brought requests from individuals and community members as well as the links to the focus groups and webinars.

## Objective 3.2 - Employment

Educate individuals with I/DD, their families and community-based employers/employer groups on National best practices, and the benefits of hiring individuals with I/DD.

### Housing Grant

Organization: The Garden Foundation

Project Director: Cora Sutehall

Project Period: Oct 01, 2021 to September 30, 2022

Fiscal Year: FFY 22

Total Grant Funds: $ 40,000

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

At least 20 individuals with I/DD and/or family members of those with I/DD will be educated on employment rights and options. At least 30 community-based employers will be educated on National best practices and the benefits of hiring individuals with I/DD. People with I/DD will report an increase in employment options available to them and in information/access to integrated and competitive wage jobs.

**Grantee Proposal:**

The Garden Foundation will provide coordinated education and outreach to both employers/employer groups and individuals with I/DD and/or their family members. This will also include providing education on inclusive hiring, a virtual workshop, creating a seal of approval for qualified inclusive employers, and building inclusive awareness through social media.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Provide coordinated education and outreach to employers/employer groups.

Activity B) Provide coordinated education and outreach to individuals with I/DD.

Activity C) Present inclusive hiring presentation to businesses in Nevada.

Activity D) Develop and present a comprehensive employment virtual workshop for individuals with I/DD and their families.

Activity E) Partner with the Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities to create a “seal of approval” and/or reputable certification for qualified inclusive employers and businesses.

Activity F) Build inclusive awareness through a social media campaign tied to World Inclusion Day on October 10, 2021.

**Of Note:**

The Garden Foundation has started developing survey forms for Individuals with I/DD and families. These surveys were developed with the input of The Garden Foundation staff, NGCDD and the Colorado Office for Employment First. These surveys were developed to provide important data to develop a quality educational presentation for individuals with I/DD and their families searching for employment. These surveys were emailed out and they have received useful data back from the I/DD community.

The Garden Foundation has contracted with COEF to conduct research in the areas of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Employment First, Cultivating and Inclusive Culture, HR/Best Practices, and Benefits of Hiring individuals with I/DD. From this contract with COEF they have acquired quality information to be used within a 4-hour long business training to be designed for and presented to Nevada businesses and organizations. They have also been able to sort thru this data and apply it to training modules and potential group activities to include in training for each module.

The Garden Foundation conducted general research of what educational strategies worked best while presenting vocational classes during GROW Day Program for the month of March. This process is building a strong base for training activities that were successful with GROW clients and can be used within I/DD training.

## Objective 3.3 – First Responder Education

Develop and/or strengthen a minimum of one system that improves quality of services and access to quality services and supports for individuals with I/DD in their local communities by working with agencies to bring awareness and training to public safety and emergency responder throughout the State of Nevada.

### First Responder Training Grant

Organization: JUSTin Hope Foundation

Project Director: Maricela Gutierrez Rodriguez

Project Period: Oct 01, 2020 to March 31, 2022

Fiscal Year: FFY 21

Total Grant Funds: $ 40,000

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

* A higher level of care and service will be provided to individuals with I/DD by Public Safety Entities through the development of a program that provides awareness and training to Emergency Personnel across the State.
* Individuals with I/DD in Nevada will experience a decrease in traumatic impact during an emergency situation, while maximizing a higher level of care and service.
* Ensure public safety entities, school/university personnel, and facilities have a system in place to identify the needs of individuals with I/DD in an emergency situation and have the education and resources available for safe interactions.
* Standardize the use of the Community Connect platform to ensure that First Responders know how to plan accordingly and respond more quickly to the needs of the individual.
* Public safety entities will create a system to identify and better serve individuals with I/DD and their support system.

**Grantee Proposal:** The JUSTin Hope (JIH) Foundation will help the community of first responder agencies become more informed about developmental disabilities with an emphasis on Autism and how to effectively interact with those individuals. They will hold live-in person trainings to public safety entities/emergency personnel throughout Nevada, who have not yet received the training, as well as provide a train-the-trainer model to all interested first responder department representatives, who will then be responsible for bringing the information back to their departments and providing the trainings themselves. By conducting trainings with the Public Safety entities Emergency Personnel throughout Nevada this creates an awareness for a higher level of care and service to individuals with I/DD. In doing so, this allows interactions to be safer and less stressful for first responders, community members, and individuals with I/DD. This statewide project is the next step in creating safe interactions and aims to educate persons with I/DD and their support network throughout their lifespan by creating a collaborative and comprehensive Safety-First training program that encompasses safety resources and workshops. In conjunction with public safety entities, people I/DD, and their support network, this project will strengthen emergency response systems that improve the quality of services and care in emergency situations.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity 1) Grantee will host registration workshops to help households create a Community Connection account for their household. Grantee will also provide them with a folder that compiles the pertinent information, which can be updated and kept at home.

Activity 2) Safety-First Workshops: Develop and conduct trainings to provide individuals with I/DD, their support network resources to empower them to create a person-centered safety plan and establish preventative measures.

Activity 3) Grantee will work with public safety entities to provide awareness and training to emergency personnel across the state regarding the needs of individuals with I/DD in order to provide a higher level of care and service.

Activity 4) Develop and provide family resources to agencies to better serve individuals with I/DD. Grantee will also provide prevention and response information to support network on possible actions and programs available to keep individuals with I/DD safe.

Activity 5) Meet with directors of special education programs and other agencies to learn more about safety protocols in place.

Activity 6) Grantee will produce public awareness campaigns and reach out to other nonprofit organizations to establish partnerships and foster collaboration and create a larger impact.

Activity 7) Grantee will send out informational emails, post through social media, and schedule interviews to generate public awareness.

**Of Note:**

Justin Hope has been on track with spending and has of today spent down their budget as well as finalized their grant.

Objective 3.3 - Housing

Improve access to quality housing options and supports for individuals with I/DD Statewide.

### Housing Grant

Organization: Kenny Guinn Center

Project Director: Nancy Brune

Project Period: Oct 01, 2021 to September 30, 2022

Fiscal Year: FFY 22

Total Grant Funds: $ 44,380

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s):**

At least 30 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities will be educated on housing options and supports available. People with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities will report an increase in options, supports, and access to affordable and accessible housing.

**Grantee Proposal:**

The Kenny Guinn Center (in a joint effort with the Nevada Housing Coalition) will seek to expand housing options for Nevadans with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. They plan to do so by studying current housing options available to people with I/DD, including but not limited to affordable housing options, group homes, etc. The grantee will also conduct a focus group to gather input on challenges faced in accessing housing options and the resources available. The grantee intends to describe the need for expanded housing options for people with I/DD and will prepare a resource guide that describes the options available/ways to access them.

**Activity Summary:**

Activity A) Study current housing options available in Nevada to people with I/DD. This will include all housing options and will not be limited.

Activity B) Conduct (1) focus group to gather information from individuals with I/DD and/or their family members about some of the challenges faced when accessing housing options and the resources available currently.

Activity C) Identify gaps/needs of current supply of available housing options for people with I/DD.

Activity D) Analyze policies other states/areas have undertaken/implemented to help individuals with I/DD access housing options (specifically affordable housing options).

Activity E) By April 2022, prepare a resource guide that describes available options for housing for people with I/DD.

Activity F) By June 2022, host at least (1) public event to share information from study and resource guide. If possible, (2) events will be held (1 in Northern Nevada, 1 in Southern Nevada).

**Of Note:**

The KGC has begun research with different subject experts by interviewing them and getting data on housing for individuals with I/DD. Some of the experts include: State agency officials who are familiar with residential support services and supported living arrangements (ADSD), experts in affordable and supportive housing Incorporation for supportive housing, specialists with opportunity Village/Betty’s Village. This data is helping in understanding of the landscape of housing options for individuals with I/DD. Based on this research the Guinn Center has begun to document housing options, such as intermediate care facilities for individuals with I/DD, supported living arrangements, Section 811 project-based rental assistance and private pay (Opportunity Village, Betty’s Village).

Through these conversations and secondary research, the KGC has been able to identify various points of concern and awareness. Some of these areas of concern include “siloing” across agencies, affordable housing for those on fixed incomes, labor shortage (residential and individual support), federal support, and waiting lists are among some of the challenges. The KGC also began research and analysis to identify states that have been successful in the expansion of housing resources for people with I/DD. They did identify 5 states and 1 state that uses ARP money to develop and provide housing for individuals with I/DD.

# Glossary Of Terms

**Activity Summary** = A summary of a grantees progress on their activities for that period. Information is summarized from grantee reports and from Project Manager meetings with grantee.

**Best Practice:** A practice that incorporates methods or techniques that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark.

**Deliverables Summary:** Specific measurable outcomes the grantee said they would accomplish in their application.

**Goal(s)** = Over-all goal(s) identified by the Council in their current five-year state plan that the grantees are helping the Council accomplish through their grant award. Several grantees can be working toward the same goal but through different objectives.

**Grantee Proposal** = What the grantee said they would do to in their application.

**NGCDD Expected Outcome(s)** = What the Council expects to see as a result of grantee efforts.

**Objective(s)** = What the grantees have specifically agreed to accomplish during their grant period and how they said they would accomplish it.

**Of Note** = Any concerns, issues and/or additional information the Council needs to know. Will include any previous recommendations from the Council and the grantee’s progress toward those recommendations.

**Performance Measures** = Specific number of people effected by Council efforts.

**Promising Practice** = A practice with an innovative approach that improves upon existing practice and positively impacts the area of proactive. The practice should demonstration a high degree of success and the possibility of replication in other agencies or settings, but has not been tested.