

**South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council**  
**2024-2025 Grant Summaries**

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*Office of Executive Policy and Programs | Department of Administration*

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***July 1, 2024***

<b><i>Grant Title [Year]</i></b> <b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Program Description</b>
<b><u>Employment</u></b>			
<i>PACE: Promoting Avenues for Community Employment</i> [3]  Able South Carolina	\$50,050	Statewide	Able-SC, in collaboration with APSE, Thrive Upstate, Laurens DSNB, Spartanburg Community College, Spartanburg School District 2 and SC Vocational Rehabilitation will work to eliminate employment barriers in South Carolina through a three-pronged approach: pushing for subminimum wage transformation, promoting training programs, and educating on the innovative promising practice of non-traditional resumes.
<i>Hope4Work</i> [3]  Project Hope Foundation	\$47,296	Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, & Laurens	The Project Hope Foundation aims to tackle employment challenges faced by the autism community by empowering individuals with autism to develop self-determination and manage their own career strategies. This will be achieved through the use of evidence-based Applied Behavior Analysis strategies. Additionally, a self-advocate will be employed to recommend modifications to the organization's training protocols and content to make them more autism-friendly.
<i>Employment Instructor</i> [1]  SOS Care Inc.	\$70,930.50	Charleston tri-county, Grand Strand area	SOS Care will expand its employment programs to prepare adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) for the workforce. This will be achieved through the Job SEEKers program, an intensive employment readiness initiative that teaches essential skills that may not come naturally to individuals with ASD and IDD. These skills are crucial for achieving ongoing success in employment.

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<i>Customized Employment</i>  Community Options, Inc.	\$40,000	Columbia area	Community Options will work with partners to identify individuals with I/DD who are interested in self-employment, small business, or microenterprise ownership/development and provide training to them and their families, supporting and guiding them throughout the process. This project addresses common barriers to business and microenterprise development.
<i>Inventory Management Work Training Program</i>  Babcock Center, Inc.	\$36,344.25	Richland Lexington	The inventory management work training program seeks to enhance participants' marketable work skills through providing them with a working knowledge of inventory management processes, order processing, evaluating and managing stock, placing inventory orders, and utilizing inventory management software. In doing so, participants gain skills to enhance their ability to seek out competitive employment in integrated settings.
<i>Project Invest</i>  University of South Carolina	\$61,808	Statewide	This project aims to improve career outcomes for individuals with I/DD through enhancing awareness around and creating pathways to industry-recognized credentials. This project also plans to connect IPSE programs with up-to-date resources and networking opportunities in order to adequately advise students.

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<b><u>Community Supports</u></b>			
<i>The Art of Living Well</i> [2]  Adult Enrichment Centers	\$30,225	York	This program promotes healthy mental wellbeing in adults with all abilities by providing a safe space for creative expression. It encourages individuals to express their emotions in a healthy manner, fostering self-advocacy and addressing a gap in the available community services.
<i>Circles of Support</i> [2]  Community Options, Inc.	\$32,187	Statewide	This program intends to build circles of support around SC residents with IDD, effectively serving as a social network that functions alongside a person with a disability to achieve person-centered community goals.
<i>Developing Decision Makers</i> [2]  Able SC	\$63,131	Statewide	Able SC, in collaboration with Center for Youth Voice, Youth Choice, Family Connection of SC, Disability Rights SC, SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, SC Project SEARCH, and SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services will support youth ambassadors with IDD in paid employment opportunities with a focus on educating students and teachers on self-determination and supported decision-making. In addition, the program educates legislators in SC about the consequences of guardianship and how it can restrict the rights of individuals with disabilities and will grow and sustain a statewide coalition to alleviate undue and overbroad guardianships.
<i>SC Housing Education</i> [2]  SOS Health Care, Inc.	\$48,693	Statewide	This program will scan the state housing environment, identify available resources, collaborators, funders, case managers, trainings, etc. In the process, collaborations and partnerships will be made as pertain to needs and interests for housing the ID/DD population. Through this project, SOS will empower efforts statewide to realize the requirements of the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule, which ensures that individuals have full access to the benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most appropriate, integrated setting.
<i>Possibilities Without End</i> SC  Latino Community Development	\$126,787.50	Statewide	The Possibilities Without End grant addresses access, self-determination, and independence for Latino youth with I/DD and their families through partnerships with community-based organizations to provide resources, services, trainings, programs, and materials that strengthen the capacity for self-determination. Families are also educated on how to advocate for their children and youth with disabilities.

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<b><u>Self-Advocacy</u></b>			
<i>Community Leadership Academy</i> <i>[Ongoing]</i>  Able-SC	\$19,438	Statewide	Community Leadership Academy increases participation of individuals with disabilities, as well as their family members, on boards, committees, and councils in local communities around the state. This program educates participants on rights, leadership skills, strategies for advocacy, self-advocacy, communication of rights under various laws, effective communication, and demonstrating skills by serving in a leadership role on a community council, board, or committee.
<i>Youth Leadership Forum</i> <i>[Ongoing]</i>  Able-SC	\$50,000	Statewide	The program is an established, evidence-based summer program for youth with disabilities who are still in high school or just graduated. The objectives are to build or strengthen participants' self-advocacy skills, self-confidence, and leadership skills for the purpose of remaining in school, graduating, obtaining post-secondary education and obtaining employment that meets each individual's maximum potential.
<i>IMPACT-SC</i> <i>[Ongoing]</i>  Center for Disability Resources	\$41,447	Statewide	IMPACT-SC is the statewide self-advocacy council for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. IMPACT-SC's purpose is to increase awareness of self-advocacy among adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Activities include training opportunities, exhibiting, presenting and attending national conferences. The council also maintains a statewide newsletter and website.
<i>Equip: Self-Advocacy &amp; Leadership in Young Adults</i> <i>[Ongoing]</i>  Able-SC	\$89,938	Statewide	EQUIP is a Young Adult Leadership program focused on empowering young adults with disabilities ages 14-25 by showing them the skills necessary to build self-confidence, set and accomplish goals and become community activists. EQUIP is unique in its approach because its leaders are also young adults with disabilities who can directly relate to the group.