

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

Office of Executive Policy and Programs | Department of Administration

2026-2027 Grant Summaries

August 21, 2026

Grant Title [Year] Grantee Name	Funds	Counties Served	Program Description
Employment			
<i>Project Invest [3]</i> Objective 1 University of South Carolina	\$41,205	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.
<i>Employment Instructor [3]</i> Objective 1 SOS Care Inc.	\$42,287	Charleston tri-county, Grand Strand area	SOS Care will expand their employment programs to help prepare adults with ASD and IDD for employment using the Job SEEKers program, which is an intensive employment readiness program that teaches necessary skills that do not come naturally to individuals with A/I/DD that are critical for ongoing successful employment.

<i>Job Development and Training Services Program</i> [2] Objective 1 Ability Beyond Barriers	\$41,646.34	Horry and Georgetown	This program seeks to expand employment development and training activities for people with I/DD, preparing individuals for the workforce through the teaching of soft skills and job-readiness critical for success.
<i>3D Printing Microenterprise Development</i> [1] Objective 2 Community Options	\$ 40,000	Myrtle Beach	Community Options will launch a collective 3D printing micro-enterprise in the Myrtle Beach region to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in building entrepreneurial skills and earning income, prioritizing individuals transitioning from sheltered or sub-minimum wage programs.
<i>From Learning to Earning</i> [1] Objective 2 Lexington Richland 5 Adult ED	\$60,662.50	Midlands of South Carolina	This project will expand access to education, job-seeker discovery, and employment preparation for young adults and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the Midlands of South Carolina.
<i>Omega-Owning Micro Enterprises</i> [1] Objective 2 Able-SC	\$67,007	Statewide	OMEGA will expand self-employment and disability-led microenterprise opportunities for people with disabilities in South Carolina, addressing barriers that limit entrepreneurship for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). By providing coordinated technical assistance, training, and statewide partnerships, OMEGA will strengthen inclusive business pathways and promote workforce participation, financial independence, and community integration.

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Community Supports			
<i>A Bridge to Belonging [2]</i> Objective 2 Able-SC	\$74,428.90	Statewide	This program seeks to address the gap in mental health services for individuals with I/DD by creating a peer support initiative that provides accessible care, filling a critical void in South Carolina's mental health system for the I/DD community.
<i>Foundations and Futures [2]</i> Objective 1 Project Hope Foundation	\$80,074	Upstate	This project seeks to leverage evidence-based behavioral approaches to improve access, community integration, productivity, self-determination, and independence for individuals with autism and their families through staff and client development.
<i>Community Leadership Program [2]</i> Objective 1 SOS Care	\$24,375	Charleston tri-county, Grand Strand area	This program seeks to help individuals feel more connected to their local communities and facilitate more long-term engagement in their communities. The goal is to do so through the employment of a self-advocate to facilitate this community leadership program to encourage serving within the community through an organized curriculum.

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Self-Advocacy			
<i>Community Leadership Academy</i> [Ongoing] Objective 3 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> [Ongoing] Objective 2 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 postsecondary education and obtaining employment that meets each individual's maximum potential.
<i>IMPACT-SC</i> [Ongoing] Objective 1 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 & Leadership in Young Adults</i> [Ongoing] Objective 1 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.
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