

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

Office of Executive Policy and Programs | Department of Administration

Small Grant Summaries

September 9, 2026

Grant Title	Funds	Counties Served	Program Description
25/26 Employment			
SC Vocations & Individual Advancement <i>Employment Objective 1</i> SC Vocations & Individual Advancement	\$20,000	Greenville	Grant funds supported the implementation of MeMinder , an assistive technology platform that promotes task independence and job retention for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Lexia: PowerUp <i>Employment Objective 1</i> Lexington/Richland School District 5 Adult ED	\$10,000	Lexington/ Richland 5 Adult Ed	Grant funds will be used to support the implementation of the Lexia: PowerUp© literacy intervention program for adult literacy students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who are reading below grade level.
SPURS UP <i>Employment Objective 1</i> Carolina LIFE/Center for Transition Research & Leadership, USC	\$20,134	USC/Carolina LIFE	This three-day pilot summer program at University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC campus is designed for transition-age students (16-20 years old) with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are interested in or planning to enroll in an inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) program after high school.
Director <i>Employment Objective 1</i> Know Better Do Better Collective	\$20,000	Greenville	The Know Better Do Better Collective is a community-based program designed to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have aged out of school services but still need structured opportunities to continue learning, building independence, and participating meaningfully in their communities.

CTH Career Discovery & Coaching Pathways <i>Employment Objective 2</i> Growing Hope	\$20,000	Midlands	This project delivers a short, structured series that empowers adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Community Training Homes to develop self-determination and direct their own career strategy. It combines participant led discovery activities and goal setting with caregiver coaching that strengthens follow-through and independence across daily routines.
25/26 Community Supports			
2025 Disability Resource Expo <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> BRIDGED, Inc	\$10,000	Upstate	BRIDGED identified a need for a Disability Resource Expo in the Upstate to connect attendees with local service providers, state disability agencies and valuable resources and information for the lifespan of disability. Having accurate information and access to resources is essential for successful community participation and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.
2026 AT Expo <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> South Carolina Assistive Technology Program	\$20,000	Statewide	The SC Assistive Technology Expo is a one-day event for consumers with disabilities to learn about new technologies, new possibilities, new solutions, and new opportunities.
2025 Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) Clinic <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> South Carolina Assistive Technology Program	\$2500	Statewide	The SC Assistive Technology Expo provides a venue for individuals with disabilities, family members, and providers to learn about new augmentative alternative communication (AAC) technologies and opportunities.
2026 Hopes and Dreams Conference <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> Family Connection of SC	\$10,000	Statewide	This grant enabled Family Connection to host a statewide conference tailored to parents of children and young adults with disabilities, as well as the professionals who serve them.

Disability Awareness Week <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> First Presbyterian Academy at Shannon Forest	\$7750	Greenville	This grant funds a week-long Disability Awareness Program at First Presbyterian Academy at Shannon Forest for students in K5-12 th grade (452 students) to promote awareness and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.
USCA LIFE Programing <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> USC Aiken	\$20,000	Aiken	This grant supports the University of South Carolina Aiken LIFE program provides students with intellectual or developmental disabilities the opportunity to experience college life in a supportive and inclusive environment. The program emphasizes Promoting Academics, Community, and Employment Readiness (PACER), helping students grow academically, socially, and personally while preparing for independent living and meaningful employment.
2025 Assistive Technology Leadership Conference (ATLC) <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> South Carolina Assistive Technology Program	\$3500	Statewide	The Assistive Technology Leadership Conference is a 1-day conference designed to provide resources, networking and support to South Carolina school district assistive technology leaders and teams and other state agencies. The leadership conference provides opportunities to collaborate, share, and expand knowledge of best practices in assistive technology.
Partners in Policymaking Reunion <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> BRIDGED, Inc.	\$20,000	Statewide	The target population for this event is alumni of the Partners in Policymaking program. This includes former graduates who have participated in leadership development, disability advocacy, and policymaking training. The reunion will provide an opportunity for these alumni to reconnect, share experiences, expand their networks, and strengthen their collective impact on disability policy and community inclusion.
Disability Awareness Week <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> Southside Christian School	\$4,000	Simpsonville	This grant funds a week-long Disability Awareness Program activities for students in K4-12th grade (1200 students) to promote awareness and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

Enhancing Well-Being and Community Inclusion for Individuals with IDD <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> Adaptive Pickleball	\$20,000	Upstate and Midlands	Adaptive Pickleball delivers a structured, community based adaptive sports program designed to improve health, independence, and social inclusion for youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Pathways to Success <i>Community Supports Objective 1</i> Lex/Rich 5 Adult Education	\$20,000	Lexington and Richland	This grant supports three interrelated activities designed to increase the capacity of staff to serve youth with developmental disabilities, enhance student engagement and retention, and provide targeted expertise to adapt curriculum and instructional strategies.
Beyond Par: Advancing IDD Health & Inclusion Through Golf <i>Community Supports Objective 2</i> Upstate-Carolina Adaptive Golf dba Carolina Adaptive Golf	\$20,000	Upstate	Carolina Adaptive Golf implements a series of adaptive golf clinics, training workshops, and research-informed educational sessions designed to increase awareness of the benefits of exercise and promote the CDC's physical activity guidelines among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.
Ready Together Emergency Preparedness Project <i>Community Supports Objective 2</i> Able South Carolina	\$20,000	Statewide	The Ready Together program works throughout South Carolina with disability service providers, day programs, and self-advocacy groups to deliver emergency preparedness training and resources through both in-person and virtual formats, ensuring statewide accessibility.
Autism Connect 2026 <i>Community Supports Objective 2</i> Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities-OIDD	\$20,000	Statewide	This grant covers registration costs for approximately 1,700 attendees for the 2026 Autism Connect Conference. This event hosts individuals with autism, caregivers, and professionals from across the state to foster learning, networking, and support.

Building Brighter Tomorrows Conference 2026 <i>Community Supports Objective 2</i> Institute for Childhood Success	\$11,975	Greenville	The Building Brighter Tomorrows Conference was designed to bring together practitioners, policymakers, researchers, educators, health professionals, Early Intervention providers, and community leaders to explore innovative and place-based approaches to improving health and well-being.
Statewide Dementia Training and Network Development <i>Community Supports Objective 2</i> National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices	\$20,000	Statewide	This grant funds the delivery of a three-day, live virtual training and the development of a sustainable statewide NTG Affiliated Regional Trainer network to help address dementia in individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Inspire Wellness 2026 <i>Community Supports Objective 2</i> Inspire Abilities of Anderson County	\$15,500	Anderson	Grant funding will support the planning, coordination, and materials needed to launch the Inspire Wellness initiative in Anderson County. Education and events will be offered to adults with I/DD and their caregivers to promote healthier lifestyles and more enriched lives.
25/26 Self-Advocacy			
2025 SC Early Childhood Inclusion Conference <i>Self-Advocacy Objective 1</i> USC (SC Partnerships for Inclusion)	\$20,000	Statewide	The SC Early Childhood Inclusion Conference is designed to support early childhood leadership teams in building program capacity to increase inclusive preschool practices to support all young children and their families to belong and thrive within their communities. The conference provided opportunities for participants to learn about evidence-based practices that support successful early childhood transitions and promote the delivery of instruction to preschoolers in their least restrictive environment.
2025 Life with Brain Injury Conference <i>Self-Advocacy Objective 2</i> Brain Injury Association of South Carolina	\$20,000	Statewide	The Life with Brain Injury (LWBI) conference provides a forum for the exchange of information on programs, resources, and promising practices in brain injury. The conference facilitates opportunities for networking among individuals with brain injuries, caregivers, professionals, and service providers. It also offers opportunities for individuals to learn advocacy skills and communications skills, as well as opportunities to provide input about the needs of the brain injury community across SC.

National Disability Leadership Series <i>Self-Advocacy Objective 2</i> Able South Carolina	\$20,000	Statewide	This grant will cover registration fees and support for 7 youth with disabilities from South Carolina to participate in the National Disability Leadership Series. This 10-month program is designed to train young adults with disabilities, educators, professionals, and family members in advocacy, leadership, and community engagement.
2026 United for Every Child Conference <i>Self-Advocacy Objective 3</i> USC, SCIC, SCPI, and Pyramid Pieces	\$20,000	Statewide	The United for Every Child Conference was created to advance the work of SC Child Care Inclusion Collaborative (SCIC), SC Partnerships for Inclusion (SCPI), and Pyramid PIECES to offer an elevated 3-day learning opportunity to promote evidence-based practices and healthy development of all young children with and without disabilities in South Carolina.