

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council
Office of Executive Policy and Programs | Department of Administration
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Developmental Disabilities Council will have a maximum amount up to \$150,000 established for Employment priority area programming for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

The Developmental Disabilities Council is soliciting proposals for projects that implement evidence-based approaches for individuals with developmental disabilities consistent with the State Plan Goal and Objective listed below.

State Plan Goal 1: Employment

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will receive the necessary employment services and supports to become employed in an integrated setting.

Objective 1

Support programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that promote access to integrated workforce development systems.

Additional Proposal Requirements

- Implement evidence-based job-seeker discovery models.
- Include disabilities and special needs board providers to implement discovery activities with adult participants in ID/RD, Community Supports, or HASCI Medicaid Waivers.
- Include a professional development component for staff to increase their skills in job-seeker discovery. DD Council expects curriculum to be replicable, scalable, and sustainable, therefore, evidence-based.
- Proposals are encouraged to include strategies that engage at least one of the following service delivery systems: education organizations, Centers for Independent Living, employers, SC Works, Vocational Rehabilitation, and/or other relevant entities and support systems.
- Include letters of collaboration from stakeholders describing each partner's specific contributions.
- Priority is given to proposals that include a self-advocate in proposal development, oversight, decision making, and/or as a paid employee under the grant.
- Describe how programming contributes to or aligns with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) South Carolina Unified State Plan, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule, and South Carolina Employment First efforts.
- Include a S.M.A.R.T. work plan: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timed.

Resources for Applicants		
Resources	HCBS and WIOA	Employment First
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LEAD Center Guided Group Discovery• OCALI: What is Discovery?• Competitive Integrated Employment for people with ASD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Manual• SC PY 2024-2027 WIOA State Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SC DDSN (OIDD) Employment First Policy Directive• HireMeSC: Employment First for Service Providers

Awards are for three years upon Council approval; however, reapplication is required for second and third-year funding. Year one is from 7/1/26 to 6/30/27. Please direct questions regarding the grant application process to Valarie Bishop at (803) 734-0215 or valarie.bishop@admin.sc.gov.

To retrieve a copy of the grant application, visit our [Website](#) or call (803) 734-0215

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