

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 intellectual and 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 2

Support programs that empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop self-determination and direct their own career strategy using appropriate evidence-based and best practice methods.

Additional proposal requirements:

- Priority is given to proposals that include evidence-based microenterprise, self-employment, and/or small business ownership models for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Proposals submitted by local educational agencies must include a letter of support from the entity's administration.
- Include strategies to increase collaboration among developmental disability providers, Vocational Rehabilitation, SC Works, education organizations, Centers for Independent Living, and/or other relevant entities and support systems.
- Include letters of collaboration from project stakeholders describing each partner's specific contribution to grant activities.
- 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 | | |
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| Entrepreneurship | HCBS and WIOA | Employment First |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job Accommodation Network: Entrepreneurship• CEED: Accessing Entrepreneurship• 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) 734-0465

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