

Request for Information



State of Alaska
Department of Health
Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

Date Issued: 12 DEC 24

RFI 1625-030: DISABILITY INNOVATION FUND (DIF) – PATHWAYS TO PARTNERSHIPS INNOVATIVE MODEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Introduction:

The Alaska Department of Health, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE), is seeking information from organizations capable of providing services as a self-advocacy organization led by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The purpose of this RFI is to identify organizations that can support the goals of the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) Grant, including empowering youth and adults with disabilities to advocate for themselves, pursue employment opportunities, and participate in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

Background Information:

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) mandates that state DD Councils establish or strengthen self-advocacy organizations led by individuals with I/DD. These organizations must deliver leadership training, promote self-advocacy, and foster participation in leadership coalitions. has historically been the organization that has assisted the State with these services in the past. This RFI aims to determine if self-advocacy organizations in Alaska are able to deliver these specialized services.

The responses received will assist the State if a competitive solicitation (Request For Proposals – RFP) is warranted to select a contractor for the work. The responses received by interested parties will also be used to supplement and strengthen a solicitation document if the State determines that an RFP is in its best interest..

For additional information, please refer to the following resources:

- DD Act (2000): [The DD Act \(2000\)](#)
- Grant Overview: [84.421E: DIF - Pathways to Partnerships](#)
- Alaska Award Overview: DIF Pathways to Partnership Grant

Scope of Work

If DOH conducts a solicitation for these services, the contractor will assist the Department to:

1. Develop and deliver self-advocacy and leadership training programs for youth and adults with I/DD.
2. Mentor individuals with I/DD to become self-advocates and pursue meaningful employment opportunities.
3. Work collaboratively with GCDSE to advance systemic policy changes that improve inclusion and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
4. Ensure that services are accessible statewide, with a particular focus on rural and underserved regions.
5. Facilitate the participation of individuals with I/DD in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

The overall goal is to empower individuals with disabilities to lead, advocate, and thrive while meeting the objectives of the DIF Grant and the mandates of the DD Act.

Deliverables

If DOH conducts a solicitation, it may include the following deliverables in the solicitation:

1. Requirements and Needs:

- a. **Empower Self-Advocates as School Ambassadors:** Train PPA self-advocates to become school ambassadors, equipping them with skills in public speaking and advocacy to perform outreach about employment opportunities for transition-age youth.
- b. **Enhance Employment Awareness and Self-Advocacy Skills:** Increase awareness among students with disabilities about employment pathways and self-advocacy. Ambassadors will highlight the importance of employment, how to advocate for oneself, and how to develop career skills, including information on DIF Grant Programs.
- c. **Expand Rural Outreach and Partnerships:** Develop partnerships with DEED, DVR, TVR, and rural organizations to extend outreach to underserved areas, ensuring comprehensive support for all students with disabilities in Alaska.
- d. **Establish Sustainable Partnerships for Long-Term Impact:** Form lasting relationships with educational and vocational institutions to ensure ongoing self-advocacy and employment outreach, maintaining support and resources for students with disabilities beyond the grant period.
- e. **Support Self-Advocacy Events:** Provide direct funding and support to state self-advocacy organizations, including funding, in-kind support, training, and technical assistance to strengthen their programs and initiatives.

2. Deliverables to the State

- a. **Training Curriculum:** A comprehensive training curriculum developed in collaboration with partner agencies.
- b. **Self-Advocate Training Sessions:** Conduct a minimum of 10 training sessions over five years.
- c. **School Outreach Visits:** Conduct outreach sessions in at least 24 schools, reaching a minimum of 250 students annually.
- d. **Program Evaluations:** Initial, mid-program, and final evaluations to assess the program's impact and effectiveness.
- e. **Partnership Agreements:** Establish formal partnerships with DEED, DVR, TVR, and rural organizations.
- f. **Reports and Documentation:** Regular progress reports and a final report detailing the outcomes and impact of the project.
- g. **Support for Self-Advocacy Events:** Provide funding, training, and technical assistance to state self-advocacy organizations to enhance their capacity and programs.

3. Project Timeline and Milestones

a. Year 1 (2025)

- ⁰¹ Develop Training Curriculum: Complete by Winter 2025.
- ⁰² Initial Training Session: Conduct Summit in Spring 2025, leveraging current training and conference participation experience.
- ⁰³ Begin School Outreach Efforts: Start outreach efforts by Summer 2025, using insights from past conferences and employment-related work.

b. Year 2 (2026)

- ⁰¹ Train Self-Advocates: Train 5 self-advocates by Fall 2025.
- ⁰² Training Sessions: Conduct two training sessions by Spring 2026, building on current discussions.
- ⁰³ School Outreach: Perform outreach at two schools by Summer 2026, incorporating information from the Transition Handbook.
- ⁰⁴ Program Review and Update: Complete review and update presentations by Fall 2026.
- ⁰⁵ Support Self-Advocacy Events: Provide \$15,000 in funding and support.

c. Year 3 (2027)

- ⁰¹ Train Self-Advocates: Train 7 self-advocates by Fall 2027.

- ⁰² Training Sessions: Conduct two training sessions by the end of 2027, integrating feedback from the first two years.
- ⁰³ School Outreach: Perform outreach at five schools by Summer 2027, expanding on previous outreach efforts.
- ⁰⁴ Mid-Program Evaluation: Complete mid-program evaluation by Fall 2027.
- ⁰⁵ Rural Outreach Focus: Begin focused outreach in rural areas by Winter 2027.
- ⁰⁶ Support Self-Advocacy Events: Provide \$15,000 in funding and support.

d. Year 4 (2028)

- ⁰¹ Train Self-Advocates: Train 14 self-advocates by Fall 2028.
- ⁰² Training Sessions: Conduct two training sessions by the end of 2028.
- ⁰³ School Outreach: Perform outreach at seven schools by Spring 2028.
- ⁰⁴ Support Self-Advocacy Events: Provide \$15,000 in funding and support.

e. Year 5 (2029)

- ⁰¹ Train Self-Advocates: Train 20 self-advocates by Summer 2029.
- ⁰² Training Sessions: Conduct two training sessions by Summer of 2029.
- ⁰³ School Outreach: Perform outreach at ten schools by Fall 2029.
- ⁰⁴ Engage with GenEd Students, Parents, and Teachers: Begin engagement activities by Winter 2029, broadening the scope of outreach.
- ⁰⁵ Support Self-Advocacy Events: Provide \$15,000 in funding and support.
- ⁰⁶ Secure Long-Term Partnerships: Establish long-term partnerships by Winter 2029.
- ⁰⁷ Final Program Evaluation: Complete final evaluation by Fall 2029.

f. Optional Year 6 (2030)

- ⁰¹ Continue Training and Outreach Efforts: Maintain momentum from previous years.
- ⁰² Ongoing Support for Self-Advocacy Events: Continue funding and support for state self-advocacy organizations.
- ⁰³ Sustainability and Long-Term Impact: Focus on ensuring the program's sustainability and long-term impact.

Budget

The anticipated budget is up to \$300,000 for a five-year contract, with an optional one-year renewal. Funding allocation will depend on vendor contractor qualifications and alignment with grant objectives. The budget must demonstrate clear alignment with deliverables.

Preferred Minimum Experience

If the State were to conduct a solicitation for these services, organizations must meet the following minimum requirements to qualify:

1. **Self-Advocacy:** Must be led by individuals with developmental disabilities.
2. **Experience:** Proven experience in developing and delivering self-advocacy and leadership training programs tailored to individuals with I/DD.
3. **Reach:** A statewide presence, with the ability to provide services in rural and underserved areas.
4. **Independence:** Independence from provider agencies to avoid conflicts of interest.
5. **Compliance:** Alignment with DD Act mandates, including the promotion of cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

Response Information:

How to Participate

Interested applicants/firms who believe they can provide the services described above should indicate their interest by submitting an electronic response (.pdf format is preferable) with the following information:

- Company name
- Contact information (email) for the individual(s) who should be notified if DOH releases a solicitation

- A summary that clearly describes your company's capabilities and experience related to providing the services described in this RFI.
- A summary that clearly describes how the applicant/firm meets or exceeds the preferred minimum experience shown in 1 – 5 above.
- A statement confirming that the company anticipates the project deliverables, as shown in the budget above, are reasonably within the estimated budget provided. Or, if not, why not?
- A summary of any concerns regarding the project as described. What potential obstacles should be anticipated?

Submission Instructions:

Applicants/firms must submit their response as a PDF file, sent via email, by **January 6, 2025, at 2:30PM.**

Responses should be attached and sent via email to the following:

R. Todd Webster
Procurement Specialist
Alaska Department of Health
russell.webster@alaska.gov
907-268-4847

It is the responsibility of the interested party to follow up with the person(s) listed above to ensure your response was received prior to the time and date specified at the top of this RFI.

Notice:

This Request for Information does not constitute a formal solicitation. The purpose of the RFI is to determine if there are qualified offerors out there who would be interested in bidding on these services. The State will use this information to potentially develop a future solicitation.

The State of Alaska is not responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of responses. The issuance of the Request for Information does not obligate the state to purchase any goods or services, extend any rights to prospective vendors nor guarantee that the State of Alaska will proceed with a formal solicitation

Notice to Vendors:

Pursuant to [Administrative Order 352](#), (a) any person or business determined to support or participate in a boycott of the State of Israel will be disqualified from any procurement related to this Request for Information; and (b) the support of or participation in a boycott of the State of Israel by a person or business contracting with the State of Alaska under AS 36.30 constitutes grounds for termination of the contract.

[Administrative Order 352](#) does not apply to a contract if the person or business has fewer than 10 employees; or the amount to be paid under the contract, excluding renewals and options available under the contract, is less than \$100,000.