**NYS DDPC Announces  
Three New Funding Opportunities**

1. **Social Opportunities Initiative**

DDPC announces the availability of one (1) grant up to $750,000 ($250,000 per year, for three years) to develop, pilot, and evaluate a mini-grant program model which supports community based social opportunities for people with intellectual, developmental (ID/DD) and other disabilities living in rural and urban communities with high rates of poverty and disparate access to social opportunities and other community resources.  
   
Individuals with ID/DD and other disabilities face significant barriers participating in social opportunities within their communities. This lack of social engagement results in less robust social networks and increased social isolation. Consequently, individuals with ID/DD experience a lack of social skills training opportunities (e.g., communications, etiquette, and social behaviors) and a limited number of opportunities to build upon and practice those same skills. Existing programs that attempt to address these barriers primarily target students transitioning from high school. However, research indicates that individuals across the lifespan have a need for these opportunities.  
   
Individuals with ID/DD living in un- and underserved communities face increased barriers when seeking social opportunities. Many of these communities have trouble not only retaining essential services, but also supporting social and recreational services for individuals with developmental and other disabilities due to lack of funding, scant existing community resources, transportation, among other difficulties.   
   
The DDPC is pursuing community-based initiatives that target un- and underserved rural and urban communities throughout New York State that are sustainable and can be replicated in other communities that meet or exceed the NY State Poverty Rate. DDPC will select one grantee to develop, administer, and evaluate a mini-grant program focused on high-poverty, rural counties in year 1, and expanding to include high-poverty urban counties in years 2-3. These mini-grant initiatives should prioritize: reducing social isolation and developing social opportunities; supporting development of social skills, soft skills and prevocational skills; and exploring innovative transportation solutions to support community participation.  
    
**Deadlines for Letter-of-Intent Submission & Proposal Submission**

* **RFP Posting Date:**             Wednesday, September 5, 2018
* **Letter of Intent Due Date:**Friday, September 28, 2018
* **Proposal Due Date:**            Friday, October 19, 2018

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For more information, please visit: https://ddpc.ny.gov/node/806

**2. Rural Peer-Led Outreach and  
Community Mapping**

DDPC announces the availability of one (1) grant up to $300,000 ($100,000 per year, for three years) to conduct peer-led outreach, community mapping, and coalition building within OPWDD Region 2 that will inform the development of Administrative Directive Memorandum, policies, practices, and tools to improve service delivery and access to information for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) living in rural communities.  
   
As of January 1, 2019, OPWDD Region 2 (Region 2) is the largest OPWDD region in terms of area, contains the largest number of rural counties (14 Counties), and the largest number of counties (12 Counties) that are at or above the State Poverty Rate of 15.7%.  The combination of these geographic and economic barriers present significant service obstacles to serving individuals with ID/DD from rural and under-served communities during the transition to managed care and CCOs, in addition to the various barriers individuals face to fully participate in their communities.  
   
Previous initiatives and projects from the NYS DDPC and other DD Councils have focused on improving service delivery outcomes through community mapping and information-sharing. While these initiatives have increased access to service information and opportunities for public input, they do not include the opportunity for individuals with ID/DD to advocate on their own behalf, nor the ability to participate in developing policies and procedures that would assist in accessing and receiving services in their community. As newly formed CCOs are developing a framework for service delivery, individuals with ID/DD from rural, high-poverty communities in Region 2, have the opportunity to work with OPWDD, CCOs, community service providers, and other relevant stakeholders to inform solutions and policies that will improve service delivery and information access.  
   
This initiative aims to address the above service and information delivery issues through establishment of rural advocacy coalitions throughout OPWDD Region 2. These coalitions will provide a uniform mechanism for feedback and recommendations that will result in systems transformation and ultimately improve services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.  
   
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**3. Court Personnel Training**

The DDPC announces funding to select one grantee in the amount of up to $300,000 ($100,000 per year for 3 years) to create, pilot, and evaluate customizable training for Judges, attorneys, court officers, court clerks, and other non-judicial staff and legal system professionals about intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and factors leading to involvement in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems to increase staff knowledge to more effectively respond to the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.  
   
Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) are more vulnerable in the criminal justice system than individuals without disabilities due to a lack of understanding around due process and other fundamental legal rights afforded to victims, witnesses, suspects, defendants, and incarcerated individuals. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2012, about 2 out every 10 prisoners and 4 out of every 10 jail inmates reported having a cognitive disability (BJS, 2012, Criminal Justice 3).  
   
Additionally, research on available training for judges, non-judicial staff and legal system professionals (prosecutors, defense attorneys) has identified that disability training for this audience is typically limited in focus and does not adequately address the topic of developmental disabilities or how justice system professionals can most effectively address the needs of individuals with ID/DD involved in the justice system.  
   
Through this Court Personnel Training initiative, the DDPC is seeking to increase available training, knowledge and awareness about the needs of those with ID/DD in the justice system, and to build overall systems capacity to work with and screen for individuals with ID/DD who become justice-involved.  
  
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