



Highlights

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Special Edition

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Announcement of 2 RFPs Regarding Aging Adults with Developmental Disabilities and an Educational Program on Managed Care

This announces the availability of funds for two projects to be awarded on behalf of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (TPCDD) by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

1. Support for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Who Are Aging — The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit proposals for one project that will result in an increase in community integrated services from Area Agencies on Aging and other state agencies to individuals with developmental disabilities who are aging or whose parents are aging. It also is to increase knowledge, understanding and collaboration among Area Agencies on Aging and other state agencies with responsibility for services to persons with developmental disabilities who are aging. The social service programs and providers serving the disability community are often not aware of the programs and services available through the aging network and, likewise, those in the aging network do not always know about resources available to people who have disabilities.

The Council is interested in encouraging the development of collaboration to serve aging adults with developmental disabilities. All efforts must reflect the directives of the Older Americans Act as amended in 1992, requiring all states to develop and maintain cooperation in designing and implementing services which include all aging adults with developmental disabilities in programs and resources for people who are aging. Services designed and implemented should seek to reduce the isolation experienced by people with disabilities who are aging and should seek to achieve community inclusion for them. Collaborative applications from relevant stakeholders are encouraged.

One project will be funded for up to five years. Estimated funding not to exceed \$150,000 in year one and up to \$250,000 annually for years two through five.

2. Managed Care Access and Safeguards for People with Developmental Disabilities — The purpose of this RFP is to create and implement an educational program that will train Texans with developmental disabilities participating in the Medicaid Managed Care pilots and their families how to effectively access managed care, particularly under Medicaid, and obtain services that fully meet their health care needs. Managed care organizations and providers will be educated on the needs of people with disabilities in a managed care system. Sample education materials and methods for use by the managed care organizations and providers in meeting their responsibility to educate their enrollees with developmental disabilities will be developed.

This program will also provide feedback on implementation of managed care and recommendations to improve the system. For people with disabilities and others with special health care needs, managed care procedures and protocols can be especially difficult to negotiate. People with disabilities (SSI population) will be able to voluntarily enter managed care at its onset. While there are hazards, the State feels that people with disabilities should be included from the beginning to ensure that the new system is developed in a way that appropriately meets their needs, improves their access to the full range of providers and removes incentives to develop a separate system for people with disabilities. This grant will provide easy to under-

These Requests for Proposals were submitted for posting in the May 10, 1996, issue of the "Texas Register."

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stand material and training to consumers on how to access needed health care services.

The purpose and expected long-term outcome of the project is the satisfactory participation of people with disabilities in the managed care system and education of enrollees in the Medicaid waived managed care pilot projects. Indicators of this outcome include consumer feedback which demonstrates that: consumers are prepared with knowledge about managed care and how to use the system; information is presented in a way that is understandable and useful; consumers know how to solve problems and know how to achieve a satisfactory result; consumers have access to services needed to achieve better health; and managed care providers understand and respond to the health needs of persons with disabilities.

The primary focus of the RFP is the education of four groups of stakeholders in the Medicaid managed care system: consumers of managed care organizations and potential enrollees, managed care organizations and contract providers, HHSC Help Line personnel, and community advocates. The secondary focus is to develop model consumer educational materials and methods for future use by managed care organizations in meeting their consumer education responsibilities to people with developmental disabilities. The third focus is to include opportunities for consumers to provide feedback to the managed care system, for the purpose of resolving problems and effecting continuous quality improvement. Collaborative applications from relevant stakeholders are encouraged.

One project will be funded for up to three years. Estimated funding not to exceed \$175,000 for the first year and up to \$150,000 for each of the second and third years.

Terms for Both Projects: The initial budget period for each project is September 1, 1996 to May 31, 1997. Continuation funding beyond the first year will be contingent upon annual review of performance, availability of federal funding, and TPCDD funding priorities. Non-federal match of 25% is requested for the first year. A project located in counties designated as federal poverty areas requires a minimum of 10% matching resources for the first year. Increasing nonfederal match will be required in continuation years.

Application Process: For the application packet that contains both full requests for proposals, application forms and instructions, *please submit a written or fax request to:*

Lester Sanders, Grants Management Director
Texas Planning Council for
Developmental Disabilities
4900 North Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78751-2399
(512) 483-4084
(512) 483-4097 Fax

Deadline: Proposals will be accepted at the Texas Planning Council Office, 4900 North Lamar Blvd., Office #5410, 5th Floor, Austin, Texas until 4 p.m. on July 12, 1996. No fax copies of proposals will be accepted. Copies of the application kit will be sent by regular mail and will not be faxed to applicants.

**Texas Planning Council
for Developmental Disabilities
4900 North Lamar Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78751-2399**

Address Correction Requested

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