

BRIDGES

to the community

May 2002



ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce funding for initiatives in arts, faith, housing and community development consistent with the mandate of the Olmstead case. Organizations are invited to respond to the four Requests for Applications (RFA) described in this document.

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NC DD Council), authorized under Public Law 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act), is one of 56 entities of its type in the United States. The NC DD Council is an independent agency located in the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Its activities are governed by a 34-member body, appointed by the governor and comprised of 60% people with developmental disabilities and their families. Other members include legislators and policymakers representing various agencies and organizations having a vested interest in persons with developmental disabilities. The Council's quarterly meetings are open to the public.

The mission of the NC DD Council is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally competent services, supports and other assistance and opportunities that promote interdependence, contribution, self-determination and inclusion in the community. The NC DD Council achieves this mission through advocacy, capacity building and systems-change activities. It also serves in an advisory capacity, under state law, to the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

The NC DD Council makes funds available in a variety of areas for initiatives, in accordance with the DD Act and the Council's state plan, to fulfill its mission. Funding is made available primarily through competitive bids or RFAs. A general description of each initiative is included in this newsletter. An application

containing more detail will be sent upon receipt of the completed Notification of Intent to Apply, located on the back page of this publication.

Additional information is on the NC DD Council's web site www.nc-ddc.org.

“Living in the community is critically important to promoting maximum independence and to integrating individuals with disabilities into community life.”

President **George W. Bush**
New Freedom Initiative
February 2001

INDEX

- Page 2**
RFA #1 5-02
Opening Doors to Community:
Olmstead
- Page 4**
RFA #2 5-02
Homes For Everyone:
Making Low-Income Housing a High Priority
- Page 6**
RFA #3 5-02
The Art of Relationship:
Creativity, Community and the Human Spirit
- Page 8**
RFA #4 5-02
Faith in Action:
Building Inclusive Faith Communities
- Page 10**
Notification of Intent to Apply

Opening Doors to Community: OLMSTEAD

RFA #1

5-02

State Plan Objective: Promote statewide reform of the systems designed to protect people with developmental disabilities from abuse and neglect and to promote their civil rights and quality of life.

Intent

The intent of this project is to promote systems change based on a contemporary standard of excellence for quality of life—inclusive communities in which individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) exercise the rights and responsibilities of full citizenship, live, go to school, work, play and retire, side by side with others.

Overview

"The Supreme Court's decision in Olmstead over two years ago has renewed the intensity of the debate about the appropriateness of institutional services for individuals who would prefer or are capable of living in the community."

"Today's Choice: Tomorrow's Path"
Human Services Research Institute
Report to NC Legislative Oversight
Committee

November 23, 2001

In June 1999, the United States Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling in Olmstead v. L.C. The Court based its decision on Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires public entities to administer services, programs and activities "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities." The case was brought on behalf of two Georgia women diagnosed as having mental retardation and mental illness. Both women were receiving services in state institutions, although the state's professionals said that they could be appropriately served in the community. The women sued, alleging that the state's failure to provide services and supports in the community constituted discrimination under the ADA.

The Supreme Court held that unnecessary institutionalization is discrimination under Title II of the ADA. The Court's opinion requires public entities to place people with disabilities in the community when:

- The state's professionals have determined that living in the community is an appropriate option;

- Transfer from an institution to the community is not opposed by the individual; and
- The desire to live in the community can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the state and the needs of others with mental disabilities.

The June 1999 Supreme Court decision and North Carolina's work to implement that decision is the impetus for this Request for Applications (RFA).

The Court's opinion encouraged states to develop a comprehensive, effectively working plan for creating and evaluating community services for people with disabilities in the setting most appropriate to their needs. With respect to waiting lists, the Court urged that such lists move at a reasonable pace, not controlled by the state's endeavors to keep its institutions fully populated. North Carolina responded to the Supreme Court's decision in Olmstead by initiating a planning process, inclusive of people with developmental disabilities, in mid-2000. In 2001, the state produced a plan that received accolades from the National Conference of State Legislators. A final Olmstead plan is anticipated in the spring of 2002.

In early 2001, the North Carolina Legislative Oversight Committee for Reform of the Mental Health/ Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services System engaged in extensive deliberations regarding key governance, finance, service array, hospital, and DD issues. A request for proposals for a comprehensive study of Developmental Disabilities services was released and awarded to the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). The resulting study, "Today's Choice: Tomorrow's Path," was presented to the Legislative Oversight Committee on October 9, 2001.

"Today's Choice: Tomorrow's Path" states that, relative to state population, the number of individuals served in North Carolina's Mental Retardation Centers is 43% above the

national average. While North Carolina has scaled back the census in the Mental Retardation Centers (MRC) over the past decade, it has done so at an appreciably slower rate than has been the case nationwide. The report recommends that "North Carolina should reduce the long-term residential census of its Mental Retardation Centers by 50% by 2007." To secure a 50% reduction, North Carolina would have to transition 700 to 750 individuals with developmental disabilities to the community over a five-year period.

Presently, the State of North Carolina faces serious fiscal constraints. Additionally, the report identified the need for a series of complex system design reforms. In light of these challenges, if North Carolina goes forward with the prospective MRC transition (see above), the state will need to employ significantly different strategies for community development than it has used in the past. The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NC DD Council) encourages the state to move forward with this recommendation and is offering its resources to assist the state in doing so planfully and consistent with best practices.

The NC DD Council is releasing funds to support systems change consistent with the [Olmstead](#) decision and the principles and practices of person-centered supports and self-determination¹. The NC DD Council seeks applications for projects that result in measurable, systems change outcomes guaranteeing individuals with developmental disabilities covered by [Olmstead](#) the right to live a life of his or her choosing in the community. Systems change and quality assurance activities should neither duplicate nor supplant existing federal or state programs and must, minimally, be coordinated with the Department of Health & Human Services Long-Term Care Cabinet, Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services State Plan, state Developmental Disabilities Section activities, Division of Medical Assistance, and Local Management Entities' business plans. Any project conducted under this Request for Applications (RFA) must have the meaningful involvement of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

The NC DD Council is seeking applications that mainly incorporate the following ideas consistent with the intent of this RFA:

- Provision of technical assistance to support the continued development of the Home and Community-

Based Waiver environment such that it meets the needs of (1) people presently residing in MRCs and (2) people opting for self-determination/participant-directed services and supports

- Demonstration of strong, person-centered planning (e.g., individual budgeting, circles of friends) with identified individuals who are moving from large public or private Intermediate Care Facilities-MR to homes in the community
- Demonstration of strong, person-centered planning (e.g., individual budgeting, circles of friends) and transition to the community for identified persons with developmental disabilities residing in Adult Care Homes
- State-of-the-art technical assistance for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, statewide, coordinated planning process for transitioning individuals with developmental disabilities from Mental Retardation Centers to the community, over the next five years.
- Demonstration, in the context of person-centered planning, of the use of "case management"/support brokerage to link individuals to resources (inclusive of local, state, generic and informal resources)

The NC DD Council will award one grant, up to \$100,000 per year for five years, for this initiative. Preference will be given to a collaborative approach inclusive of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and key state and local policy makers. Applications are due to the NC DD Council by **July 1, 2002**. Year one of the grant to commence **September 16, 2002**. The Council reserves the right to renew funding on an annual basis, based on the achievement of expected project outcomes.

¹ See "Person-Centered Supports—They're for Everyone," National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, Inc., Dec. 2000.

Homes For Everyone: Making Low-Income Housing a High Priority

RFA #2

5-02

Administration on Developmental Disabilities Goal: Adults with developmental disabilities choose where and with whom they live and have services needed to support these choices.

Intent

The intent of this project is to expand community-based supportive housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities, particularly those with very low incomes.

Overview

Independence and integration into the community are among the most important goals for people with disabilities, their families and advocates. A home of one's own—either rented or owned—is a cornerstone of quality of life. When an adult with a disability has a decent, safe, affordable and accessible home, with access to the services and supports they want and need, he or she has the opportunity to be part of and give back to a community. With stable housing, adults with disabilities are able to achieve other important life goals related to education, income, friendship and family.

The Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead v. L.C. decision has the potential to have a profound impact on future state policies and approaches to providing community housing and support services for people with significant disabilities. As a result of the Olmstead decision, across the U.S., thousands of people living in "restricted settings," such as private and public Intermediate Care Facilities for MR (ICFs-MR), adult care homes, and nursing homes, must be offered housing and community supports consistent with the integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Common principles of supportive housing include:

- Control over one's environment and housing choice is essential.
- Supportive services must be flexible and individualized, rather than defined by a "program."
- All groups have a similar need for government-funded housing assistance because of extreme poverty.
- Housing must be permanent, as defined in landlord/tenant law.
- Housing must be "unbundled" from supportive services. However, supportive services must be available and accessible if needed and desired.

A state's planning efforts related to the Olmstead decision present—at the state and local level—the opportunity for substantial involvement of people with developmental disabilities and other stakeholders in the design of new housing options that take into account an individual's need for freedom, authority and control, along with services and supports. The Olmstead decision also creates the opportunity to build on work over the past 20 years regarding which housing and community service models are responsive to the needs and choices of people with developmental and other disabilities. As state and local agencies plan for the implementation of new policies consistent with the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision, they will make extremely important choices and policy decisions about the models of housing and support to be offered to

people with significant disabilities. People with developmental and other disabilities must be "at the table" when these local- and state-level decisions are made. Their participation will encourage a move away from outdated housing services models of the past and move us toward the future. (Ann O'Hara and Steve Day, "Olmstead and Supportive Housing: A Vision for the Future," 2001)

The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), a repository of national expertise on housing for people with disabilities, along with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force, report that the development of supportive housing for people with disabilities continues to be a low policy priority in most state and local governments. State Medicaid, health and human services agencies, and housing authorities frequently have difficulty, TAC/CCD notes, defining their respective roles and coordinating the implementation of a supportive housing initiative. Insufficient interagency collaboration prevents state housing and health and human services agencies from collectively "thinking outside the box" and developing sustainable supportive housing approaches. Stronger involvement of people with disabilities in collaborative efforts can increase commitment to change, promote new approaches and generate new strategies for achieving success.

The disability community is at a critical point with respect to affordable housing. People with disabilities are seeking real homes in the community in increasing numbers, but there is little available, particularly for those with very low incomes. Most disability organizations do not have affordable housing expertise. They have difficulty navigating the complexities of government housing programs and policies and are uncertain about how to approach the affordable housing system.

Although successful examples of partnerships between the housing system and the disability community do exist, they are the exception rather than the rule. Within the housing system, government officials and affordable housing providers must make the commitment to make housing for people with disabilities a priority (Ann O'Hara and Emily Miller, "Going It Alone: The Struggle to Expand Housing Opportunities for People with Disabilities," 2000). Adults with developmental and other disabilities and their families can no longer "go it alone."

The grantee will develop 18 or more cross-disability housing advocacy and action groups in local communities, each fully inclusive of people with developmental disabilities. The grantee will facilitate collaborative partnerships between the disability community and the affordable housing system, leading to a significant expansion of home ownership and tenancy for adults with developmental disabilities, particularly those with very low incomes. Activities may include:

- Develop and implement an educational campaign to inform the disability community about housing with supports and assist them in becoming more effective advocates in this area.
- Develop and implement an educational campaign to educate the housing delivery system on the housing needs and preferences of people with disabilities and the nature and extent of the current housing crisis facing people with disabilities.
- Participate in coordinated efforts among people with disabilities, advocates, North Carolina health and human services agencies, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) public housing/Section 8 providers and housing developers.
- Provide up-to-date resource information for statewide distribution and provide technical assistance to local community housing groups.
- Influence public policy on housing, community-based services and related disability issues by mobilizing grassroots advocates and coalitions to increase the pool of safe, affordable and accessible homes for very low income people with developmental and other disabilities.

*The NC DD Council will award one grant, up to \$100,000 per year for three years (on a federal fund declining ratio) for this initiative. Preference will be given to applicants that have expertise in affordable housing and that develop collaborative approaches for working with local public housing authorities, housing developers, state and local departments of housing, local government officials, HUD, lenders, other housing professionals, people with developmental and other disabilities, advocates, disability service providers and other partners to implement strategies that will have a long-term systemic impact. Applications are due to the NC DD Council by **July 1, 2002**. Year one of the grant to commence **September 16, 2002**. The Council reserves the right to renew funding on an annual basis, based on the achievement of expected project outcomes.*

The Art of Relationship: Creativity, Community and the Human Spirit: A Dynamic Funding Opportunity for Artists, Arts Organizations and People with Developmental Disabilities

RFA #3

5-02

State Plan Objective: Create inclusive opportunities in the arts for persons with developmental disabilities; promote their full inclusion in arts organizations and initiatives; support the development of accessibility in all the arts.

Intent

The intent of this project is to create fully inclusive opportunities in the arts for people with developmental disabilities; to promote their active participation, together with other community members, in varied arts organizations and initiatives; and support the development of art and art forms that are inclusive of and fully accessible to people with developmental disabilities and that benefit both individual and community life. The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities is making funds available towards these ends.

Overview

Inclusive and Accessible Art

We have, where we love, only this:
we must allow each other to grow great,
because diminishing comes easily to us
and doesn't need to be learned.

(Rainer Maria Rilke: "Requiem for a Friend")

All of life is creative—endlessly creative. We experience boundless creativity around us every day, every moment: the ebb and flow of seasons, shifting winds, changing skies, deep ocean tides and the silver rhythms of the moon; the heartsong of the earth in calls, cries and colors as deep as the ear can hear, as far as the eye can see.

All life extends beyond itself and passionately aspires.

People, too, are creative—all people, endlessly so. One single human life is Creative in ways that we cannot begin to calculate or measure.

People are artists. People create with their hearts and minds, their dreams, voices, moods and movements. They create with their hands, their touch, with feet, toes, and even, sometimes, their elbows. Some people

create with shadows and silence, some even with their eyelids. People create with anything and everything.

They create, finally, with their love—with, and for, each other.

This, then, is a call to the Imagination; a call seeking the deep connections among all people.

A call to the Arts that dance, sing, speak, paint, sculpt, gesture, film, build, draw, play, storm, swirl, and grow still.

A call to Artists...

A call to Communion...

To create, through the Arts, greater community, inclusive of people with disabilities.

And to create, through community, a more inclusive, original and universal art.

"The easy motion of his supple stride,
which turns about the very smallest circle,
is like a dance of strength about a center
in which a mighty will stands stupefied."

(Rilke: "The Panther, Paris Zoo")

Distribution of Funds

To carry out the intent of this objective, the NC DD Council will make available up to \$75,000 to support the active, integral participation of people with developmental disabilities in the experience, production, presentation and, where applicable, the sale of quality art. The distribution of these funds will be in the form of three three-year grants, in amounts up to \$25,000 each for the first year, with funding for the following two years to be determined by the applicable federal declining ratio. Applications are due to the NC DD Council by **July 1, 2002**. The Council reserves the right to renew funding on an annual basis, based on the achievement of expected project outcomes.

Who Should Consider Applying?

These grants are addressed to collaborative arts initiatives, based in and deriving from the life of their communities, and willing to challenge and shape a community's vision, values and identity. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to expanding the spheres of community and of art to include people with developmental disabilities. **Regarding arts organizations, or any organizations designed specifically for people with developmental disabilities, the Council strongly encourages applications that partner with organizations and artists in the larger community.**

Organizational Applicants or Partners

May Include:

Theatre companies

Dance/movement/mime companies

Opera companies

Orchestras or musical ensembles

Choruses/singing groups

Movie/video production companies

Community cultural centers

Arts councils

Arts-related departments of universities, colleges and schools

Performance groups of all kinds

Painting/sculpture/photography/visual arts and writing studios

Organizations that market and sell art work

Human service organizations in partnership with any of the above, or other community-based arts organizations.

- * Working in their own independent studios located in the community.
- * Displaying their artwork for sale, together with other artists, in commercial galleries; community, state, national and international art shows and exhibits; and in other venues (e.g., restaurants, cafes, schools and businesses).
- * Becoming partners with other artists in owning/operating studios and galleries in the community.
- * Experiencing/exploring a variety of art forms and creative processes and participating in inclusive art classes and/or events/performances.
- * Working in apprenticeships with recognized artists/art technicians in their place of work.
- * Seeing their original work performed, published, recorded or filmed by companies recognized and respected in their field.
- * Co-creating, performing, publishing, and/or filming together with other artists and performers, original works in recognized public venues.
- * Giving classes/workshops in art and creative expression in schools, studios, community centers, arts-affiliated centers and/or other recognized venues, both public and private.

Preference will be given to proposals that are collaborative in nature and seek to create opportunities and outcomes that are fully inclusive and of a more permanent, on-going nature.

The Possibilities Are Endless

People with developmental disabilities:

- * Employed or earning income through their activity in the arts
- * Performing together with other artists and community members in productions of local or statewide performance companies.
- * Creating visual and literary art in studios and locations where other members of the community create their art, teach and study.

The poem is everywhere. Your voice sometimes travels beside it like a dolphin keeping company for awhile with a golden sloop in the sunlight, then vanishing again. The poem is everywhere, like the wings of the wind moved by the wind to touch, for a moment, a sea-gulls wings...

The poem is everywhere.

(George Seferis: "Memory")

RFA #4

5-02

State Plan Objective: Promote the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families into communities of faith of their choice.

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce funding for a non-denominational, faith-based initiative. All non-or inter-denominational, faith-based organizations active in the areas of advocacy, community development or social justice are invited to respond to the Request For Applications (RFA) described in this document.

Intent

The intent of this project is to nurture, among diverse faith communities, an awareness of the spiritual, physical and social needs of people with developmental disabilities and to engage those communities in activities that support the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families in all aspects of congregational life and in the life of the greater community.

Overview

This We Believe:

t h a t

ALL may grow,
ALL may serve,
ALL may be served, and
ALL may worship.

If there are barriers of attitude, communication or architecture for anyone, the foundation of a community is weakened for all.

All are created equal, each is loved, all deserve dignity and are worthy of respect.

The sharing of needs and vulnerabilities form the ties that bind together a supportive community. Each has abilities and potential. We are called on to respond lovingly with all that we are and to be all that we can.

Listening, persevering—in spite of inconvenience—and remaining open to creative solutions and opportunities can yield unexpected good.

In the fall of 1998, the NC DD Council issued a first of its kind Request For Applications (RFA) entitled, "From Barriers To Bridges: That All May Worship—An Interfaith Funding Opportunity for Religious Communities and People with Developmental Disabilities." In a section of that RFA we made the following statement:

"Communities of faith rest on the shared mission of mutual caring and 'opening the door' to all those who share their beliefs. Like others, people with developmental disabilities and their families seek to deepen their faith and sense of belonging through spiritual communities. Like others, people with disabilities have gifts to bring to their congregations; however, they often face significant barriers—in architecture, attitude and communication—to full participation. Communities of faith, with access to information and other supports, can and will 'open the doors'."

"Working together, we can extend a welcome to those with developmental disabilities into all parts of our communities."

These words are as relevant today as they were in 1998. At that time, the NC DD Council funded 13 ground-breaking projects. Ten individual congregations, both large and small, one diocese, one divinity school and one denomination were awarded grants. Over the last three years, they have all worked devotedly to "open the doors" to people with developmental disabilities.

During the same period, the National Organization on Disabilities (NOD) engaged in a nationwide Accessible Congregations Campaign, seeking the commitment of 2,000 congregations by the year 2000 to include

people with all types of disabilities as full and active participants. The theme of the campaign was "Access: It Begins in the Heart."

The NOD met its goal in May of 2001. As of February of this year, 2,116 congregations across the nation have pledged their commitment to become accessible. Of those congregations, 33 are from North Carolina.

“ We will provide additional funding each year to help churches, synagogues, mosques and other civic groups become more fully accessible to all Americans. In many houses of worship and civic centers, intentions are good, but resources are scarce. We can help make these community places open to all.”

President **George W. Bush**
Feb. 1, 2001

Today the president and the federal government have recognized that accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities are vital to society. The president's "New Freedom Initiative" for people with disabilities acknowledges the opportunities within and through faith communities that the NOD and the NC DD Council saw previously. Acknowledging the potential offered by the "New Freedom Initiative," and the impact, interest and enthusiasm generated across the state by the first round of Communities of Faith funding, the NC DD Council is releasing a Request For Applications for technical assistance and training to promote further, broad-based efforts in this direction.

The NC DD Council is seeking applications that incorporate ideas and outcomes consistent with the intent of this RFA. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Provide technical assistance and training to faith communities seeking to expand their efforts towards inclusion for people with developmental disabilities into the greater community by, for example, developing employment and housing opportunities, accessing community supports and actively advocating in partnership with people with disabilities.
- Provide technical assistance and training to faith communities across the state on the themes of

accessibility, civil rights, full community membership, and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities.

- Develop training materials and/or educational curricula on themes relevant to this RFA and coordinate dissemination of these materials to faith communities across the state.
- Identify, connect and augment the work of faith communities with social-change initiatives across the state concerned with full community membership of people with disabilities or with issues that could be extended to include people with developmental disabilities.
- Facilitate the development of and provide support to congregational coaching teams, to assist individual congregations and their members with issues relating to accessibility/inclusion within their community.
- Facilitate effective partnerships and collaborations among congregations/denominations, religious organizations, state and local disability organizations and agencies, and advocacy organizations working in the areas of disability rights, social justice and community development.

The NC DD Council will award one grant, up to \$65,000 per year, for three years at level funding, for this initiative. Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating capacity building approaches; collaboration between disability and community development expertise; and an approach that is inclusive of people with disabilities and their families. Applications are due to the NC DD Council by **July 1, 2002**. Year one of the grant to commence **September 16, 2002**. The Council reserves the right to renew funding on an annual basis, based on the achievement of expected project outcomes.

Included in the grant will be funds totaling \$10,000 awarded as mini-grants (up to \$1,000 each) to congregations with the purpose of supporting their efforts in accessibility, inclusion and advocacy. The grantee will be responsible for the equitable dispersal and administration of these mini-grants as well as all necessary follow-up and reporting on the spending of these funds.

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO APPLY

I am interested in submitting a proposal for:

_____ RFA #1 5-02 **Opening Doors to Community:**

Olmstead

_____ RFA #2 5-02 **Homes For Everyone: Making Low-Income Housing a High Priority**

_____ RFA #3 5-02 **The Art of Relationship: Creativity, Community and the Human Spirit**

_____ RFA #4 5-02 **Faith in Action: Building Inclusive Faith Communities**

Send grant application packet

I will download the grant application packet from the web site: www.nc-ddc.org

All applicants are strongly urged to attend a "Bidders' Workshop," where application details, including outcomes reporting, will be discussed. Please indicate the workshop you plan to attend:

_____ **Thursday, June 6**, Morganton, NC

_____ **Monday, June 10**, Raleigh, NC

Name(s): _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

FAX #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Completed grant applications for RFAs #1, 2, 3 and 4 must be received in the NC DD Council office by 5:00 pm, July 1, 2002.

Please mail or fax this form by June 1, 2002.

North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

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