

2022 Innovative Employment Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions

October 31, 2022

There were multiple requests for the location of the 2022 Innovative Employment Opportunity application. The application can be found on the DDS website at [Notice of Opportunity Innovative Employment Opportunity 2022 Grant Program \(ct.gov\)](#) and at CT Source [CTsource Solicitation #11444](#).

Questions & Answers

Q: Can an agency apply for 2 (both) grants, one for exploratory and one for Implementation/Expansion at the same time or are agencies only allowed to apply for one grant during this cycle.

A: An applicant may apply to both the exploratory and implementation grant separately, providing they meet the criteria outlined for each.

Q: I am looking to apply for the Opportunity Innovative Employment Opportunity 2022 Grant Program. The business model I am proposing is an entrepreneurship business for each client. Each employee will follow the Customized employment model. We are looking to create a workshop that allows employees to drive their passion and create items to sell online and at local markets. The program will assist and accommodate all needs and incorporate job skills in entrepreneurship (buying materials, following a budget, following set-by-step directions, shipping, marketing, and building community connections, etc.) Before creating a business plan, would this be a program that would possibly receive a grant?

A: The intention of the IEO is to tie funds directly to either the start-up or expansion of specific businesses that have the employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as a central component of their business model. The IEO is not intended to be used under the umbrella of programs such as GSE's. If there are individuals who are interested in starting their own business, they should be encouraged to apply for the IEO.

Q: What is the total funding for this grant opportunity?

A: DDS has budgeted up to \$600,000 for the grant opportunity.

Q: Who will be reviewing the grant applications and business plans?

A: A panel led by DDS personnel will review the applications and business plans.

Q: Is there a particular format you would like the applications and business plans to follow?

A: Please use the applications that are available on the DDS website and CT Source. Standard formats for business plans are acceptable.

Q: Is there a particular file format you would like the applications and business plans to be submitted?? A: PDF format would be preferred.

Q: May grant funds be used to pay the wages of people who are providing supervision and training of employees with disabilities?

A: Grant funds are not permitted for wages of people providing supervision and training of employees with disabilities.

Q: May grant funds be used to pay the wages of individuals with disabilities whom we hire, if these are new positions created using grant funds?

A: Grant funds are not permitted for wages of individuals with disabilities hired by an enterprise.