



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Enhanced Community Engagement FY 2025 RFP Inquiries/Answers

1. Is this a West Region program or statewide program? **This is a statewide program.**
2. Will the program run 7/1/24 through 6/30/24, or the year of January through December 2025? **The anticipated start date is October 1, 2024 and end date of September 30, 2025.**
3. Can individuals living in a CLA or CRS participate in the proposed program? **The target population is those individuals living in their own or family homes. Those living in a CLA or CRS, while not excluded, are not intended participants for the program.**
4. What is the timeline for selecting the agencies that will receive the grant? **Proposals for the RFP are due by June 5, 2024. The RFP Proposal Committee will begin reviewing proposals on June 20, 2024. We anticipate the selection of the contractor(s) and notification of selection will be made by July 10, 2024.**
5. How will the agency be paid/reimbursed? **An agency will submit an invoice to Resource Management with type of activity, dates, location of service, and number of individuals served. Payment is 1/12 of the award total per month.**
6. Is it one time funding? **Yes, this is a one-time grant. It is being paid through a PR/Beneficiary Agreement.**
7. Can the proposed funding provide Individualized Home Support to individuals? **These funds are intended to enhance community engagement, not provide in-home support for individuals.**
8. Should the proposed budget be from Oct 2024 to July 2025? **The proposed budget should be from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.**
9. Is it okay for the funds to span fiscal years? **Yes.**
10. Will an agency receive referrals for participants, or can providers find their own people? **DDS will not be making referrals for individuals participating in a selected program/service.**

11. Can the agency offer services through this RFP to people they don't currently provide services to? **Yes.**
12. Can funding be requested for a marketing plan to recruit individuals outside the agency? **If needed, a marketing budget can be part of your proposal.**
13. Is there an age limit/minimum? **This program should be offered to those who are eligible for DDS services. There is no age requirement.**
14. Are leisure and recreation activities included? Should additional supports be included in proposal? **The Proposer shall determine the leisure and recreation activities to be included in the proposal.**
15. Did the proposal come from individuals voicing being cut off from community? **Stakeholders specifically identified this area as a priority for inclusion in the DDS Five Year Plan 2022-2027. Funds are available through an ARPA initiative to remedy the isolation individuals may have experienced during the pandemic.**
16. Is there any guidance about if they put a 1.2 mil budget together will DDS want to split that funding up? Providers won't be able to offer the same level of offerings in their providers if most of the proposal request is not met. **Funding may be awarded to more than one provider resulting in the need to adjust awards in relation to requested amounts.**
17. Can a provider submit multiple budgets with different levels of offerings? **Yes.**
18. Is this something that we will have the opportunity to propose every year? **The current funding is offered one time through an ARPA fund.**
19. How many proposals did DDS receive during the first RFP? **5**
20. In the first round, how many providers are providing services? **3**
21. When the proposals are evaluated, are the number of people an agency can reach and serve, and the geography within the state a provider can serve taken into account? **Proposals that have a statewide impact will be prioritized.**
22. What areas in the state are not currently being covered with community engagement services? **The goal is to enhance community engagement across the state.**
23. Is DDS planning to do a survey after the first Community Engagement RFP session to evaluate if individuals enjoyed the opportunities afforded to them? If so, can the results be shared with providers who are contemplating submitting a proposal so they can use that information to create their proposal? **There will be no survey conducted prior to the proposal due date.**

24. Are there any outcomes or data that DDS is looking for in relation to this RFP? **DDS will request agencies who receive awards provide data as specified in the RFP including but not limited to the number of people impacted and the frequency and type of community engagement opportunities provided.**
25. The first round of ARPA money began in January. Would providers that are currently providing services through the Community Engagement RFP be able to get additional funding if their current funding is not finished? Can there be an overlap with the two RFPs? **Awardees from the first RFP may apply.**
26. Do activities have to be offered in the community only? Can we provide indoor activities, i.e. movie night, arts & crafts, BINGO, etc.? **As the focus is community engagement, planned activities should present the opportunity to engage with community members, regardless of location.**
27. Are we limited to providing services with individuals diagnosed with IDD only? **Services need to be provided to those who are eligible for DDS.**
28. Can the money be used to pay for things in advance, i.e. book a cruise, pay for airfare, book an Airbnb for a weekend wellness getaway, prepay for a banquet hall for a summer jam pool party BBQ, limousine or party bus to NY to see a Broadway play, hire a chef to offer healthy cooking classes, or passes to a day spa? **Funds should be used to engage as many people as possible in activities in their community. High cost activities for a small number of people would not be prioritized. Prepayment for an approved activity to take place within the RFP dates (10/1/24-9/30/25) is allowable.**
29. On the RFP it states, private organizations are eligible to submit a proposal in response to this RFP. If an agency was denied to be a DDS provider agency, would this disqualify or prevent an organization from submitting to this RFP? **Applicants are not required to be DDS qualified providers, but they must have the minimum qualifications listed on the RFP.**
30. What time period should a provider that is currently providing services through the Community Engagement use for the budget that will be submitted for this proposal given that they have a current grant that is in effect until December 31, 2024? **The new proposed budget should begin January 1, 2025, and go through September 30, 2025.**
31. With recruiting for a manager, we were unable to start the program until March. Would we be able to carry over the funding to end in February or will it still end in December 2024? **The grant will still end in December 2024, as stated in the original RFP.**