Developmental Disabilities Council
Reading Cover Page

Date: January 26, 2007

Meeting: Full Council

Reading Number: 07-01

Issue: Self-Advocates in Leadership

Included in this reading:

Self-Determination and Individual Development Workgroup Decision Package

Background/Summary:

The Self-Determination and Individual Development Workgroup recommends the Council adopt the Self-Advocates in Leadership Decision Package. It addresses several State Plan Performance Targets.

The Council plans to award $71,000 each year for five years to accomplish these Performance Targets.

This contract will be awarded through a competitive process.

Action: Discussion and Final Vote

If you have questions, please contact Shawn Latham or Clare Billings.

Decision Package

Project Title: Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) Project

Brief Description of Project: The purpose of the Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) project is to bring self-advocates together to identify the issues that are important to them, how they collectively feel about those issues, and to take leadership roles in developing their own legislative agenda and policy that improves the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

State Plan Performance Target(s):
Self-Advocacy Performance Target 1.1 – Self-advocates in Leadership (SAIL) coalition membership increases by 12 new members each year in the State Plan.

Self-Advocacy Performance Target 1.2 - A statewide self-advocacy coordinator and 4 regional self-advocacy coordinators provide ongoing information about SAIL activities, public policy and legislative issues, throughout each year of the State Plan.

Self-Advocacy Performance Target 1.3 – Self-Advocates influence 2 positive public policy changes increasing their self-determination, choice and control by the end of the State Plan.

Self-Advocacy Performance Target 1.4 – 6 self-advocates are mentoring other self-advocates in legislative advocacy, each year of the State Plan.

Council Resources available for project:
The Council plans to award $71,000 each year for five years for the Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) project (depending upon receipt of federal funding.) Contracts will be awarded on a yearly basis starting July 1, 2007. A 25% match of non-federal funds or in-kind contribution is required.

Values, policy directions & limitations:

- Statewide SAIL project coordinator is a person with disabilities.
- SAIL is led by self-advocates.
- Six self-advocate mentors receive training and support to mentor other self-advocates.
- SAIL Legislative agenda is coordinated with other DD advocacy efforts.
- Membership recruitment is conducted throughout the state.
- Priority for reimbursing travel expenses is based on reaching into new areas, rural areas & eastern Washington communities and supporting the cost of mentees to come to SAIL meetings.
- Four regional SAIL coordinators are persons with disabilities and at least two regional coordinators represent eastern Washington communities.
- Information is provided to self-advocates throughout the state through presentations at self-advocacy meetings, monthly newsletter and the SAIL website.
- Stipends are paid to regional coordinators and self-advocate mentors.
- Preference is given to self-advocacy organizations/agencies.

Criteria for Responsiveness:

1. The organization must demonstrate capacity, experience, and success in training and assisting self-advocates advocating about issues of importance to them with their legislators.
2. The organization must value and practice cultural competency.
3. The organization must demonstrate it promotes and practices self-determination principles.
4. The organization must have at least two people with developmental disabilities actively involved in their organizations; at least one person with developmental disabilities is serving on the agency board of directors.

Staff Directions:

Conduct a competitive solicitation process & have the contract in place by July 1, 2007.