

# GRANTS FOR ENHANCED COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (SOCIAL REC GRANTS) LETTER OF INTENT GRANT APPLICANTS 2022

## Our Vision

Our vision is that children and adolescents with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) will develop friendships from opportunities provided by integrated and inclusive social and recreational programs.

## Background

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) provided supplemental funding to increase the federal medical assistance percentage for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for qualifying states. Under ARPA, states can implement a variety of innovative activities that will increase capacity of HCBS to meet the needs of individuals with I/DD.

ARPA provided the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) \$12.5 million for grants for enhanced community integration for children and adolescents (social rec grants). The grants will fund projects that will enhance and develop integrated and inclusive social and recreational programs for families, children and adolescents with I/DD in diverse communities. Regional centers (RCs) will partner with community entities that provide social and recreational programs to implement approved grant projects.

## Social Rec Grant Goals

DDS identified the following goals:

- Improve accessibility of integrated social and recreational programs that are person-centered and culturally and linguistically responsive to the beliefs, values and choices of children and adolescents with I/DD;
- Utilize and leverage existing community resources to enhance and develop integrated and inclusive social and recreational programs that are safe and age appropriate; and
- Increase the number of RC vendored providers that offer integrated and inclusive social and recreational services to people with I/DD.



## Social Rec Grant Description

RCs will post requests for proposals (RFPs) for the social rec grants on their websites. Community entities will submit grant proposals to the RCs, which the RCs will score and prioritize according to the grant goals, grant priorities and the needs of the regional center's catchment area. RCs will recommend grant proposals for approval and DDS will determine which grant proposals will be approved. RCs will contract with grantees for the 8-month project term. Grantees will report their progress on meeting standard outcome measures to RCs on a quarterly basis on a form provided by DDS. RCs will review and approve quarterly reports. Approved progress reports will be submitted to DDS. DDS will review progress reports and provide feedback to RCs as needed.

To be considered for approval, proposals must meet criteria within these guidelines; reflect collaborative efforts between RCs and applicants; and support children and adolescents who are:

- three to twenty-one years of age;
- determined eligible for RC services including provision eligibility or Lanterman Act programs and;
- from diverse monolingual and multilingual communities who face barriers to accessing RC services

Proposals supporting children and adolescents with hearing loss and from rural areas will be strongly considered.

## Grant Priorities

DDS developed the following grant priorities with input from families, self-advocates, the Association of Regional Center Agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs) and local parks and recreation entities. Proposals that address the following priorities will be strongly considered:

- Create, re-establish and/or enhance existing programs that are inclusive of children and adolescents with I/DD by applying evidence-based, best or emerging practices;
- Support development of friendships between children and adolescents through integrated and inclusive programs and activities;
- Hire and train staff to ensure the provision of adequate support for children and adolescents with complex needs (i.e., physical and behavioral);
- Support communities with cultural awareness and sensitivity by enhancing language access and cultural competence within social and recreational programs and activities;
- Develop and vendor inclusive social and recreational programs that apply person-centered and family-centered practices.



## Grant Applicant Proposal Submission Requirements

Grant applicants may include, but are not limited to:

- CBOs
- Religious organizations (e.g., churches, synagogues)
- Private recreational businesses or studios (e.g., karate schools, ballet studios, art studios)
- YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts
- County and city parks and recreation entities
- Public and private camps
- After-school programs

To apply for an 8-month term social rec grant, each grant applicant must submit a proposal to the RC's designee (see Regional Center Directory - ATTACHMENT I). Proposal deadlines will be set by each RC. Each proposal must include a completed Letter of Intent (ATTACHMENT C) and a Grant Budget Form (ATTACHMENT D). Each proposal will include one or more project type. DDS has developed standard outcome measures for all grant projects. Applicants will be required to identify goals for each standard outcome measure applicable to the grant proposal and report progress towards meeting goals in subsequent quarterly reports, if the grant proposal is approved. All grant projects will be required to report on standard outcome measures for **all grant projects**, except Vendorization Assistance. **Approved grant projects at or above \$100,000 will also be required to report on the supplemental outcome measures associated with the grant project type.** Grants that will provide Vendorization Assistance will report on outcome measures that are unique to this project type. RCs will confirm that the goals for the standard outcome measures are appropriate for the scope of the proposal during the application review process. Additional information on this process is provided in Project Types and Standard Outcome Measures (ATTACHMENT G).

RCs will score, make recommendations and submit grant proposals to DDS for final selection. When scoring proposals, RCs will consider the following for each item:

- Is the proposal consistent with the social rec grants goals and priorities?
- Did the grant applicant provide the requested information?
- Does the proposal meet the needs of the local community?

DDS encourages RCs in close proximity to one another to collaborate on proposals that will serve individuals across multiple catchment areas. For proposals that request to partner with more than one RC, a lead RC must be designated and will be responsible for administering the grant. This includes submitting all reports and responding to DDS inquiries. Grant applicants may contact a RC designed for further planning for RC collaborative grant proposals.



**GRANTS FOR ENHANCED COMMUNITY INTEGRATION  
FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

**LETTER OF INTENT APPLICATION FOR GRANT APPLICANTS 2022**

**Grant Applicant**

**Organization Name:**

**Project Name:**

**Website:**

**Phone Number:**

**Grant Designee**

**Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email:**

**Address:**

**Amount Requested:**

**Vendor Number and Service Code(s) (if applicable):**

**Project Type: **Select All that Apply****

- Community Connector
- Community Engagement and Friendship Outreach
- Education and Training
- Financial Assistance
- Increased Access to programs that are Culturally and Linguistically Sensitive
- Setting Modification
- Transportation
- Vendorization Assistant

**Affiliated or Lead Regional Center:**

**If collaborating with multiple RCs select the Lead RC above.**

**If applicable, indicate in the box additional Regional Centers in collaboration with.**

**Date Form Submitted to RC Designee:**



**Instructions:** Limit responses to each of the following items in the space contained in designated text boxes. Do not include attachments to the Letter of Intent. Contact the RC's designee (ATTACHMENT I) for clarification and discuss grant project collaboration and potential future vendorization. Upon completion, send the Letter of Intent and the Budget Form to the lead RC's designee. Submission deadlines will be set by the RC. Consider the following when responding to each item:

- Is the proposal consistent with the social rec grant goals and priorities?
- Is the grant applicant providing the requested information?
- Does the proposal meet the needs of the local community?

1. Describe the grant proposal, its scope and who it will serve. What is the total budget amount? (15 points)

2. How will the grant proposal support the Vision and Goals of social rec grants? (15 points)



3. Describe how the grant proposal will apply person-centered and/or family-centered practices when supporting individuals served by the grant. (15 points)

4. Describe how the grant proposal will create or enhance social and recreational program(s) and activities in a manner that is culturally and linguistically responsive to the beliefs, values, and choices of the individuals served by the grant. (15 points)

5. Identify goals for the standard outcome measures **for all grant projects, except for Vendorization Assistance projects**. Grant proposals at or above \$100,000 are **also** required to identify goals on supplemental outcome measures associated with the grant project type(s). Indicate how data will be collected to measure progress toward meeting the goals. Grants that will provide Vendorization Assistance must report on outcome measures that are unique to this project type. Reference Project Types and Standard Outcome Measures (ATTACHMENT G). (15 points)



6. Describe the outreach plan associated with the grant proposal. Include how the individuals served by the grant will be informed about the grant project and a plan for reaching diverse communities in languages that reflect the regional center's catchment area. If applicable, indicate collaboration of outreach efforts with multiple RCs. (15 points)

7. Describe how the grant project will be sustain after grant funds are encumbered, if applicable. Will the grant applicant seek vendorization so that grant funded activities continue after funds are exhausted? (15 points)

8. Describe how existing resources within the program will be leveraged. Grant proposals that include setting modification project types will not be approved for projects designed to meet ADA requirements. Include a statement of why the project does not fulfill ADA requirements. List any supporting statute or regulations. For more information, reference ATTACHMENT G. (15 points)



**RC SCORING INSTRUCTIONS:**

Consider the following questions when scoring each item.

0 = Does not meet criteria, lowest score, 5=Meets criteria, highest score

Item Number	Is the item response consistent with the social rec grant goals and priorities? (0-5 points)	Did the grant applicant provide the requested information? (0-5 points)	Does the proposal meet the needs of the local community? (0-5 points)	(up to 15 points)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
<b>Total Score</b>				/120

**DDS Review**

