

# Project Binder

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MARCH 2024



**Council on  
Developmental  
Disabilities**

# CDD Grants

This document contains summaries of projects funded by the New York State (NYS) Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD) during its 2022-2026 State Plan. Each project helps the CDD meet its State Plan goals in:



**Goal 1: People with I/DD**



**Goal 2: Families and Caregivers of people with I/DD**



**Goal 3: Systems Access and Change**

## Our Mission

CDD's mission is to promote the independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) in all communities throughout NYS through innovative projects. To help us fulfill our mission, CDD funds innovative projects for individuals with DD and their family members. Individuals with DD and their family members serve on the Council to share their experiences and shape CDD projects and programs.

## Funding

CDD funds innovative projects for people with developmental disabilities and their family members that align with [our mission](#). Funding comes from the federal government. The Council decides how to allocate that money based on goals and objectives outlined in [the State Plan](#). Project areas include physical and mental health, education, housing, social opportunities, and more.

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# Goal 1: People with I/DD

The New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities (NYS CDD) will work to address barriers to community living for diverse people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), by expanding opportunities for self-advocacy and offering programs that help build skills for independent living.

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## Objectives:

### **1.1 Self-Advocacy and Leadership (Mandate/DD Act language)**

During each year of the 2022-2026 state plan, the CDD will increase the number of self-advocates and leaders with IDD, by strengthening peer-led organizations, supporting opportunities for leadership, and improving engagement of self-advocates in cross-disability and culturally diverse communities.

### **1.2 Independent Living and Community Engagement**

By 2026, the NYS CDD will increase opportunities for independent and community living for people with IDD, by testing new programs that promote person-centered skill building and support independence, choice, and meaningful participation in everyday life.

# Apprenticeship Program

**Grantee:** Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities at the University of Rochester

## **Project Goal:**

This project will improve access for people with developmental disabilities to employment opportunities in the manufacturing industry through pre-apprenticeship training and wrap around supports that leads to employment and registered apprenticeship with business partners

## **Project Summary:**

CDD will fund the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities at the University of Rochester (SCDD) to administer an Apprenticeship program for people with IDD in New York State. SCDD will work in collaboration with the Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY) and select regional associations of the Manufacturers Alliance of New York State (MANYS). SCDD will support and provide needed connections to allow at least 10 people with IDD (per year for three years) who are between 18-25 years old to participate in the NYS Industrial Manufacturing Apprenticeship (IMT) Program.

SCDD will establish a Statewide Advisory Group comprised (but not limited to) self-advocates and representatives from the New York State Department of Labor, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, ACCES-VR, the State Protection and Advocacy agency, representatives of companies that hire graduates of apprenticeship programs, the CDD and other organizations as agreed to by CDD and the grantee.

## **Key Activities:**

- Do a community-based assessment to understand barriers and needs for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Create a pre-apprenticeship curriculum.
- Pilot the curriculum.
- Update and improve based on pilot experience.
- Compile a final Sustainability Plan for the CDD, which includes identification of specific strategies to sustain the program beyond the life of the grant.

**Total Funding:** \$450,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** First Rochester area, then Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Decision Making Curriculum for People with Developmental Disabilities (DD) K-12

**Grantee:** CUNY Hunter College

## **Project Goal:**

One of the most important purposes of school is to give students the skills to become successful adults who make informed decisions. But often schools do not provide students with developmental disabilities the decision-making skills to make essential life decisions. This project will create a curriculum for students in grades K-12 building these skills from a young age, leading to greater independence and self-confidence for people with developmental disabilities.

## **Project Summary:**

CUNY Hunter College will work to create a decision-making curriculum that grows with students. It will include different age-appropriate lessons and activities for students at each grade and level. Students will learn to understand the steps to decision making, including:

- gathering information,
- understanding information
- identifying possibilities and alternatives
- considering consequences, weighing choices, communicating decisions with others
- implementing decisions

After creating the curriculum, they will develop toolkits and trainer guides to help teachers implement the project into the pilot schools.

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop mentor and mentee trainings and resources.
- Pair mentor/mentee participants
- Structured mentorship pilot begins
- Necessary improvements and changes are made before recruitment for the next group of mentor/mentee pairs

**Total Funding:** \$800,000

**Project Length:** 4 Years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Entrepreneurship for People with Developmental Disabilities

**Grantee:** Research Foundation for The SUNY Farmingdale

## **Project Goal:**

This project will develop a NY Statewide program to assist people with disabilities in starting a business. A series of workshops will be developed and presented Statewide to introduce entrepreneurship to persons with disabilities. Consultants will provide accounting and legal assistance to those participants who need additional support in registering their businesses and to ensure they are following mandates according to their disability benefits. Ultimately, they will increase their employment options and independence.

## **Project Summary:**

Prospective business owners from the disability community will be exposed to resources and education to fully understand processes, requirements and referrals to build a successful foundation for their business idea. The workshops will be delivered by Small Business Development Center (SBDC) staff virtually or be offered in person to ensure all interested entrepreneurs have access to this program. Workshop topics include:

- Is Entrepreneurship for you?
- Evaluating Best Business Practices
- Writing a Business Plan – What is it and Why Write it?
- Marketing Analysis / Marketing Strategy
- Financial Planning & Financial Best Practices

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop workshop series focused on starting a business for people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- Conduct outreach across the state to advertise workshops.
- Deliver workshops either virtually or in-person depending on the need of the community.

**Total Funding:** \$750,000

**Project Length:** 3 Years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active



# Quick Guides: Tools for Independence

**Grantee:** WRI Solutions

## **Project Goal:**

The goal of this project is to empower young adults with developmental disabilities to make decisions about the topics of housing, employment & volunteering, relationships, and the transition after high school. Information is presented in “Quick Guides,” which are short publications written in plain language.

## **Project Summary:**

Through this project, Welfare Research, Inc. (WRI) will develop a Quick Guide series and provide statewide trainings on independence and daily living for people with I/DD. To meet the intent of this project WRI will:

- Develop a Quick Guide series (hard copy and online)
- Develop a Quick Guide-based training series
- Train a minimum of 150 people
- Develop a well-designed Quick Guide template that can be used by the CDD to develop additional Quick Guides in the future.
- Reduce barriers to daily life that individuals with I/DD face by expanding life-skills and cultivating essential skills and abilities to participate independently in everyday life and in the community.

These guides will be written and designed to be accessible for people with developmental disabilities. Each guide features answers to common questions, checklists, information about New York State resources, and more. Skills-based training workshops will be held to provide a space for self-advocates to ask questions and learn from peers about each topic.

## **Key Activities:**

- Write and design 12 guides
- Training phase with five workshops, including one in Spanish
- Publication and distribution, Summer-Fall 2023

**Total Funding:** \$300,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2020

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Project Status:** Active

# Re-imagining Transitions during COVID through Mindfulness

**Grantee:** Mount Saint Mary

## **Project Summary:**

Applying the ProActive Caring program's MBSR tools to transition planning may help individuals with I/DD and their families reduce their fear and anxiety. Further, by taking a person-centered approach, the program may help families create self-directed opportunities that are more attractive and fulfilling than the range of options typically available.

## **Key Activities:**

- Meeting with advisory council
- Marketing ProActive Caring Program activities (updating the ProActive Caring Program web site; creating flyers and posting information about upcoming programs on social media; creating two e-newsletters; distributing the newsletter through the ProActive Caring mailing list and the CDD listserv).  
Beginning the ProActive Caring Home & School Exchange series 8 programs and conducting the first session of the support group series for individuals and families.
- Presented at two conferences, The Essential Conference (the annual conference of the NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation) held on April 30, and the NYSB5 Parent Leadership Conference held on May 8.
- Through partnership with Parent Network of Western New York (PNWNY), delivered 7 sessions of a biweekly Mindfulness Family Stress Reduction in which PNWNY staff present MBSR strategies with scenarios related to Transitions, followed by discussion led by two Canisius College students who model how parents can talk with their children about utilizing these strategies.

**Total Funding:** \$50,000

**Project Length:** 1 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2022

**Current Status:** Complete

# Rural Outreach and Advocacy

**Grantee:** Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Inc.

## **Project Summary:**

The Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Inc. (CP of NYS) will work with six (6) local affiliates, prioritizing OPWDD Region 2 (Central NY and the North Country)<sup>1</sup> and other rural areas of the state, to establish regularly occurring self-advocacy groups. These groups will meet regularly, identify standing and emerging agenda items, focus each meeting on a particular advocacy topic, and formalize recommendations to the service delivery system (OPWDD, CCOs, service providers, county-level government, local community-based organizations, etc.).

Group members will establish formalized mechanisms of communication between themselves and the above-mentioned agencies, in order to facilitate ongoing dialogue specifically focused on improving services for people with developmental disabilities living in rural communities is maintained. Each advocacy group will track their recommendations and the outcomes of these processes. Each group will also participate in community mapping and coalition building to leverage local resources, and establish connections with new, non-disability focused community partners in an effort to normalize disability in their community.

## **Key Activities:**

- Create and maintain opportunities for regular self-advocacy meetings
- Identify and leverage community resources to deepen communication between individuals and organizations
- Make recommendations based on the results of the advocacy meetings

**Total Funding:** \$200,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2020

**Geographic Reach:** Prioritizing OPWDD Region 2

**Current Status:** Complete

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment A for OPWDD regions.

# **SANYS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

**Grantee:** Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc.

## **Project Goal:**

This 5-year award tasks SANYS to strengthen the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) of New York's self-advocacy network.

## **Project Summary:**

SANYS is an organization founded, and led, by people with developmental disabilities for people with developmental disabilities. SANYS has developed a statewide network of self-advocates, professional and other supporters of self-advocacy. SANYS has 6 regional offices throughout New York State each consisting of a team of grassroots staff reporting to a Regional Coordinator. For this project SANYS will utilize their self-advocate network and existing personnel to explore new relationships with individuals and groups to engage in opportunities for co-learning and inclusion.

## **Key Activities:**

- Hire diverse self-advocates (for ex. bi-lingual) to do presentations, networking, and relationship building in regions. Training and recruitment of Self-advocate Diversity Champions in each region.
- Story telling workshops- my disability story, race story, gender story, sexuality story
- Convene a Statewide Advisory Group to focus on how to increase diversity in all of our organizations.
- Host Diversity and Self-Advocacy Conference

**Total Funding:** \$375,000

**Project Length:** 5 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2022

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Sexuality Training

**Grantee:** Elevatus Training, LLC

## **Project Summary:**

Elevatus Training will provide thirteen (13) trainings throughout NYS. There are three (3) different trainings available.

- **5 teams of self-advocates and professionals Trainings:** 75 teams, 150 participants. Trained to lead sexuality education classes for people with I/DD in their local areas. Katherine McLaughlin is the lead trainer. A self-advocate or professional team from Michigan will conduct virtual trainings on how to implement sexuality education classes. All participants will receive a copy of “Sexuality Education for People with Developmental Disabilities” Curriculum and other materials.
- **4 Parent Trainer Trainings:** 120 parent trainers. Trained to lead parent workshops for other parents of young and grown children with I/DD in their local areas. Katherine McLaughlin is the lead trainer and will co-train with a parent with a child with I/DD. Each parent trainer will receive a copy of “Parent Workshop Curriculum” and other materials to lead workshops.
- **4 Staff Trainer Trainings:** 120 Staff trainers. Trained to lead staff trainings in their local areas. Katherine McLaughlin is the lead trainer and will co-train with a staff person from a NYS DD Agency. All staff trainers will receive a copy of “Staff Training Curriculum Facilitator’s Guide” and other materials to lead trainings.
- **Follow-Up Support:** All participants will have an opportunity to receive follow up support through quarterly webinars.
- **Certificates:** All participants will have the opportunity to take an assessment to demonstrate the learning objectives were met. If the person passes the assessment, they will receive a certificate of completion.

## **Key Activities:**

- Conduct and implement trainings
- Provide ongoing follow up support to training participants
- Establish a cohort of sexuality trainers in all OPWDD regions<sup>2</sup> in NYS

**Total Funding:** \$300,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** October 1, 2020

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Status:** Complete

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<sup>2</sup> See Attachment A for OPWDD regions.

# Smiles United

**Grantee:** Touro College of Dental Medicine

## **Project Summary:**

Touro College of Dental Medicine, along with their faculty and students are implementing a phased project to help diminish access to dental care obstacles by connecting virtually with group homes. In phase one, students and faculty will connect with group homes and agencies in order to schedule virtual small-group sessions with the homes, their patients, and their caregivers.

The goal of these sessions will be to identify specific dental health challenges faced within homecare treatments both on an individual basis as well as any generalized oral health care challenges caregivers are experiencing. In phase two, oral health instruction materials and dental hygiene supplies will be provided to the group homes based on the data collected in phase one of their individualized needs.

The oral health instruction will include pre-filmed video vignettes in an online forum, which will provide hands-on instruction of techniques of providing effective oral hygiene with caregivers and their patients.

These videos will provide:

- multiple demonstrations of different types of toothbrushes/devices that can be used,
- holding techniques based on physical disabilities and the challenges they may pose to oral hygiene, as well as
- behavior modification and management training for patients and their caregivers for delivery of effective oral hygiene care.

**Total Funding:** \$50,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2020

**Current Status:** Complete

# Social Opportunities

**Grantee:** The Kelberman Center

## **Project Summary:**

Through this three-year grant, The Kelberman Center (Kelberman) will develop, pilot, and evaluate a mini-grant program model which supports community based social opportunities for people with I/DD and other disabilities. This program will be designated for individuals with I/DD living in rural and urban communities with high rates of poverty and disparate access to social opportunities and other community resources.

Kelberman will take a “Learn and Practice” approach. The “Learn” portion will help prepare individuals with I/DD and their family members to participate in the program through customized workshops. The “Practice” portion consists of project participants *applying* the “Learn” portion and implementing the remaining project requirements.

## **Key Activities:**

- Establish a Project Advisory Board
- Conduct a mini-grant process in Otsego, Oneida, and Onondaga counties seasonally, twice (2) per year – one (1) during the school year, the other during summer vacation
- Offer workshops involving “Learning” and “Practicing” social opportunities
- Provide technical assistance to mini-grantees at all project stages
- Compile a Final Report detailing project findings and recommendations

**Total Funding:** \$750,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2019

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Complete

# Tech Launch Program

**Grantee:** Strength Solutions Incorporated

## **Project Summary:**

With this three-year grant, Strength Solutions Incorporated will implement a program called, Tech Launch. This program is a community-based school to employment program. Tech Launch will provide career exploration opportunities for individuals both with and without I/DD in the high demand field of information technology. In addition to career exploration, Strength Solutions Incorporated will teach soft skills through the Virtues Curriculum and engage in service activities based upon the community's needs. The program implementation will take place in the rural counties of Allegany and Cattaraugus.

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop and implement the Tech Launch program, including soft and technical skills training, coupled with a community-based skills application project
- Train and support 65 youth per year to increase their knowledge of career options and job readiness skills
- Evaluate and implement programmatic amendments to the Tech Launch program
- Explore sustainable funding resources and opportunities to ensure the continuation of the program after CDD funds end.

**Total Funding:** \$225,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** October 1, 2018

**Geographic Reach:** Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties

**Current Status:** Complete



# TechknowledgeMe

**Grantee:** The Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc

**Project Goal:**

This project aims to bridge the gap of the digital divide that impacts people with developmental disabilities to participate in virtual events by producing a series of videos training self-advocates to use videoconferencing.

**Project Summary:**

SANYS will create and disseminate short instructional videos with accompanying handouts that can be watched individually or in sequence teaching people with I/DD how to participate in video-conferenced meetings. The videos will feature a person with IDD using a device, graphics and screen shots, to illustrate, step by step instructions. SANYS will also create handouts that are simple for individuals and families to use can be sent or given to people to learn more independently. As a sustainability plan, the materials will be hosted on the SANYS website and the National Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC).

**Key Activities:**

- Develop 8 instructional videos on participating in videoconferencing events.
- Develop handout to complement the videos.
- Conduct trainings with self-advocates to implement the strategies learned.

**Total Funding:** \$43,804

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Travel Training Curriculum for People with Disabilities

**Grantee:** Rural Health Network of SCNY, Inc.

## **Summary:**

Getthere, the Mobility Management Program of Rural Health Network of SCNY, Inc. (RHN), is seeking funding to develop a curriculum that will provide a comprehensive travel training program designed to meet the unique needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This will be an expansion of the already successful Getthere Travel Training program and trip planner. The curriculum will provide individuals with the necessary transportation skills to be more independent and more fully participate in community life. Getthere will leverage its existing partnerships with regional mobility managers, Arcs, independent living centers, and national mobility management organizations to develop, implement, and evaluate the travel training curriculum.

The training curriculum will include individual assessment, geographic inventory and matching available resources. The assessment will be the precursor to developing an individualized transportation strategy (ITS) that will complement an individual's currently approved individual service plan (ISP). These two plans will complement and support each other to maximize the effectiveness of the travel training and allow for greater independence for an individual.

## **Key Activities:**

- Wide geographic applicability to account for both rural and urban areas, including the variability of transportation available across the region.
- Consideration of cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Emphasis on developing transportation abilities across modes; recognition of family and caregivers as valuable resources in supporting the individual; use of innovative transportation technology including trip planner and a smartphone app.
- Consultation with issue experts and recognized best practices.
- Both classroom instruction and field-based instruction to assess skill mastery.

**Total Funding:** \$600,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2020

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Complete

# Yes She Can: Work Mentorship for Women with Developmental Disabilities

**Grantee:** Yes She Can

## **Project Goal:**

This mentorship program will pair young women with developmental disabilities with a structured mentor. They will learn valuable workplace skills from their mentor including effective communication and being comfortable reaching out to workplace peers when they need help or guidance. This 3-year program will help these women gain and retain jobs.

## **Project Summary:**

Women with developmental disabilities are an under supported by employment programs. Yes She Can staff will recruit and train volunteer mentors to work with the women enrolled in the program. Mentees will also receive training from Yes She Can on how to best work with and learn from a mentor. Once participants are trained they will be matched into mentor/mentee pairs. The mentorship will begin with a 12-month trial period in which participants should meet at least eight times. Mentees will continue to work with mentors as they start their employment journey. The training and mentorship process will be thoroughly assessed for both possible improvements and replication across the state.

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop mentor and mentee trainings and resources.
- Pair mentor/mentee participants
- Structured mentorship pilot begins
- Necessary improvements and changes are made before recruitment for the next group of mentor/mentee pairs
- Compile a final Sustainability Plan for the CDD, which includes identification of specific strategies to sustain the program beyond the life of the grant.

**Total Funding:** \$450,000

**Project Length:** 3 Years

**Project Start:** October 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** Westchester and Rockland County

**Current Status:** Active

# Youth Leadership Forum

**Grantee:** Families Together of New York State / YOUTH POWER!

## **Project Summary:**

The awarded grantee, Families Together of New York State / YOUTH POWER! developed, piloted, and implemented statewide a five-day, four-night Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for youth participants, ages 14-24. The program was modified to account for NYS-specific context, and to reach diverse communities. Additionally, the grantee created a family caregiver leadership and advocacy training curriculum that enables caregivers to support youth in their advocacy efforts, after participation in the YLF program. Lastly, the grantee incorporated a mentorship system to identify, train, and match mentors to work with forum participants on identified leadership projects to further develop independent living outcomes for youth with disabilities.

## **Key Activities:**

- Implemented a five-day, four-night YLF in NYS, regionally
- Created a family caregiver leadership and advocacy training curriculum to compliment the YLF training
- Established a mentorship program for forum participants

**Total Funding:** \$1,250,000

**Project Length:** 5 years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2017

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Complete

# Youth Leadership Forum (Technical Assistance)

**Grantee:** Cornell University (4 years), Finger Lakes (2 years)

## **Project Summary:**

With this five-year grant, Cornell University provided technical assistance to the Youth Leadership Forum and Network grantee – Families Together of New York State Incorporated / YOUTH POWER! Technical assistance included the development, pilot and implementation of the:

- Youth Leadership Forum (YLF),
- Family caregiver trainings, and
- Evaluation protocols.

Throughout the evaluation stages of YLF, Cornell University assessed the Youth Leadership and Network project activities using a mix of onsite observations from training and regional events, surveys, and interviews to gather data and evaluative information.

## **Key Activities:**

Aided Families Together of New York State Incorporated / YOUTH POWER! during the Youth Leadership Forum and Network grant in evaluation of the program itself and collecting data and information on outcomes

**Total Funding:** \$250,000

**Project Length:** 6 years

**Project Start Date:** January 1, 2017

**Project Status:** Complete

## Goal 2: Families and Caregivers

The NYS CDD will increase advocacy opportunities and strengthen capacity of family members and caregivers from diverse communities to practice self-care and provide support to people with IDD to live independently and thrive in the community.

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### Objectives:

#### **2.1 Family Advocacy and Capacity Building**

By 2026, the NYS CDD will support and expand opportunities to empower culturally diverse families and caregivers through increasing training in advocacy and leadership efforts, and engagement in activities that help support family well-being and inclusion.

#### **2.2 Family Access to Information, Services, and Supports**

By 2026, the NYS CDD will increase the number of training, education, and outreach opportunities for family members and caregivers that improve access to services, supports, and community resources.

# Alternative Dispute Resolution (Mediation)

**Grantee:** New York Unified Court System, Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution

## **Project Summary:**

With this three-year CDD grant, the New York Unified Court System's Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution will collaborate with a minimum of four (4) Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) to increase their capacity to support individuals with I/DD during decision-making processes, particularly in disputes with others. The CDRCs are overseen by the court system and provide valuable mediation and conflict coaching tools to community members in their local areas.

The New York Unified Court System will first conduct a formal needs assessment of all CDRCs to determine their current level of disability awareness and their ability to effectively support individuals with I/DD in mediation. Then, the grantee will create and host five (5) standard Disability Awareness Training for CDRC mediators, conflict coaches, and staff. The New York Unified Court System will create and host an additional 10-15 volunteer mediator trainings to build CDRC capacity to better serve individuals with I/DD, based on results from the needs assessment. Lastly, the New York Unified Court System will provide ongoing technical assistance, guidance, oversight, and evaluation to the learning community of the four (4) CDRC pilot sites.

## **Key Activities:**

- Assess the CDRCs' disability awareness and ability to support individuals with I/DD
- Develop and host 15-20 Disability Awareness Trainings for CDRC personnel and mediator volunteers

**Total Funding:** \$450,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2020

**Current Status:** Complete

# Bringing Family Employment Awareness Training (FEAT) to New York

## **Project Goal:**

FEAT has been implemented in several states. It introduces families employment possibilities by giving them knowledge, discussion, and real-life success stories. Through FEAT, people with disabilities, their family members, and the professionals who serve them increase their expectations for competitive employment. And FEAT shows them the resources they have available to help them achieve it.

## **Project Summary:**

The FEAT consulting team operates out of Indiana University and is led by Dr. Judith Gross. Judith and her team work with organizations to adapt and implement FEAT in their local context. In New York the FEAT team will be working with the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC) to bring FEAT to underserved populations in New York. Through individualized trainings and technical assistance, the FEAT team will help CPC to find specific local resources and examples as well as adapt the training to better serve the specific cultural context it is in. By bringing this evidence-based practice to New York we can improve help families understand the employment possibilities their loved one can achieve and improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities across the state.

## **Key Activities:**

- Train New York organizations to adapt and deliver FEAT
- Provide ongoing support and technical assistance to local organizations
- Assist organization with long-term project sustainability options

**Project Start:** July 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** OPWDD Region 4

**Current Status:** Active



# Building Capacity in the Chinese-American Community

**Grantee:** Chinese-American Planning Council

## **Project Summary:**

As part of this two-year initiative, the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) will convene a Core Advocacy Group to develop activities to increase the capacity of the Chinese-American and Chinese immigrant community, including family members, caregivers, and people with I/DD, to become advocacy leaders and engage in civic activities. Specifically, CPC will:

- Convene a Core Advocacy Group to identify the needs and barriers to advocacy among Chinese-American family members of people with I/DD.
- Develop a culturally and linguistically competent advocacy program to address the identified needs and barriers to advocacy.
- Implement the advocacy program, including advocacy trainings, monthly workshops, and advocacy campaigns.
- Create a list of recommendations that will help other organizations deliver accessible advocacy programs to Chinese-American families.
- Create 1-2 informational materials for technical support of other organizations who want to deliver advocacy trainings to Chinese-American individuals with I/DD and their families.
- Evaluate the project through short-term and long-term assessments.

## **Key Activity:**

- Develop and run a culturally and linguistically competent advocacy program for Chinese-American families of people with I/DD.

**Total Funding:** \$150,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** October 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** New York City

**Project Status:** Complete

# Building Capacity in the Spanish-Speaking Community

**Grantee:** Ibero-American Action League

## **Project Summary:**

As part of this two-year initiative, Ibero-American Action League, Inc. (Ibero) will develop advocacy activities and trainings to increase the capacity of the Spanish-speaking community (family, caregivers, and people with I/DD) to become leaders and engage in civic activities. Specifically, Ibero will:

- Create three (3) workshops to train Latino(a) individuals with I/DD and their parents/caregivers on how to become self-advocates and advocates.
- Develop quarterly Community Resources Information Meetings about community, state and federal resources, and opportunities for people with IDD and their parents/caregivers.
- Connect with community, state, and federal organizations to establish an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Latinx Network.
- Create a list of recommendations that will help other organizations deliver more accessible advocacy programs to Spanish-speaking individuals with I/DD and their parents/caregivers.
- Evaluate the project through short-term and long-term assessments.

As a component of this evaluation, Ibero will submit quarterly reports to the CDD, including financial and narrative reports, and participant data (satisfaction, outcomes, demographics). Throughout the duration of the grant, Ibero will also be expected to explore sustainability measures to ensure the continuation of the project beyond CDD grant funding.

## **Key Activity:**

1. Develop and run a culturally and linguistically competent advocacy program for Spanish-speaking people with I/DD and their families

**Total Funding:** \$150,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** October 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** Rochester

**Project Status:** Complete

# Building Capacity in the Spanish-Speaking Community

**Grantee:** Ibero-American Action League

## **Project Summary:**

As part of this two-year initiative, Sinergia will develop advocacy activities and trainings to increase the capacity of the Spanish-speaking community (family, caregivers, and people with I/DD) to become advocacy leaders and engage in civic activities. Specifically, Sinergia will:

- Adapt the APPLE Academy curriculum to be culturally and linguistically competent for Spanish-speaking family members and caregivers of people with I/DD.
- Implement the advocacy program through the Metropolitan Parent Center (MPC) and graduate a minimum of 21 individuals over the course of the two-year grant.
- Create a list of recommendations that will help other organizations and agencies deliver more accessible advocacy programs to family members of Spanish-speaking individuals with I/DD.
- Create 1-2 informational materials for technical support of other organizations who want to deliver advocacy trainings to Spanish-speaking individuals with I/DD and their families.
- Evaluate the project through short-term and long-term assessments.

As a component of this evaluation, Sinergia will submit quarterly reports to the CDD; including financial and narrative reports, and participant data (satisfaction, outcomes, demographics). Throughout the duration of the grant, Sinergia will also be expected to explore sustainability measures to ensure the continuation of the project beyond CDD grant funding

## **Key Activity:**

1. Develop and run a culturally and linguistically competent advocacy program for Spanish-speaking people with I/DD and their families

**Total Funding:** \$150,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** October 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** Rochester

**Project Status:** Complete

## COVID Resource- Korean American

**Grantee:** Community Inclusion and Development Alliance (CIDA)

**Project Summary and Key Activities:**

There is a rising number of mental health needs among the caregivers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) exacerbated by COVID-19. Many caregivers do not have access to behavioral health support and clinical treatment during the pandemic for both themselves and their children with I/DD. It is also difficult to find clinical facilities who are specialized in the needs of persons with I/DD and their caregivers. Therefore, CIDA will collaborate with a local mental health clinic to provide regularly scheduled caregiver group therapy sessions via telehealth. This will help Korean families access mental health supports with language assistance and become ready for the post-pandemic years. CIDA will facilitate group therapy sessions with families and provide general mental health information and resources.

**Total Funding:** \$37,5000

**Project Length:** 1 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2022

**Project Status:** Complete

# Family Employment Awareness Training (FEAT) for Chinese American Families

## **Project Goal:**

Through FEAT, people with disabilities, their family members, and the professionals who serve them increase their expectations for competitive employment. FEAT introduces families to employment possibilities by giving them knowledge, discussion, and real-life success stories. And it shows them the resources they have available to help them achieve it. This project will focus on reaching the underserved Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities.

## **Project Summary:**

The Chinese American Planning Council (CPC) is a non-profit organization based in New York city. With the help of the FEAT consulting team from Indiana University, they adapt and deliver FEAT to reach the local community. They raise awareness for developmental disabilities services as well as employment possibilities and services available in their community. This organization, which already has strong ties to this historically underserved community, is best positioned to find and reach families who need the training as well as speakers for these trainings. By bringing this evidence-based practice to New York we help families understand the employment possibilities their loved one can achieve and improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities across the state.

## **Key Activities:**

- Receive training on adapting and delivering FEAT in their local context
- Build the capacity of the Chinese American community to understand and use state services including disability and employment services
- Find relevant community speakers for trainings
- Pilot FEAT programming
- Adapt and improve trainings as necessary
- Compile a final Sustainability Plan for the CDD, which includes identification of specific strategies to sustain the program beyond the life of the grant.

**Project Start:** July 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** OPWDD Region 4

**Current Status:** Active

# Housing Resources for Independent Living

**Grantee:** New York Alliance for Innovation and Inclusion, Inc.

## **Project Goal:**

This project aims to identify statewide and regionally based resources on the various non-certified housing options available, including supportive apartments, paid neighbors, and live-in caregivers. These resources will be hosted on a newly developed website which can be accessed regionally or statewide.

## **Project Summary:**

The CDD seeks to empower people with developmental disabilities, their families, and caregivers by providing statewide and regional information on non-certified housing options. These resources will offer different options to consider when exploring housing that is available in New York State that exists beyond traditional OPWDD certified settings. To do this, the CDD has with contracted with the Alliance to develop a comprehensive online repository of information on non-certified housing options for people with developmental disabilities, their families, and their caregivers. The Alliance will identify statewide and regionally based resources on the various non-certified housing options available, including supportive apartments, paid neighbors, and live-in caregivers. In addition to identifying existing resources, the Alliance seek to develop additional resources based on any gaps not identified by resources currently available.

## **Key Activities:**

- An advisory committee to guide the development and roll-out of the identified resources and online repository.
- Established collaborations with relevant state agencies, advocacy or parent groups, independent living providers and organizations, and other key stakeholders.
- A centralized online repository with a companion application (app) of statewide and regional resources of information available for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Total Funding:** \$720,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# In the Driver's Seat: Expanding Self-Direction Resources

**Grantee:** In the Driver's Seat

## **Project Summary:**

With one year's funding from the CDD, In the Driver's Seat will advance Self-Direction in New York. In the Driver's Seat was developed to assist people in navigating the Self-Directed service system in an easy to use, multi-faceted approach. The current tools and resources that are available on their website were developed based on input from self-advocates, families, and professionals. The project was launched in 2014 in Western NY and over the last few years has extended into the Finger Lakes Region and the Southern Tier. This grant would allow the grantee to expand statewide into the following Regions: Central, Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island. Additionally, it would allow the grantee to develop additional resources, like videos and podcasts featuring families and self-advocates who share their journey with self-direction. The videos will cover topics like Self-Direction 101, Hiring and Retaining Staff, Housing, and the Roles of Support Broker and Fiscal Intermediary (FI). The grantee also plans to translate materials into Spanish to make them accessible to a wider audience in NYS.

## **Key Activities:**

- Collaborate and host focus groups that include families, self-advocates and providers to increase the use of the website for self-advocates, families and providers in the Capital and Hudson Valley regions; we will also complete the website's expansion in Central NY
- Collaborate with regional organizations, self-advocates, and family members to host 2 – 3 statewide Self-Direction conferences, specifically geared towards those interested in utilizing Self-Direction as well as those currently using Self-Directed services
- Support or develop regional and statewide advocacy networks to increase policymakers' awareness and knowledge of Self-Direction

**Total Funding:** \$50,000

**Project Length:** 1 year

**Project Start:** July 1, 2022

**Current Status:** Active

## Project ASHO Virtual

**Grantee:** ASHO

### **Project Summary and Key Activities:**

ASHO will provide COVID-19 Vaccine webinars to Bangladeshi individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their family members, as well as offer a Digital Literacy Programs. The Digital Literacy Program will ensure the parents and the Bangladeshi community members are well-versed in using technologies, such as web browsing, registration for events, etc. so they can participate and easily access resource materials disseminated online. ASHO will also extend the Digital Literacy Program to people with I/DD by reaching out to coordinators and professionals for collaboration. ASHO wants to bring support, resources, and assistance to the Bangladeshi I/DD population in New York State.

**Total Funding:** \$50,000

**Project Length:** 1 year

**Project Start:** April 1, 2022

**Current Status:** Complete



# VaxFacts DDNY

**Grantee:** Albert Einstein College of Medicine

## **Project Summary:**

As part of this 1-year initiative, Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Rose F. Kennedy UCEDD will increase access to and understanding of information about COVID-19 vaccines among persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families, to assist them in making informed decisions, with a particular focus on un and under-served communities across New York State.

## **Key Activities:**

- Conduct an Environmental Scan by tracking and collecting messaging materials developed about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Create, disseminate, and analyze a Vaccine Perceptions Survey.
- Coordinate a Kick-Off Webinar to elicit concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine from key stakeholders.
- Engage project partners via outreach and Kick-Off Webinars and Community Leaders and Direct Care Champions to produce original content.
- Produce public service announcements and social media content featuring Community Leaders, Direct Care champions, and Trusted Scientific Sources.
- Implement Campaign via social and print media, webinars, and through community partners.
- Monitor emerging concerns, misinformation, new information and science, and adapt campaign materials as needed throughout the life of the grant.

**Total Funding:** \$180,000

**Project Length:** 1 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Complete

# Goal 3: Systems Access and Change

The NYS CDD will help to improve services, supports, and systems within the state by piloting programs and supporting collaborations that promote person-centeredness, inclusion, disability awareness, and outreach to all communities.

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## Objectives:

### **3.1 Developmental Disability (DD) Systems**

By 2026, the NYS CDD will work to decrease barriers that individuals and families face when trying to use DD systems, services, and supports, by making information more accessible and available, supporting interagency coordination, and piloting projects that improve DD systems for individuals and families.

### **3.2 Non-DD Systems**

By 2026, the NYS CDD will increase the capacity for non-disability systems and organizations to support people with IDD and families of all backgrounds, by offering skill-building opportunities and technical assistance to make programs more accessible.

### **3.3 Targeted Disparity: Low-income Individuals and Families**

By 2026, the NYS CDD will increase access to information, services, and supports for low-income (at or below poverty line) families and people with IDD, by creating opportunities for community-based initiatives that reduce barriers to access and use of DD and community supports.

### **3.4 DD Collaboration: Transitions**

During 2022-2026, the NY DD Council will collaborate with the NY DD Network to help people, during points of transition, to plan for future needs and access to services, by increasing availability of information, building community collaborations, and educating people with IDD and families on their options.

# Accessible Information and Plain Language

**Grantee:** Young Adult Institute (YAI)

## **Project Goal:**

This project will create a training that supports organizations to communicate important information to people with developmental disabilities and their families more accessibly. People sometimes miss critical information only because of the way it is presented. This project will help agencies bridge those communication gaps.

## **Project Summary:**

The Young Adult Institute (YAI) will develop “plain-language translations” of documents commonly used by people with developmental disabilities and their advocates. The documents and information “translated” should be selected with input from self-advocates and their families across New York State.

These documents will serve as examples for a complementary curriculum. The curriculum will train agencies on plain language translation. In addition to a curriculum, the grantee should also develop a toolkit for service providers and other organizations looking to improve their communication.

Training priority will be given to state agencies more likely to interface with the public and specifically with people with developmental disabilities. This project will reflect the needs of various communities throughout the state. It will discover how to best communicate different types of information, including techniques for multi-media methods of communication.

## **Key Activities:**

- Gather input from people with developmental disabilities and their families
- Develop a plain-language translation curriculum and associated toolkit and guide
- Begin trainings at agencies and organizations across the state
- Compile a final Sustainability Plan for the CDD, which includes identification of specific strategies to sustain the program beyond the life of the grant.

**Total Funding:** \$300,000

**Project Length:** 2 Years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Community of Practice: Reentry for Youth with Developmental Disabilities

**Grantee:** Cornell University, Yang Tan Institute

## **Project Summary:**

Through this five-year grant, Cornell University will develop, implement, and evaluate a New York Statewide Community of Practice (CoP) on Reentry for Youth with Developmental Disabilities. For this grant, reentry is defined as a process that helps justice-involved youth (ages 14-24) transition out of detention facilities and back into community settings in a safe and productive manner. Members of the CoP will participate in events ranging from a “prepare to launch” event to ongoing technical assistance, all produced by Cornell University. Building upon the CoP, Cornell University will develop and oversee up to four (4) county-level grant projects tasked primarily with establishing reentry support programs for justice-involved youth with I/DD, and other disabilities. The expectation is that reentry programs will help reduce a youth’s future involvement with the justice system and encourage systematic partnerships that support the successful re-integration of youth into the community. The CDD therefore anticipates that youth with I/DD and other disabilities will be given more opportunities to gain education and employment-related skills as a result of this project.

## **Key Activities:**

- Conduct a landscape research analysis
- Create a Project Advisory Board
- Establish a Statewide Community of Practice on Reentry for Youth with Developmental Disabilities and a Technical Assistance Support Center
- Conduct a competitive application process leading to the identification of the four (4) counties as Community of Practice grantees
- Compile a Comprehensive Final Report and a toolkit highlighting practical strategies for establishing successful reentry programming supports

**Total Funding:** \$1,500,000

**Project Length:** 5 Years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2019

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Disability Awareness Training (Aging)

**Grantee:** New York State Office for the Aging

## **Project Summary:**

In this two-year grant project, New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) will develop and implement a Disability Awareness Training curriculum and a Train-the-Trainer model for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network in NYS. NYSOFA currently oversees AAAs and communicates with the entire network regarding emerging needs, directives, and other programmatic and administrative technical support.

The intent of this project is to help prepare NYSOFA for the ever-increasing aging population who have I/DD. NYSOFA will work with a small number of select AAAs to pilot the curriculum and determine how to best implement the project on a larger scale. NYSOFA will also facilitate the hiring of a AAA coordinator who will handle the complex cases. More specifically, the AAA Coordinator will assist clients in obtaining appropriate services and bridge the gap between the aging, disability, and other service systems. NYSOFA will also develop and implement a Train-the-Trainer model to expand the capacity of services provided beyond the grant. The select AAA organizations will collect information for evaluation purposes and NYSOFA will provide technical assistance as needed. NYSOFA will promote any materials developed through toolkits, webinars, information on NYSOFA's website, etc. to continue the education and availability of resources beyond the grant.

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop and implement a Disability Awareness Training curriculum a Train-the-Trainer model for the NYS AAA network
- Build AAA and broader systems capacity to support the needs of aging people with I/DD and/or the needs of family caregivers
- Track the reach of the training and its efficacy, and explore modes for sustainability and expansion of the training and material

**Total Funding:** \$300,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2020

**Current Status:** Complete

# Ensuring Access to Front Door Services

**Grantee:** The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

## **Project Goal:**

This project was designed to help make accessing services through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) more accessible for people from different cultures and whose primary language may not be English.

## **Project Summary:**

The Front Door is the way the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) connects people with developmental disabilities to the services they want and need. In partnership with Titanium Linx, OPWDD will evaluate informational materials about the Front Door and work to make those materials more more accessible for people from different cultures and whose primary language may not be English. This project focuses specifically on making materials more accessible for Spanish-speakers and for Chinese-American families.

To ensure this review includes the feedback from both Spanish-speaking and for Chinese-American families, OPWDD will subcontract with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) who serve these communities to gather input. After the feedback and evaluation has taken place, OPWDD will use that input to modify existing Front Door informational materials and/or develop new materials.

## **Key Activities:**

- Subcontract with at two Community-Based Organizations (CBOs); one that serves people with disabilities and their families who are Spanish-speaking and one that serves people with disabilities and their families from the Chinese-American community.
- Engage the CBOs to review current OPWDD Front Door informational materials for cultural and linguistic competence.
- Modify existing Front Door informational materials and/or develop new materials that are culturally and linguistically competent for Spanish-speakers and Chinese-Americans in order to increase their access to the Front Door..

**Total Funding:** \$400,000

**Project Length:** 2 Years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Complete

# Innovative Technology in Housing Initiative

**Grantee:** Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD)

## **Project Goal:**

To provide evidence for a cost-effective and sustainable program model to provide people with developmental disabilities with enabling and/or assistive technology that allows them to live more independently in non-certified housing.

## **Project Summary:**

In this 3-year project, Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) will administer a housing in technology pilot project to ensure the availability of enabling technology and assistive technology for people with IDD who are living in the setting of their choice. The grant will provide funding for the purchasing of enabling technology, education on existing technology and use of specific applications, development of the assessment process and evaluation of the overall initiative. WIHD will also create a web-based resource library showcasing the different technologies and their housing applications for more widespread access at the conclusion of this project.

WIHD will work in collaboration with a minimum of three TRAIID Centers in New York State to ensure the availability of enabling technology for individuals with IDD who are living (or wish to live) in settings of their choice. The TRAIID Centers will acquire, use and support enabling technology for 9-12 individuals annually statewide who have expressed a desire to live in a non-certified setting. Using a clinician-led assessment, the individual's needs will be considered with a support plan including enabling technology.

## **Key Activities:**

- Collaborate with TRAIID sites to identify pilot participants.
- Work with TRAIID sites to acquire enabling technology that will assist individuals with IDD to live in more independent housing.
- Provide technical assistance to each TRAIID site to ensure successful selection, implementation and ongoing support of the individuals enrolled in the program.

**Total Funding:** \$450,000

**Project Length:** 3 Years

**Project Start:** July1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Nurse Training: Dual Diagnosis

**Grantee:** University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC)

## **Project Goal:**

This project will look at health disparities for people with Developmental Disabilities across the state, including barriers to care. Then they will develop a training curriculum for nurses who provide inpatient or emergency care to people with developmental disabilities and mental health diagnosis. Training will include an emphasis on patient-centered care and shared decision making, as well as disability history and ableism. It will improve patient-nurse interaction and leading to better medical outcomes for this population.

## **Project Summary:**

As part of this 5-year initiative, the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) will develop and pilot training series for inpatient nurses, designed to increase knowledge and engagement strategies. The curriculum will include traditional class trainings, simulation-based training and an experience matching a nurse to an individual or family experiencing an in-patient stay. Together these components will support high quality healthcare for people with developmental disabilities. Initial project materials will be piloted at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) to establish proof-of-concept and to inform any potential refinements to the program, prior to broader dissemination to hospitals across the state.

## **Key Activities:**

- Do a community-based assessment to understand healthcare disparities and barriers for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Create a training series that includes, slides, videos, case studies, simulations and direct interaction with individuals and families familiar with hospitalization.
- Pilot the training to nurses at URMC.
- Update and improve trainings based on pilot experience.
- Implement the training at partner hospitals across the state.
- Compile a final Sustainability Plan for the CDD, which includes identification of specific strategies to sustain the program beyond the life of the grant.

**Total Funding:** \$1,500,000

**Project Length:** 5 years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** First Rochester area, then Statewide

**Current Status:** Active



# Home-Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) Pilot for Dually Diagnosed Youth

**Grantee:** Office for Mental Health (OMH) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

## **Project Goal:**

This project will expand existing HBCI services with pilot intervention teams focused on youth with co-occurring developmental disability and mental health diagnosis. With these intensive wrap-around supports youth will be able to receive the crisis intervention they need to stay out of the hospital and with their families in the community.

## **Project Summary:**

As part of this 5-year initiative, the Office for Mental Health (OMH) and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) will each provide training and support for crisis teams. Teams will learn clinical best practices and develop the expertise to work with this population. Once they are trained in these areas HBCI teams will provide 24/7 individualized support services to youth and families in crisis. They will do whatever it takes to support their patients. Intervention services will continue until they are no longer in crisis. Once these intensive wrap-around services are coming to a close, teams will work with youth and families to find regular supports which can help to prevent another crisis.

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop a pilot model which incorporates best practices from both OMH and OPWDD.
- Conduct trainings for HBCI teams.
- Provide crisis intervention services to at least 33 youth annually.
- Compile a final Sustainability Plan for the CDD, which includes identification of specific strategies to sustain the program beyond the life of the grant.

**Total Funding:** \$1,500,000

**Project Length:** 5 years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Onondaga Nation Collaboration

**Grantee:** University of Rochester

## **Project Goal:**

This project aims to diminish health disparities for Onondaga children with developmental disabilities by increasing the capacity to serve and connect the Onondaga Nation to developmental services.

## **Project Summary:**

The CDD will fund the 5-year program. University of Rochester will lead the project. They will do the following:

- Establish an Advisory Committee that includes children, leaders/elders, educators, and professionals from the Onondaga Nation.
- Build and strengthen the University's relationship with the Onondaga Nation.
- Host biannual listening sessions with the Onondaga Nation.
- Address the needs identified in the needs assessment.
- Provide training, support, and technical assistance.
- Facilitate connections with health care and service providers.
- Work with 5-10 families to provide behavioral support, connection to referrals, resources, and technical assistance.
- Engage in sustainability planning and advocacy for resources in collaboration with the Onondaga Nation throughout the life of the grant.
- Provide periodic updates to the CDD on project development through bimonthly meetings, Quarterly Reports, a presentation to the CSCC, and a presentation to the Full Council.

**Total Funding:** \$1,000,000

**Project Length:** 5 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2023

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Proud and Supported: LGBTQ+ Trainings for DSP's

**Grantee:** National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP)

## **Project Goal:**

This project will provide Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) with knowledge, experience, and training to better work with people with developmental disabilities who identify as LGBTQ+.

## **Project Summary:**

As part of this 3-year initiative, NADSP will develop an LGBTQ training for DD support staff (i.e. care managers), conduct statewide outreach and hold regional trainings related to supporting LGBTQ individuals with DD. NADSP will coordinate trainings and implement educational opportunities that focus on increasing staff capacity to work with individuals with IDD who identify as LGBTQ. Planned events will include informational and/or educational sessions, forums, organization presentations, and opportunities for interactive engagement from individuals with IDD and direct support staff.

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop a staff training(s) and supplemental resource materials for supporting LGBTQ individuals with IDD. Collaborate with organizations that serve LGBTQ individuals with IDD and identify local self-advocates/organizations to facilitate trainings.
- Conduct trainings across the state in urban, suburban & rural communities to expand the capacity of staff to work with LGBTQ individuals with IDD, including people from racially, ethnically and geographically diverse communities.
- Train a minimum of 150 staff and other professionals in the IDD field.
- Create training materials that can be used to conduct LGBTQ staff trainings beyond the life of the grant.
- Compile a final Sustainability Plan for the CDD, which includes identification of specific strategies to sustain the training beyond the life of the grant.

**Total Funding:** \$450,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2021

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Purposeful Connection: Building Cross Collaboration Between DV and DD Providers

**Grantee:** NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

## **Project Summary:**

To increase the capacity of IDD/DD providers working with survivors/victims of domestic violence while also increasing capacity for Domestic Violence (DV) providers working with IDD providers. NYS OPDV will work with an independent consultant that specializes in working with the IDD population to develop a comprehensive training on identifying and working with IDD individuals experiencing domestic violence.

## **Key Activities:**

- Design and develop training curriculum.
- Develop and conduct outreach/materials to maximize participation of providers in trainings and begin trainings.
- Design and implement project evaluation.

**Total Funding:** \$600,000

**Project Length:** 3 years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2022

**Current Status:** Active

# Ramirez June Initiative

**Grantee:** NYS Department of State (DOS) Office for New Americans (ONA)

**Project Goal:** The ONA Ramirez June Initiative was created to support new Americans with developmental disabilities and their families in New York State.

## **Project Summary:**

New American families who faced complex barriers to accessing services for their family members with developmental disabilities in New York State inspired ONA and the CDD to create the Ramirez June Initiative. The initiative is named after two new American families who live in New York State, the Ramírez family and the family of Siewling (June) Lum.

The ONA Ramirez June Initiative was created to assist new Americans with and developmental disabilities and their families in connecting with vital resources, information, and services in New York State. Some new Americans may not have records that a disability occurred during their development (before they were 22 years old). New Americans might not always have medical records from their country of origin, or they might not have had their disability identified by a medical professional.

The Ramirez June Initiative also engages with the wider new American disability community in NYS to better understand barriers and how to improve accessibility and inclusivity for all individuals with disabilities.

## **Key Activities:**

1. Increase ONA's capacity to serve New Americans with I/DD and their families
2. Develop and distribute a Resource Guide on how New Americans can access I/DD services and supports
3. Train and build relationships with disability service providers to increase their capabilities to serve New Americans with I/DD and their families
4. Provide technical assistance to all project participants and to disability service and support providers as needed
5. Deliver a final report that details project findings and recommendations

**Total Funding:** \$750,000

**Project Length:** 5 years

**Project Start:** July 1, 2019

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Regional Housing Collaboratives

**Grantee:** New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation (NY Alliance)

## **Project Goal:**

This project aims to assist in developing non-certified housing options available to people with developmental disabilities through establishing regional collaboratives, Statewide communities of practice and educational programs for stakeholders.

## **Project Summary:**

The New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation (NY Alliance) was awarded funding to develop Regional Housing Collaboratives (RHCs) in each of the 5 NYS OPWDD's Regions. RHCs are groups of diverse housing related professionals interested in helping people with developmental disabilities and their families to identify and create creative housing solutions.

This project aims to facilitate learning on a statewide basis by developing, creating and implementing individualized housing plans for people with developmental disabilities that builds upon community resources. These supports aim to help people with developmental disabilities who live in OPWDD-certified group homes but desire to live in their own residence to achieve that goal. The RHCs together with experts in the OPWDD service system and trained Housing Navigators, will assist identified individuals in fulfilling their desire to live more independently. The learning that takes place as a result of these efforts will be broadly shared at the systems level.

## **Key Activities:**

- Develop and pilot RHCs in five (5) regions of the State with the intent of creating and developing non-certified housing opportunities for at least 45 people with I/DD
- Create a statewide clearinghouse, educational resources, and trainings that support the needs of the RHCs, individuals with I/DD, family members, and other stakeholders
- Create and implement a process for evaluating, disseminating, and sustaining the project once CDD funds end

**Total Funding:** \$1,250,000

**Project Length:** 5 years

**Project Start:** January 1, 2019

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Active

# Restraint and Seclusion Landscape Analysis

**Grantee:** The Center for Discovery, Inc.

## **Project Summary:**

With this two-year CDD grant, The Center for Discovery, Inc. plans to drive change in key systems across the State, including but not limited to: OPWDD, OMH, SED, and OCFS. This will be achieved through the development of a set of best practices and guiding principles for providers, as well as robust training and other technical assistance. This process will begin with a landscape analysis to better understand all sides of the restraint and seclusion equation, especially in the complex populations. The analysis will also encompass an inventory and evaluation of alternative practices and models and if warranted, will include opportunities to bring these practices to the various key systems across NYS. In addition, the project will consider the issue of trauma in the scope of the current climate and how it fits into training and education on all levels.

## **Key Activities:**

- Perform a landscape analysis and stakeholder engagement to determine the state of the field
- Create the Technical Assistance Resource Center and Network
- Evaluate the impact and reach of the Resource Center and Sustainability Plan
- Create a set of guiding principles for the NYS service delivery system on reducing the use of restrictive interventions

**Total Funding:** \$400,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2020

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Complete

# Supported Decision-Making, Process, and Impact Evaluation

**Grantee:** Burton Blatt Institute (BBI)

## **Project Summary:**

In 2016, the CDD awarded a five-year grant to a Hunter College-led project to develop and pilot a supported decision-making (SDM) model in New York City, Westchester and four (4) other geographically diverse sites in NYS called SDMNY. To fully evaluate SDMNY, the CDD awarded this three-year grant to Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) to assess the process, program implementation and long-term impact of SDMNY. BBI's independent evaluation is a two-pronged approach – one that assesses the *process* of SDMNY, and another that assesses individual *impact* on those who have moved through the program. Key objectives of the evaluations include:

## **Key Activities:**

- Provide technical assistance to Hunter College and SDMNY team
- Evaluate the structure, design, and impact (individual and systems) of the SDMNY model in NYS
- Create and disseminate educational materials, project findings and recommendations, including position papers and reports, via presentations at conferences, webinars, and websites
- Develop, disseminate, and implement recommendations for ways SDM can be sustained and funded through changes in law, policy, and practice

**Total Funding:** \$400,000

**Project Length:** 2 years

**Project Start:** April 1, 2020

**Geographic Reach:** Statewide

**Current Status:** Complete



## Do you have any questions?

If you have questions or would like more information about the New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities, please call us, 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday or email us at any time.

You may also find more information by visiting our website at: [www.CDD.ny.gov](http://www.CDD.ny.gov).

**Phone:** (518) 486-7505

**Email:** [information@CDD.ny.gov](mailto:information@CDD.ny.gov)

**Website:** [www.CDD.ny.gov](http://www.CDD.ny.gov)

**Hours of Operation:** 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday - Friday

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/nysCDD/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NYSCDD>

# Attachment A

## Regions and Demographic Data for New York State



Approximately  
**11%**  
of New Yorkers have a  
disability



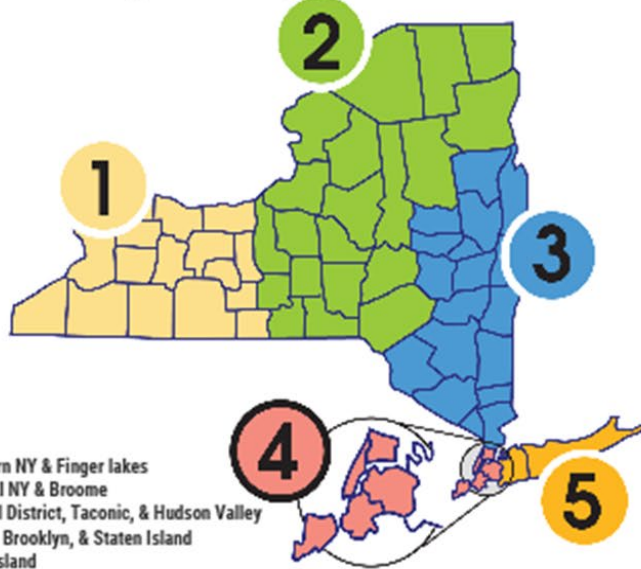
**12%**  
of the NYS population  
lives in Rural Areas



**Top Six Languages Spoken  
by LEP Populations in NYS**

- Spanish
- Chinese
- Russian
- Haitian Creole
- Bengali
- Korean

**Regional Map of New York State**



1. Western NY & Finger lakes
2. Central NY & Broome
3. Capital District, Taconic, & Hudson Valley
4. Metro, Brooklyn, & Staten Island
5. Long Island

**NYS Population by Race/Ethnicity and Gender**

Race/Ethnicity	% of Population
White	66%
Black or African American	17%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%
Hispanic/Latino	19%
Asian	9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.2%
Two or more Races	3%

**NYS Population by Gender**



Female: **58%**  
Male: **42%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey 2013-2017.

## **Attachment B**

### **Common Terms Used in CDD Grants**

**Community of Practice** refers to a group of professionals who share a field or concern, and through ongoing interaction they learn to improve their practice with shared resources, experiences, tools, and stories. The Community of Practice model is ideal for this work because it leverages existing resources, encourages interagency collaboration, capitalizes on the current momentum focused on improving outcomes for justice-involved youth, and creates a community to share best practices in providing reentry supports and services for youth with I/DD.

**Developmental Disabilities** means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that: (a) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental or physical impairments; (b) is manifested before the individual attains age twenty-two; (c) is likely to continue indefinitely; (d) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity; self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and (e) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated" (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, (PL 106-402)).

**Linguistic Competence** refers to the capacity of an organization and its personnel to communicate effectively and convey information in a manner that is easily understood by diverse groups including persons of limited English proficiency, those who have low literacy skills or are not literate, individuals with disabilities, and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Linguistic competency requires organizational and provider capacity to respond effectively to the health and mental health literacy needs of populations served. The organization must have policy, structures, practices, procedures, and dedicated resources to support this capacity.

Source: National Center for Cultural Competence  
<http://nccc.georgetown.edu/foundations/frameworks.html>

**Cultural Competence** means services, supports or other assistance that are conducted or provided in a manner that is responsive to the beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes, language and behaviors of individuals who are receiving services, and in a manner that has the greatest likelihood of ensuring their maximum participation in the program

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Development Disabilities (2000). *Amendments to P.L. 106-402 - The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.*