



GRANTS MANUAL

(Revised September 2023)

Mission:

To create a Commonwealth that advances opportunities for independence, personal decision-making and full participation in community life for individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

[Virginia Board for People with Disabilities](#)

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This manual expresses the minimum requirements for Board grantees and is not an all-inclusive document on the management of a federal grant. Grantees are responsible for adhering to all federal, state and agency regulations and policies applicable to this grant. Please refer to Appendix A for a list of governing documents.

GRANTS MANUAL

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I. Overview

The Board is authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (the "Act") of 2000 (P.L. 106-402) to receive federal funds and act as an agent for systems change, capacity building and advocacy on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

In general, the term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- (i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- (ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely;
- (iv) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - (I) Self-care; (II) Receptive and expressive language; (III) Learning; (IV) Mobility; (V) Self-direction; (VI) Capacity for independent living; (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and
- (v) 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.

Also, an individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

The funding source for the Board's Developmental Disabilities (DD) grant program is the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 93.630. The Board has the discretion to allocate these funds through a competitive grant process, solicitation of work, direct expenditure or a combination of these approaches. **The Board is bound to grant awards only to the extent that the funds are or become available.**

What We Fund:

The Board promotes, through **systemic change, capacity building and advocacy activities**, the development of a culturally and linguistically competent, person and family-centered, comprehensive system with a coordinated array of services, supports and other assistance designed to achieve independence, productivity and integration and inclusion in the community for individuals with DD and other disabilities. The primary objective of Board-funded projects is to develop consumer-driven model programs that demonstrate effective approaches to a particular need, are or can be self-sustaining, and redirect or expand the scope of existing community programs. In addition to service demonstration projects, the Board may fund, consistent with federal law, projects related to: outreach; training; technical assistance; supporting and educating communities; interagency collaboration and coordination; barrier elimination, systems design and redesign; coalition development and citizen participation; or informing policymakers. Please refer to the Board's website

(<https://vaboard.org/grants.htm#currentgrants>) for descriptions of current projects.

The Board **does not fund**:

- Existing projects or services that are a part of an organization's current program or budget;
- Projects that would supplant or replace existing federal, state or local dollars to conduct the project;
- Projects which have a federal, state or local mandate to be delivered by the applicant organization;
- Projects which include capital expenditures for the acquisition of land or buildings, new construction or major repair;
- Projects that do not align with one or more of the Board's current State Plan Objectives;
- Projects that do not ensure meaningful diversity and inclusion, and are exclusive of an individual's race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, disability, and veteran status;
- Projects that take place in restrictive, isolated, or segregated settings that do not promote community integration for children or adults with disabilities;
- Projects that do not effectively demonstrate cultural and linguistic competence through established organizational policies, structures, procedures and practices.

The Board's five-year *State Plan* (available at <https://vaboard.org/reports.htm>) outlines the Board's goals and objectives in the following federal areas of emphasis: Formal and Informal Community Living Supports, Early Intervention, Education, Employment, Healthcare, Housing, Quality Assurance and Transportation. The Board also releases an *Assessment of the Disability Services System in Virginia* (available at <https://vaboard.org/assessment.htm>). The grants that the Board will fund must advance the *State Plan* goals and objectives and *Assessment* recommendations.

The Board submits a Program Performance Report (PPR) annually to its federal oversight agency, the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD). The report includes a summary of all projects and activities conducted during the year, including projects implemented by Board grantees. In addition, the Board reports the cumulative total of "Performance Measures" for all projects and activities. These measures are used to determine the Board's success in meeting its goals and objectives, and are used by the federal oversight agency in performance reports to the administration and congress. The Board's grantees are required to regularly collect and report data on performance measures. Please see the associated Request for Proposal (RFP) for a listing of applicable performance measures.

II. Eligibility

Eligible awardees for the Board's Competitive Grant Program may be state or other public agencies, including universities, non-profit organizations or for-profit organizations. The Board's Solicited Grant Program is limited to state agencies and universities. No organization may participate in the Board's grant projects in any capacity or be a recipient of federal funds designated for a project if the organization has been debarred, suspended or otherwise found to be ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs.

III. Types of Grant Programs

The Board has two types of grant programs: Competitive and Solicited. Funding recommendations are made by a grant review team comprised of Board members with a final determination made by the full Board. All grants are subject to the same administrative, program and financial requirements.

A. Competitive Grant Program

The Board develops and distributes Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for its Competitive Grant Program, usually on an annual basis. The RFPs are specifically designed to achieve the goals and objectives of the Board's State Plan. The program has a 2-stage application process that includes the applicant submitting a Phase I-Letter of Interest (LOI) and, if selected by the grant review team, submitting a Phase II - Grant Proposal.

B. Solicited Grant Program

The Board may identify projects for which specialized expertise or experience may be needed to accomplish specific objectives in the State Plan. In these cases, the Board may solicit a proposal from a state agency or university. Solicited proposals may occur at anytime.

C. Continuation Funding for Multi-Year Grant Recipients

The Board may award multi-year grants when the scope of work requires more than 12 months to complete a project, in accordance with the Board's State Plan. Continuation funding is not automatic and multi-year grantees are required to submit a renewal application at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the initial 12-month term. The Grants Manager will provide written notification and instructions to the grantee of the requirement to submit a renewal application for continuation funding.

Continuation requests must contain the following:

- Annual project accomplishments and progress toward the objectives, activities, outcomes and performance measures defined in the approved proposal;
- A revised budget and Quarterly Activity Timeline and Expenditure Projection form.
- Strategies and activities for accomplishing the project objectives; and
- Responses to project specific questions and concerns, if specifically requested by the Board.

The grantee will submit the request to the VBPD Grants Manager prior to the end of the initial 12-month grant period, for review by the appropriate Standing Committee and full Board. The Standing Committee will review the request, along with a review of the financial management of grant funds and compliance with reporting requirements. At that time, a recommendation for continuation funding will be made to the full Board.

IV. Terms, Conditions, Assurances & Certifications

By acceptance of a grant award, the grantee agrees to comply with the terms and conditions set forth below. Failure to comply with these terms and conditions may result in the loss of funds and may be considered grounds for the suspension or termination of a grant.

A. General Terms and Conditions

- 1) Grantees must comply with all federal, state and agency regulations, policies and procedures (See Appendix A).
- 2) The Board has the authority to make unilateral amendments to the grant requirements to conform to state or federal statutes, regulations, directives or the availability of funds.
- 3) The recipient type for grantees awarded federal funds through the Board is that of a subgrantee/subrecipient as defined in 2 CFR 200.330, Subrecipient and Contractor determinations. (Please note that in Board literature, subgrantees/subrecipients are referred to as “grantees”.) In very rare instances, an entity may be determined to be a vendor relationship that provides goods and services for a program. Based on the characteristics of the program as defined in 2 CFR 200.330, the Board will make the determination of recipient type which will be stated in the contract.
- 4) Unless otherwise specified in the terms of the DD grant, when copyrightable material is developed in the course of the project, the grantee is free to copyright the material or permit others to do so. However, the Board and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shall retain royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable rights to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use the material developed under the grant.
- 5) All printed materials and audiovisual products must contain an Acknowledgment Statement formally acknowledging the Board and Federal Developmental Disabilities program for financial support. The Acknowledgment Statement must include the Board’s logo and be prominently presented on all products developed under the grant. Please see page 25 of this document for a sample statement.
- 6) Unless otherwise specified in the terms of the DD grant, all sub-contractors of grantees will adhere to the provisions of this Grant Manual. Grantees will be responsible for ensuring the acceptance and compliance of all sub-contractors. Grantees will also ensure that subcontractors submit prompt invoices within 30 days of delivery of services and the Grantee will pay the subcontractor within 30 days of receipt of said invoice.
- 7) If a grantee materially fails to comply with any term of an award, whether stated in a Federal statute or regulation, an assurance, in a State plan or application, a notice of award, or elsewhere, the Board may take one or more of the following actions, as appropriate in the circumstances:

- a. Temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by the grantee or more severe enforcement action by the awarding agency;
- b. Disallow (that is, deny both use of funds and matching credit for) all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance;
- c. Wholly or partly suspend or terminate the current award for the grantee's program;
- d. Withhold further awards for the program; or
- e. Take other remedies that may be legally available.

The Board has delegated its authority to make initial determinations under this section to the Executive Director in consultation with the Board Chair and Chair of the appropriate Standing Committee. In the event that the Board determines that the grantee has materially failed to comply with any term of an award, the Board shall give (1) written notice of noncompliance, alleging the particulars of the breach, (2) possible suspension of all grant activities and (3) possible intent to terminate. The notice shall include a statement of the grantee's right to an informal conference.

Hearings. The grantee shall have the right to request, in writing, an informal conference. The informal conference shall be held not earlier than 30 days from the date of the notice unless the grantee agrees to an earlier date. Either party may request that the informal conference be either tape-recorded or recorded by a court reporter. Following the informal conference, the Board shall have the right to take any of the actions enumerated above. The decision of the Board may not be appealed.

Effects of suspension and termination. Costs of grantee resulting from obligations incurred by the grantee during a suspension or after termination of an award are not allowable unless the awarding agency expressly authorizes them in the notice of suspension or termination or subsequently. Other grantee costs during suspension or after termination which are necessary and not reasonably avoidable are allowable if the costs result from obligations which were properly incurred by the grantee before the effective date of suspension or termination, are not in anticipation of it, and, in the case of a termination, are non-cancelable.

In the event of termination, all materials produced and equipment purchased under the performance of the grant shall become the property of the Board.

B. Funding Terms and Conditions

- 1) The Board is obligated to award a grant or disburse payments under a grant only to the extent that funds are available or may become available for this purpose.
- 2) No project will be approved for funding if other sources of funds are available to carry out the purposes or activities of the project.
- 3) Grant funding may only be used for the purpose of either (1) creating a new project or

(2) continuing a project funded by the Board under a grant from the previous year. Grants may not be used to fund existing activities.

- 4) All non-profit and for-profit organizations must submit financial documentation before approval of a proposal. This includes a copy of the most recent Form 990 submitted to the IRS for non-profits, and a copy of the most recent annual submission to the SEC for for-profits.
- 5) All state and local government and non-profit organizations receiving federal DD funds and expending \$750,000 or more in federal funds in a fiscal year must have an audit in compliance with 2 CFR §200.501 (Subpart F) of Federal Uniform Guidance (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2016-title2-vol1-sec200-501.pdf>).
- 6) Federal DD grant funding may not exceed 75% of the total costs of the project. There is an exception, however, for grantees when the project primarily serves a designated poverty area(s). In this case, up to 90% of the total costs may be charged to grant funds. **Please see the RFP for project-specific match requirements.** Also see Appendix B for a link to the listing of designated poverty areas.
- 7) The match ratio negotiated at the time of grant award may not be changed. The match must come from non-federal resources and those not being used to match other federal money. The match must be verifiable and available at the time that the grant award is issued.
- 8) All grantee travel-related expenditures must adhere to Virginia State Travel Regulations.
- 9) Grant expenditures must be incurred during the grant period. No expenses may be incurred before the grant period begins; funds must be encumbered by the end date of the grant period. The one exception is pre-award expenditures related to attendance at a mandatory grantee orientation held prior to the grant period begin date.
- 10) Program Income is not allowed during the grant period. While this is an allowable federal expense, the Board does not allow this activity. "Program income" includes income from fees for services performed or from the sale of commodities or items produced under a grant agreement. For example, a grantee may not generate revenue by charging fees for attendees at a training event or through the sale of a training DVD.
- 11) Unallowable grant expenditures include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Capital expenditures that include the acquisition of land or buildings, new construction or major repairs
 - b) Mortgage payments or related interest payments
 - c) Real estate or property taxes
 - d) Entertainment expenses
 - e) Organized fundraising, including financial campaigns, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions,

- regardless of the purpose for which the funds will be used
- f) Food expenditures are generally unallowable, except 1) Where specifically approved as part of a program activity, e.g., in programs providing children's services; 2) As part of a per diem or subsistence allowance provided in conjunction with allowable travel; and 3) Under a conference grant, when meals are a necessary and integral part of a conference, provided that meal costs are not duplicated in participants per diem or subsistence allowances. Guest meals are not allowable.
- 12) Allowable grant expenditures must be reasonable, allocable and necessary to the grant project:
- a) The expenditure is ordinary and necessary for the operation of the grant program.
 - b) The expenditure follows sound business practice and does not deviate from the grantee's established practice.
 - c) The expenditure must conform to all laws, regulations, circulars or limitations applicable to this grant.
 - d) The expenditure must be in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
 - e) The expenditure must be fully documented.
- 13) Allowable grant expenditures include, but are not limited to:
- a) Wages for personnel working directly on the project.
 - b) Personnel fringe benefits.
 - c) Consultant services contracted to accomplish specific goals or objectives of the project.
 - d) Travel for staff, consultants or consumers involved in the project.
 - e) Materials, supplies and equipment purchased directly for use in a specific project.
 - f) Communication costs identifiable with a specific project, such as long-distance phone calls, faxes.
 - g) Indirect costs. Indirect costs are typically existing facilities and administrative costs that are necessary to operate an office and are shared by many projects. These include, but are not limited to, monthly fees for office rent, phone and internet provider fees, photocopier leases, etc. (Applicants are strongly encouraged to use indirect costs towards the minimum match requirements.)

Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) is the base to which F&A (indirect cost) rates are applied. MTDC excludes capital expenditures, capital equipment, patient care costs, rent, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.

- 14) Expenditures for rental of space/facility or equipment necessary for specific grant activities as approved are allowable grant expenditures. For example, where the grantee needs to rent space for an activity conducted outside of the office, such as a training workshop or conference, rental fees for a facility and necessary equipment, such as a LCD projector, would be allowable.

Allowable expenditures for space rental **do not include monthly office rent**, as it is an

existing and/or indirect cost.

- 15) The following capital expenditures are allowable. All capital expenditures must be approved in advance by the Board and the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Requests must be submitted in writing and must demonstrate how the expenditures are critical to the success of the project. All capital expenditure items must be fully accessible to people with disabilities.
 - a) Capital Equipment: The term “equipment” includes computers and peripherals of any costs as well any piece of equipment defined as having a unit cost of at least \$5,000 with a usable life of more than one year. Requests must be accompanied with a description of how the equipment is critical to the success of the project and how the grantee organization intends to provide ancillary support (specialized wiring, access, space, operator training) for the equipment. The grantee may retain equipment purchased with DD funds unless (1) otherwise specified in writing by the Board at the time the grant is awarded, or (2) the equipment is no longer being used to support program activities initiated by the grant project.
 - b) Capital Improvements to Land or Buildings: In rare instances, the Board may allow capital improvements to land or buildings. All capital expenditures must result directly in a benefit to or service for individuals with disabilities. An example would be the purchase of adaptive equipment that improves accessibility and inclusion for a recreational program.

C. Assurances & Certifications

Assurances

- 1) The grantee assures that DD Grant funds will be used to make a significant contribution towards enhancing the independence, productivity, integration and inclusion into the community of persons with developmental disabilities as defined by Public Law 106-402.
- 2) The grant project contains meaningful diversity and inclusion, and is inclusive of an individual’s race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, disability, and veteran status.
- 3) The grantee assures that DD Grant funds will be used to increase and enhance the level of funding and effort available for project purposes or activities and that these DD Grant funds will not supplant existing funds.
- 4) The grantee assures it will make maximum use of available community resources, including use of volunteers to supplement activities of paid employees, and will maintain a record of voluntary contributions to the DD Grant project.
- 5) The grantee assures that consumers with developmental disabilities and/or their families will be involved in the planning, development and implementation of the DD Grant project.

- 6) The primary beneficiaries of the grant project must be people with developmental disabilities. For projects in which there will be direct benefit to individuals, **at least 60% of the targeted population must have a developmental disability.** Grant projects can indirectly target people with developmental disabilities as beneficiaries by supporting, educating and/or training others (e.g., family members of people with developmental disabilities, building professionals, or employers) to develop or improve services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.
- 7) The grantee assures that DD Grant project participants and beneficiaries will be representative of the community population, including racial, ethnic and cultural representation, with particular attention to unserved or underserved groups.
- 8) The grantee assures that it will comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1984, as amended and operative regulations related to employment and program participation in the implementation of the DD Grant project. In addition, the grantee assures that it will not discriminate in its employment practices, subcontracting practices, and delivery of goods or services because of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, disability, or veteran status. The grantee will include these provisions in every subcontract or purchase order over \$10,000 so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The grantee and its subcontractors agree to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause.
- 9) The grantee assures that it will comply with all effective Federal and State legislation and operative regulations concerning nondiscrimination of individuals with disabilities in the areas of program participation, education, employment, housing, transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications.
- 10) The grantee assures that buildings used in connection with activities supported under the DD Grant projects will meet accessibility standards.
- 11) The grantee assures that any direct services for persons with developmental disabilities provided through the DD Grant project will be made available on a non-exclusionary basis and will make reasonable provision for persons unable to pay.
- 12) The grantee assures that the human rights of all persons with developmental disabilities who receive direct services through the DD Grant project will be protected in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- 13) The grantee assures that information obtained in implementing the DD Grant project concerning personal facts and circumstances of any individual with developmental disabilities or their family will not be divulged without the individual's written consent. Any information to be compiled or disclosed will be in statistical, summary or other forms which do not identify particular individuals.

- 14) The grantee assures that any direct services provided through the DD Grant project will be provided in an individualized manner informed by the person's cultural context; each person with developmental disabilities who receives direct services through the DD Grant project will have in effect a written individualized plan in the individual's preferred language which:
 - a) Is developed jointly with the service provider(s), the consumer of the service(s), and, if appropriate, the consumer's parent or guardian.
 - b) Includes specific goals with objectives stated in measurable terms and with corresponding evaluation procedures.
 - c) Contains a statement of specific services to be provided, identifying each agency and personnel that will deliver each service, and specifying the date of initiation and anticipated duration of such services.
 - d) Is revised at least annually.

- 15) The grantee assures that all documentation and records pertaining to the DD Grant project will be available upon request to authorized representatives of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- 16) The grantee assures that it will submit to the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities within thirty (30) days after the date of termination, or the end of the authorized project period, the required final quarterly financial report, final quarterly outcome status report, program evaluation report and project products as specified in the original DD Grant application or subsequently approved revisions.

- 17) Records must be retained for three (3) years from the starting date of the retention period. The retention period starts on the day the grantee submits its final grant project deliverable (e.g., final financial report and outcome status report). If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action involving the records begins before the expiration of the 3-year period, the records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular 3-year period, whichever is later. When grant support is continued or renewed at annual or other intervals, the retention period for the records of each funding period starts on the day the grantee submits to the Board its final deliverable for that period. This section applies to all grant documents including financial and programmatic records, supporting documents and statistical records.

- 18) The Board, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives, shall have the right of access to any pertinent books, documents, papers or other records of grantees which are pertinent to the grant, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts and transcripts. The rights of access must not be limited to the required retention period but shall last as long as the records are retained.

- 19) The grantee assures that no officer or employee has a personal FINANCIAL INTEREST in the DD Grant contract, in accordance with the provisions of the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act 2.2-3100, et seq., of the Code of Virginia.

Certifications

- 1) The grantee certifies that it, its authorized official and its fiscal agent are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transaction by any federal department or agency in accordance with 45 C.F.R., Subparts 73 and 92, Debarment or Suspension of Former Employees.
- 2) The grantee certifies that it will provide a drug-free workplace in accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act.
- 3) The grantee certifies that federal grant funds provided under this award will not be used by the grantee to support lobbying activities to influence proposed or pending Federal or State legislation or appropriations, in accordance with 45 C.F.R., Part 93, New Restrictions on Lobbying. This prohibition is not intended to affect an individual's right or that of any organization, to petition Congress, or any other level of Government, through the use of other resources.

V. Submitting a Stage I – Letter of Interest (LOI)

Please note that the LOI-phase may not be required for all applications. Please see the Request for Proposal (RFP) for more information.

The Board only accepts grant applications submitted electronically through the performance management and government resource planning site, DD Suite, which may be accessed [here](#).

Stage I applications submitted in hard copy will not be reviewed and will be returned unopened. Applications submitted via email will also not be reviewed.

In order to submit a Stage I – Letter of Interest (LOI) or Stage II – Proposal application, applicants must first [register](#) with DD Suite to create an account. If you experience any difficulties with registration, please see the DD Suite technical assistance page found [here](#).

Please note: Any LOI that omits required elements or fails to adhere to the prescribed format or submission requirements described herein will result in a lower evaluation score.

Preparing a Letter of Interest (LOI):

The Letter of Interest (LOI) Form consists of a Coversheet and a Narrative section, which may be found in the Attachments section of the Board's RFP announcement, located on the DD Suite

[homepage](#). Completion of all fields in the form is required. It is strongly recommended that applicants review the entire RFP, including the [Grants Manual](#), before preparing the LOI.

Note: Please refer to the specific Request for Proposal (RFP) document in DD Suite for a complete list of required components for Stage I applications.

1. **LOI Coversheet** – Complete all fields in the Coversheet:

Grant Funds Requested – Please ensure you have thoroughly examined your proposed budget and reviewed the Grants Manual for allowable and unallowable budget items.

Note: The grant funds requested and match funds may be modified slightly during the proposal stage.

Match Requirement – Grantees are required to contribute a **minimum match** (cash or in kind) of 25 percent of total project costs (grant funds + match). Federal funds cannot be used as match.

Exception to Requirement:

If a project primarily serves a Designated Poverty Area, the Board will fund 90% of the Total Project Costs and requires a minimum matching share of 10% of the total project costs. (If total project costs = \$100,000, grant funds = \$90,000, match funds = \$10,000.) Designated poverty areas are discussed in **Appendix B** of this document. **Please see the RFP for project-specific match requirements.**

The LOI Coversheet must be completed and signed by the Authorized Official of the applicant organization. This signature on the proposal coversheet certifies that the applicant will comply with all federal, state, and agency regulations, policies, and procedures. The Authorized Official also certifies that the organization has the legal authority to apply for federal funds and has the institutional, managerial, and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal matching share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project as described in the approved proposal.

2. **LOI Narrative**—Please tab through the form and respond to each question succinctly and clearly. The form is set up in 1.15 line spacing. The completed Narrative section **may not exceed three (3) pages** and should contain the following elements:

A. Applicant Profile – Describe the background of the applicant and the qualifications that would allow for completion of the project.

B. Cultural Competence – Describe how the applicant organization embodies cultural competence in the policies, structures, procedures and dedicated resources that are in place to support this capacity.

C. Linguistic Competence – Describe how the applicant organization embodies linguistic competence in the policies, structures, procedures and dedicated resources that are in place to support this capacity.

- D. Target Population** – Describe the target population, including the estimated percent of persons with DD served, and how the project activities will achieve the required outcome measures described in the RFP.
- E. Involvement of People with DD & Families in Project Activities** – Describe how the applicant organization will involve culturally diverse individuals with disabilities and their families in the development and/or implementation of the project activities.
- F. Collaboration** - Describe how the partnering organization(s) will collaborate and how it will contribute to the overall project by highlighting the resources and expertise each partner will provide. Show that there is a clear process in place for decision making and managing the project.
- G. Systems Change/Capacity Building & Sustainability** – Describe how the project will achieve systems change and/or build capacity, and following the end of the grant period, how systems change or increased capacity will be sustained.
- H. Project Activities, Outcomes and Strength of Evidence** – Summarize anticipated activities and outcomes and describe the model and/or approach selected and the reason it was selected for your project (i.e., its evidence of effectiveness as a promising or best practice).

PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOLLOWING LOI APPROVAL

II. SUBMITTING A STAGE II – FULL PROPOSAL

The Board only accepts competitive grant applications submitted electronically through the performance management and government resource planning site, DD Suite, which may be accessed [here](#). If you experience any difficulties with navigating the DD Suite system, please see the DD Suite technical assistance page found [here](#).

Stage II applications submitted in hard copy will not be reviewed and will be returned unopened. Applications submitted via email will also not be reviewed.

In most circumstances, applicants must be invited to submit a Stage II – Proposal Application, following review of the LOI. This may not be required for all solicitations.

Please see the specific RFP for the requirements to submit a Proposal Application.

Please note: Any proposal that omits required elements or fails to adhere to the prescribed format or submission requirements described herein will result in that proposal being given a lower evaluation. It is strongly recommended that applicants review the entire RFP, including this Grants Manual, before preparing a Stage II application.

Please refer to the specific Request for Proposal (RFP) document in DD Suite for a complete list of required components for Stage II applications.

These areas will be evaluated completely in the review process along with overall project design.

1. **Coversheet**—The formatted Coversheet Form **must be completed and signed** by the Authorized Official of the applicant organization. This signature on the proposal coversheet certifies that the applicant, if awarded a grant, will comply with all federal, state and agency regulations, policies and procedures. The Authorized Official also certifies that the organization has the legal authority to apply for federal funds and has the institutional, managerial, and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal matching share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project as described in the approved proposal.

The Project Coordinator identified on the coversheet will be responsible for the day-to-day activities of the grant project. The Project Coordinator is also responsible for ensuring the timely and accurate submission of all required grant documents, such as the quarterly program reports, collection and reporting of data, and financial reporting. This person will be the main contact for the organization.

In instances where the applicant is a small organization, the Authorized Official and Project Coordinator may be the same person.

2. **Abstract**—The abstract must succinctly state the goals, objectives and activities contained in the proposed project and the specific outcomes expected from the project. Applicants must use the formatted Abstract Form which may not exceed one (1) page.
3. **Budget Justification Narrative**—The narrative must include a description of each line item by expenditure category for the Total Project Costs (distinguishing between grant and match funds). Applicants must use the formatted Budget Justification Narrative Form. Also, please ensure that you have reviewed the Grants Manual on allowable and unallowable budget items.

Following are the Expenditure Categories:

Personnel—List each position by job title. Each salaried position should include the annual salary and estimated amount of time (percentage) to be spent on the project. For hourly personnel, each position should include the hourly rate and estimated number of hours to be spent on the project. For existing personnel, please explain how funding this position is not supplanting federal, state or local funds. For all personnel (current or new), clearly describe each person’s role/responsibilities on the project. Fringe benefits for personnel have a separate line item in this category.

Contractual (Volunteer Costs and Consultants)—Show each type of expense related to volunteers or subcontracts with consultants. Include for each consultant, the rate of pay and frequency (e.g., \$ per hour, or per day). Volunteer services used as matching funds should be valued at current market value for the service provided, as outlined by the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

Travel—List all travel related expenses for personnel, volunteers, consultants or clients including purpose of travel and the rate or unit of reimbursement for those expenses. All travel expenses must adhere to Va. State Travel Regulations which can be found at [here](#).

Rental Space or Equipment—List all equipment or space rental fees for specific grant activities.

Consumable Materials and Supplies—List all consumable materials and supplies.

Other Costs—Anything not included in above categories such as meeting expenses, including reasonable accommodations, and indirect costs for match.

Match Requirement

All grantees are required to contribute a minimum matching share of 25% of the Total Project Costs. Matching funds may be in-kind or cash and must be non-federal funds, such as state, local or private funds. The Board will fund up to 75% of the Total Project Costs.

If Total Project Costs = \$100,000, then:

Grant Funds:	75% x \$100,000 = \$75,000
Match Funds:	25% x \$100,000 = \$25,000

Exception to Requirement:

If the project primarily serves a Designated Poverty Area (see Appendix B), the Board will fund 90% of the Total Project Costs and requires a minimum matching share of 10% of the Total Project Costs. (If Total Project Costs = \$100,000, grant funds = \$90,000, match funds = \$10,000.)

- Budget Form**—Include all line items in the Budget Justification Narrative. The Budget Form also includes identification of sources for match and estimate of future funding. All sections of the Budget Form must be completed and signed by the Authorized Official of the applicant organization. Complete one set of forms for the entire grant period.
- Quarterly Activity Timeline & Budget Projection Form**—Applicants should use the formatted Excel form. The quarterly timetable should list all project activities from the proposal and estimates of quarterly grant expenditure for each activity for the grant period.
- Narrative**—Applicants should use the Proposal Narrative and Work Plan Form which is already formatted and may not be changed (1" margins/2.0 spacing, Calibri 12 pt. font). The Proposal Narrative and the Work Plan together may not exceed 20 pages, double spaced.

The following elements are required in the Narrative:

- a. **Applicant Profile**—A brief overview of the structure and function of the applicant organization. Describe your organizational experience conducting similar programs and demonstrate why the applicant is uniquely qualified to complete the project successfully, including the capacity to undertake this initiative and your organization’s experience in meeting the needs of the target population. Within this section, you should include relevant work samples and/or other evidence that demonstrates experience working with people with disabilities, disability organizations, state or federal agencies, and diverse populations. Include a description of the geographic area(s) to be served and an overview of the services/supports available to persons with developmental and other disabilities in the area(s).

Cultural and Linguistic Competence: Describe how your organization is cognizant of and achieves cultural and linguistic competence in its work.

- b. **Cultural Competence**

The Board considers cultural competence by its grantees to include the following: the organization has defined values, principles and policies that demonstrate that (1) diversity and differences are valued; (2) the organization is able to work effectively across cultures and adapt to the cultural context of the communities being served; and (3) is able to incorporate these values, principles and policies in each aspect of policy-making, administration, practice, service delivery and systematically involve consumers, families and community members.¹

- c. **Linguistic Competence**

The National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC) at Georgetown University defines linguistic competence as “...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 experiencing disabilities, and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Linguistic competence requires organizational and provider capacity to respond effectively to the health and mental health literacy needs of populations served. The organization must have policies, structures, practices, procedures, and dedicated resources to support this capacity.”¹

- d. **Target Population:** Please describe the target population and areas served. As applicable, provide information regarding how the applicant will meet the needs of underserved populations and underserved areas. For example, culturally and linguistically diverse populations, rural areas of the state, etc. Preference will be given to applicant proposals that target the underserved. Data that supports targeting a specific population or area should be referenced.

¹ The Cultural and Linguistic Competence Assessment for Disability Organizations (CLCADO), National Center for Cultural Competence, Georgetown University <https://nccc.georgetown.edu/assessments/clcado.php>

- e. **Involvement of Individuals with DD & Families in Project Development, Implementation and Evaluation:** Describe involvement of culturally diverse individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families in project development, project implementation and evaluation activities. Explain how the project will work with culturally diverse individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families in a meaningful way.
- f. **Collaboration:** Describe how the partnering organization will contribute to the overall goals of the project. Describe in detail the resources of the organization in order to meet the projects goal, activities and outcomes. Show that there is a clear process in place for decision making and managing the project.
- g. **Systems Change, Capacity Building and Sustainability:** Describe how the project will achieve systems change and/or build capacity, allowing all Virginias with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead participatory and meaningful lives. In addition, describe in detail how the project will continue after the conclusion of the grant period, and what long-term impact can realistically be expected from the project after the conclusion of grant funding. **Grantees are expected to monitor outcomes and report them to the Board for up to 2 years following the end of the grant period.**
- h. **Project Work Plan: Project Goal, Objectives, Activities, Outcomes & Performance Measures.** The following elements are required:
- i. **Project Goal**—Identify the overall project goal and briefly explain how it will achieve the project’s scope of work.
 - ii. **Objectives**—Identify the project objectives that are specific and measurable and will achieve the selected outcomes.
 - iii. **Activities**—For each project objective, include: a list all activities (specific tasks, including any project deliverables and products) that will achieve the objective; strategies for each activity; an explanation of how each activity will be accomplished; realistic start and end dates for accomplishing each activity; and the primary personnel who will carry out each activity. Any project products should include dissemination plans for potential project replication.
 - iv. **Outcomes, Stories and Performance Measures**—For each activity state the expected Outcomes, including Stories and Performance Measure(s), if applicable. For each Story, identify the number of stories obtained of participating individuals whose lives improved as a result of grant activities. For each Performance Measure, state the expected target (number) and how you will reach the target. **This is a required element for Stage II (full proposal) applications.**

Please refer to **Appendix C of this document** for an introduction to and a listing of the applicable Federal Performance Measures. You do not have to select a

federal performance measure for each work plan activity if there are no relevant measures, as long as you have at least one federal performance measure for one of your work plan activities. However, grantees are expected to include federal performance measures whenever relevant.

For project activities that include performance measures IFA 1.1 & IFA 1.2, applicants will be required to collect demographic data (race/ethnicity, geographical location, sex at birth, gender identity, and sexual orientation) of project participants. Please see Appendix C.

- i. **Strength of Evidence:** Describe the model or approach you have chosen and the reason it was selected for your project.
 - j. **Project Evaluation**—Present an evaluation plan for the proposal describing how the applicant will assess attainment of project objectives. The evaluation plan should describe the methodology planned for assessing project activities and products, including establishing baselines, as well as determining both individual outcomes and the systemic impact. The evaluation plan section should identify how the outcomes and federal performance measure(s) you listed in the work plan section will be obtained, including the required demographic information for performance measures IFA 1.1 and IFA 1.2 (if selected). **Evaluation Expertise**— Describe your organization's expertise in effectively evaluating similar programs or projects. What training and experience does your organization have in designing and administering the types of evaluation instruments that your project proposes (e.g., paper survey or poll, online survey or poll, focus group, etc.)? If there are any relevant areas for which your organization's prior training or experience are limited, how does your organization intend to strengthen its evaluation expertise?
7. **Appendices**—The Proposal Appendices must include:
- a. Letters of commitment or memoranda of understanding (MOUs), if applicable. Letters should demonstrate a commitment to be involved in the project, delineating the party's specific responsibilities with respect to the project. Project collaborators that have key roles and responsibilities in developing and/or implementing the program should submit a letter of commitment or MOU to the applicant. Documentation should specify the responsibilities that the partner organization(s) agrees to undertake. (Please note: a letter of commitment is not the same as a letter of support.)
 - b. Letters of Support. Letters of support should demonstrate an organization's support of the project and attest to the capability of the applicant. Letters should be submitted to the applicant and included in the proposal. Letters from supporters should not be sent to the Board.
 - c. One-page combined resume and position description for each key project personnel.

- d. Most recent Form 990 submitted to the IRS, if the organization is a non-profit. (Please include entire form.)
- e. IRS Determination letter on non-profit, tax-exempt status.
- f. Articles of Incorporation for non- and for-profit organizations.
- g. Most recent annual submission to the SEC or SCC (not the annual report), if the organization is a for-profit.
- h. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable).

Copies of letters or documents for the appendices are acceptable. Original documents are not required.

VII. Grants Management

A. Administrative Requirements

Signature Authority: Only the Project Coordinator and Authorized Official of the grantee organization are authorized to sign grant documents. Both the Project Coordinator and Authorized Official must sign all required documents, including Financial Reports. These must be the same individuals identified on the approved grant application.

Changes to Project Personnel: If the Project Coordinator or Fiscal Coordinator should change during the grant period, the Authorized Official must provide written notification and justification to the VBPD Grants Manager. The notification should include all of the new contact information for the new Program or Fiscal Coordinator, including name, title, address (if different), phone number and e-mail.

If the Authorized Official should change, another official of the grantee organization must provide written notification and justification to the VBPD Grants Manager. The notification should include all of the new contact information for the Authorized Official including name, title, address (if different), phone number, e-mail.

Changes to Job Description of Project Personnel: Any changes in responsibilities of project personnel must be reported in writing to the VBPD Grants Manager.

B. Program Requirements

Programmatic Reporting: Each Grantee is required to submit to the Board a quarterly Program Report detailing the project status in relationship to expected - program activities, outcomes and performance measures. However, in addition to the submission of quarterly program reports, grantees should notify the Board Grants Manager immediately of any problems or

barriers related to the project.

The VBPD Grants Manager will develop a Program Report template for each grant project and will provide to the grantee following the awarding of the DD grant. Required activities, outcomes and performance measures will be developed directly from the approved proposal. Outcome measures for each grant will be used to meet the Board's federal and state reporting requirements.

The program report should be submitted electronically and is due to the VBPD Grants Manager **15 days following the end of each calendar quarter**. In submitting the quarterly report, the grantee must follow the format and complete the electronic form provided by the Board.

Performance Measure Data: The Board is required to submit a Program Performance Report (PPR) annually to its federal oversight agency, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The report includes a summary of all projects and activities conducted during the year, including projects implemented by Board grantees. These Performance Measures are used to determine the DD Council's success in meeting its goals and objectives, and are used by the federal oversight agency in performance reports to the Administration and Congress. See the RFP for more information on Federal Performance Measures.

Performance Measures and targets for each grant project are assigned prior to the beginning of the grant period. **Grantees are required to collect and report on Performance Measures in quarterly program reports. Data reported must be unduplicated counts during the federal fiscal year.**

Project Surveys

In some circumstances, grantees will be required to develop one or more surveys during the course of the grant project, in order to evaluate its effectiveness and determine outcomes (e.g., determine participant's level of satisfaction with the grant, identification of gaps in knowledge based on administered trainings, collection of required demographic content related to participants' race/ethnicity, geographic location, sex at birth, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.). **Grantees are expected to have base-level knowledge of how to develop and administer surveys and drafts should be shared with Board staff at least two (2) weeks prior to the planned date of administration.** To assist with this process, staff to the Board have developed a series of tip sheets, available for download on the Board's grants webpage, which discuss best practices in survey design, tips for developing accessible surveys and strategies for collecting required demographic data for project participants. Grantees are encouraged to review these tip sheets in advance of submitting any draft survey to staff for review.

Stories about People with Disabilities: In the quarterly program reports and final report, or at other times as requested, and protecting the privacy of program participants, grantees will provide stories about people with developmental and other disabilities **whose lives have improved** as a result of grant activities. Examples of the types of stories to be shared (who, what, when, where and why) include: how someone became more independent because they obtained employment or transportation; how someone became more connected to their

community as a result of opportunities provided through the grant; or how someone was able to remain in the community vs. being institutionalized.

Post-Project Reporting Requirements: In most circumstances, grantees will be required to collect and report post-grant data to the Board on project outcomes **for a period of two years** after the grant has ended, in order to assist the Board in meeting its federal reporting requirements and to evaluate long-term systemic changes related to the grant. Specific post-grant reporting requirements, including collection of federal performance measures, will be communicated to the grantee prior to the end of the active grant period of performance.

Programmatic Attachments: In addition to the required program report, all additional materials developed under the grant and information pertinent to the public record of the project must be submitted to the Board, including newspaper articles, brochures, bulletins, status reports and evaluation results.

When conducting grant activities, grantees must announce that **reasonable accommodations** for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Following is sample language to include in event announcements:

Reasonable accommodations, such as interpreter services and alternate format materials, for persons with disabilities should be requested by [date]. Requests should be made to [contact info].

C. Fiscal Management

Financial Reporting: Grant funds are disbursed quarterly on a cost reimbursement basis. Each Grantee is required to submit to the Board a quarterly Financial Report in order to be reimbursed for grant expenditures and to report poverty area spending and matching.

The Financial Report is due to the VBPD Grants Manager **15 days following the calendar quarter for which the grantee is requesting reimbursement.** The grantee must submit an original hard-copy report that is signed by the Project Coordinator and the Authorized Official. Reimbursement payments to state agencies additionally require an Inter-Agency Transfer (IAT) Invoice to make a transfer of accounts.

The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is the fiscal agent for the Board. If a grantee is not a DARS vendor, they must complete a W-9 form at the beginning of the grant period.

Following the receipt, review and approval of the required quarterly program report and the financial report, transmittal of grant funds to the grantee is authorized. If reporting information is incomplete or progress appears to be unsatisfactory, transmittal of grant funds will be placed on hold until the issue of concern is resolved.

Financial Records: Grantees are required to maintain complete financial records for all project expenditures. These include total grant expenditures, grant expenditures in designated poverty

areas and matching expenditures. Financial records include, but are not limited to, records of purchases, receipts for cash payments, documentation for in-kind contributions, personnel timesheets and payroll vouchers. All financial records must be readily available for examination by authorized personnel from the Board or any other authorized officials.

Match Guidelines: Grantees are required to contribute 25% of Total Project Costs to the project. If a project primarily serves a Designated Poverty Area (see Appendix B), the grantee is required to contribute 10% of the Total Project Costs. Match expenditures are monitored along with DD fund expenditures. Acceptable match includes: local, public and private cash contributions; state cash contributions; unrecovered indirect costs and in-kind contributions such as space, rent, volunteer time (*including fair market value and fringe benefits*), materials/paper products or travel expenses. In-kind contributions must be specified, verifiable and based on fair market value. Please note that the personnel contributions of existing staff should be listed as cash match as opposed to in-kind match.

Designated Poverty Area Reporting: If a grant project serves a poverty area(s), in whole or in part, the grantee is required to report the poverty area grant expenditures in the Financial Report. Poverty area costs must be associated with activities that are primarily focused on a poverty area. These could include training of persons living in a poverty area, training of professionals whose work serves a poverty area, incentive programs that require professionals to work in a poverty area (such as a condition on scholarship funding) or providing demonstration services to persons with developmental disabilities living in a poverty area. The basic requirement is that the focus be on the poverty area and that the benefits do not accrue to persons in a poverty area by virtue of being part of a larger area that is the beneficiary of an activity. It is the responsibility of the grantee to track the grant expenditure activities for each poverty area and report quarterly on the Financial Report Form.

Audits: All state and local government and non-profit organizations receiving federal DD funds and expending \$750,000 or more in federal funds in a fiscal year must have an audit in compliance with 2 CFR §200.501 (Subpart F) of Federal Uniform Guidance (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2016-title2-vol1-sec200-501.pdf>). A copy of the audit or, if posted to a website, the website link must be provided to the Board as soon as it becomes available.

D. Revisions to Schedule, Scope of Work and Budget

Project disruptions due to COVID-19 and other types of pandemics: If a grant project and associated activities are adversely affected by statewide and/or national pandemics, as well as Governor-issued Executive Orders that recommend and/or require social distancing practices, grantees will be contacted by the VBPD Grants Manager to discuss alternative schedules for submission of revisions to the project schedule, scope of work and budget.

Grantees are expected to complete their projects in accordance with the RFP and approved proposal. Any requests for changes should be rare and must include a justification for the revision that explains why the revision is necessary to accomplish the outcomes of the grant. A

request must be made in writing by the grantee and submitted to the VBPD Grants Manager for approval. In some instances, detailed below, requests for revisions must be reviewed and approved by the Board. Board meetings occur in September, December, March and June. Consult with your VBPD Grants Manager to ensure that request is submitted in **advance** of the Board meeting.

Schedule Revisions. Grantees are expected to conduct activities in accordance with the timelines in the approved proposal and to complete the project by the end of the grant period. Any changes to the activity timelines must be reviewed by the VBPD Grants Manager. At the discretion of the VBPD Grants Manager, a grantee may be requested to submit a revised Quarterly Activity Timeline & Budget Projection and/or a revised Work Plan for review and approval.

Revisions to the schedule are not allowed in the final quarter of the grant period.

Scope of Work Revisions. Grantees are expected to complete their projects in accordance with the approved proposal. A revision to a project's scope of work is necessary when the grantee requests a change in the project's activities, performance measures, deliverables or products. To request a revision to the project's scope of work, the grantee Project Coordinator and Authorized Official must submit the following items to the VBPD Grants Manager and Director:

- a letter which details the specific changes to be made;
- a Revised Work Plan; and
- a Revised Quarterly Activity Timeline and Budget Projection.

Any request to revise the project scope of work must be approved by the appropriate Standing Committee and full Board.

Revisions to the scope of work are not allowed in the final quarter of the grant period.

Budget Revisions. Any proposed revisions to the budget, including new line items and shifting of funds between expenditure categories, require written request to the Board for review and approval in advance of the grant expenditure. Expenditures made without such prior approval will not be reimbursed.

New Budget Line Items:

Any requests for new budget line items, not included in the approved proposal, must be submitted by the grantee to the VBPD Grants Manager for review and approval. The grantee must complete a Budget Amendment Request Form that provides a justification for the new item(s) and, if applicable, the elimination of any items. The Grants Manager will review the budget amendment for approval.

New budget line items may not be requested in the final quarter of the grant period.

If the budget revision includes a shift of grant funds between expenditure categories, the following procedures will apply.

Shifting Less than 10% in Grant Funds between Expenditure Categories:

A request for a budget revision that is shifting **less than 10%** of the grant award between expenditure categories must be submitted by the grantee to the VBPD Grants Manager for review. The grantee must complete a Budget Amendment Request Form that provides a justification for the changes. The Grants Manager will review the budget amendment for approval.

Shifting 10% or More in Grant Funds between Expenditure Categories:

A request for a budget revision that is shifting **10% or more** of the grant award between expenditure categories must be submitted by the grantee to the VBPD Grants Manager for review. The grantee must complete a Budget Amendment Request Form that provides a justification for the changes. The Grants Manager will review the budget amendment and make a recommendation to the appropriate Standing Committee and full Board. Requests will be reviewed at the quarterly Board meetings.

E. Project Monitoring

Each grant is monitored by the Board Grants Manager. The Grants Manager works directly with the grant Project Coordinator and closely monitors the grant through:

- review of quarterly program and financial reports submitted by the grantees;
- periodic meetings, phone calls or e-mails to review project status and provide guidance;
- attendance and/or participation at events sponsored by the grantee;
- attendance at advisory committee meetings; and
- site visits to the grantee.

The Grants Manager provides the Standing Committee with quarterly program reports at Board meetings and may provide additional information throughout the grant period, as necessary. The Grants Manager also provides a quarterly report on grant expenditures to the Board. During or following the grant period, the grantee may be asked to make a presentation to the Standing Committee or the full Board.

The grant Project Coordinator should not wait until quarterly reports to consult with his/her VBPD Grants Manager regarding problems or questions about the grant project.

F. Project Deliverables and Products

All printed, audio/visual and online products must contain an Acknowledgment Statement formally recognizing the Board's and Federal Government's financial support. The Acknowledgment Statement must include the Board's logo and be prominently presented on all products developed under the grant.

Sample Acknowledgement Statement

"Funding for this project/product was supported, in part, by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, under grant number **(insert federal grant award #)**, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects

with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.”

All deliverables and products developed using Board funds must be developed so that alternative formats can be produced (examples: Braille, large print, CD, captioned videos, descriptive video, audio recording, audio transcript). Alternative formats must be made available upon request.

Please ensure that all deliverables and products are dated. Whether on the title page, in the footer of a document, on the homepage or in the footer of a webpage, or on a label of a CD, there should be some reference as to when the product was created.

At least 2 weeks prior to the planned completion of a grant deliverable or product (including surveys), unless otherwise specified, the grantee must submit a draft or other fully representative mock-up of the grant deliverable or product to the VBPD Grants Manager for written review and approval prior to public distribution or release. Upon approval and completion of the deliverable or product, the grantee must provide the VBPD Grants Manager with a physical and electronic final version, as applicable, and an industry-standard, reproduction-quality master copy, where applicable.

Unless otherwise specified in the terms of the DD grant, when copyrightable material is developed in the course of the project, the grantee is free to copyright the material or permit others to do so. However, the Board and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shall retain royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable rights to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use the material developed under the grant. This applies to tangible and intangible property.

In the event of early termination of the grant project, all project products and deliverables both completed and under development and any undistributed physical inventories of such become the immediate property of the Board and must be delivered to the Board in a timely manner at the grantee’s expense.

G. Project Closeout

To fulfill the terms of the DD Grant contract, all project closeout reports and products must be submitted to the Board Grants Manager in hard copy and electronic format within thirty (30) days after the end of the grant period. The final Financial Report will be processed when the Grants Manager has approved all final documents. When these requirements are completed, grantees will receive written notification of formal closeout of the grant.

Project closeout must include:

1. **Project Products and Deliverables** -- Digital /print master of any products or deliverables, if applicable.
2. **Final Quarterly Financial Report** -- Should be marked "Final."

Final Quarterly Program Report

3. **Final Project Report** – Outcome oriented and addressing the goals, objectives and activities outlined in the approved proposal and workplan. The report should contain the following sections:

- a. **Primary Goal of the Grant** -- An assessment of the success of the grant in achieving its purpose. State the primary goal(s) of the grant and its expected impact.
- b. **Program Performance** -- An assessment of the achievement of each objective as outlined in the Work Plan utilizing the following format:

Accomplishments: State the overall completion rate and list each required activity that demonstrates accomplishment of the objective. If any activities were not completed, please explain.

Performance Measures: State all Performance Measures and numbers that were achieved for the grant period. Include the original target numbers and actual numbers.

Demographics: Identify and describe who was served or involved in achieving the objective (e.g., race, geographic location of project participants, sex at birth, gender identity, and sexual orientation).

Consumer Participation: Describe consumer input received on this objective. What did consumers say?

Barriers: Identify the barriers that were encountered with achieving the objective and how they were addressed.

Effective Strategies: Explain what you recommend as particularly effective in your achievements and in overcoming the barriers encountered.

- c. **Stories of People with Disabilities** -- Provide detailed narrative stories about culturally diverse people with developmental and other disabilities whose lives improved as a result of grant activities. Where consent of the participant is obtained, include photographs, video clips, or details (who/what/when/why/where) and a signed media release so that the Board can publicize the effects of the grant and how lives were impacted during and after grant activities.
- d. **Assessment of Systemic Impact of Grant** -- Describe the overall systems level impact this grant has had on benefiting people with developmental disabilities in Virginia and their families, especially in terms of those who are from underrepresented cultural groups and rural communities.
- e. **Sustainability Plan** -- Describe how the program will continue and what resources

have been secured for the program following the end of grant funding.

- f. **Future Actions** -- What assistance is needed so that the results of the project can be shared in order to have the greatest impact possible? What agency or entity should be involved in this dissemination? As a result of the grant, are there recommendations for future action by the Board or other agencies to better meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities in Virginia? Is there a need for policy reform, advocacy or other actions necessary to improve access to and delivery of services for unserved/underserved and minority populations?

VIII. APPENDICES

- A. Governing Documents for DD Grants**
- B. Designated Poverty Areas in Virginia**
- C. Federal Performance Measures & Demographics**

The documents that govern VBPD Developmental Disabilities' Grants include, but are not limited to:

Applicable to:	Document
All Grantees	U.S. Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act)
All Grantees	Virginians with Disabilities Act, Section 51.5-33
All Grantees	Olmstead Initiative
All Grantees	2022-2026 Virginia State Plan and subsequent annual updates
All Grantees	Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI
Higher Ed, Hospitals, Non-Profits, Commercial	Title 45 – Public Welfare 45 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 74, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Awards and Subawards
For-Profits (Commercial)	Title 48 - Federal Acquisition Regulations System 48 CFR Part 31 Contract Cost Principles and Procedures
State, Local, Tribal Governments	45 CFR Part 92, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local
State, Local, Tribal Governments	Office of Management and Budget OMB Circular A-87 Office of Management and Budget Cost Principles (Codified by 2 CFR Part 225)
Higher Ed	OMB Circular A-21 Office of Management and Budget Cost Principles (Codified by 2 CFR Part 220)
Higher Ed, Hospitals and Non-Profits	OMB Circular A-110 Uniform Administrative Requirements (Codified by 2 CFR Part 215)
Non-Profits	OMB Circular A-122 Office of Management and Budget Cost Principles (Codified by 2 CFR Part 230)
All Grantees	OMB Circular A-133 Office of Management and Budget Cost Principles (Codified by 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F)
All Grantees	Virginia State Travel Regulations (Dept. of Accounts, CAPP Manual)
All Grantees	Grants Manual
All Grantees	VBPD Request for Letters of Interest and Proposals

DESIGNATED POVERTY AREAS IN VIRGINIA

The below link from the US Census Bureau lists the counties and cities that have been identified as poverty areas based on the percentage of individuals (all ages) in a locality who are at or below the Federal Poverty Level of income in 2016. The Board prioritized those localities which have **a poverty rate of 20 percent (%) or greater**, which is the poverty level threshold, as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In 2021, Virginia's overall poverty rate was 10.3 percent.¹

Our reason for adopting the Secretary's poverty level threshold is to focus attention on those localities which have the greatest poverty. As noted by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia (2014), although the Commonwealth as a whole has a relatively high median per capita household income and relatively low poverty rate, the aggregate data obscures the significant variation in income and poverty at the local and regional levels. The aggregate data is impacted by trends in Northern Virginia, which contains nearly a third of the state's total population.²

If the grant project **primarily serves a designated poverty area(s) with a poverty rate of 20 percent (%) or greater**, the Board will fund up to 90% of the Total Project Costs. The minimum match requirement then is 10% of the Total Project Costs. To determine Total Project Costs, divide the total grant funds requested by 90%.

For all other DD grant projects, the minimum match requirement is 25% of the Total Project Costs. **Please see the applicable Request for Proposal (RFP) for any alternate match requirements.**

For a complete listing of cities and counties in Virginia that are designated poverty areas, please see the [US Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates interactive map](#). For additional guidance on Urban and Rural Poverty Areas, please see this [publication](#) from the Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (iTACC).

Data Sources:

1. [U.S. Census Bureau](#)
2. [University of Virginia \(2014\). Virginia's Regions. Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service](#)

Federal Performance Measures

The Board submits a Program Performance Report (PPR) annually to its federal oversight agency, the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The report includes a summary of all projects and activities conducted during the federal fiscal year, including projects implemented by Board grantees. In addition, for each federal performance measure, the Developmental Disability (DD) Council reports the cumulative total from all projects and activities. These measures are used to determine the DD Council's success in meeting its goals and objectives, and are used by the federal oversight agency in performance reports to the administration and the congress.

SYSTEMS CHANGE (SC) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SC 1: Short Term Measure
The number of Council efforts to transform fragmented approaches into a coordinated and effective system that assures individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.
Sub Measures
SC 1.1 Policy and/or Procedure changes.
SC 1.1.1 The number of policies and/or procedures created or changed
Definitions
<p>Policy: A statement of how an organization or entity intends to conduct its services, actions, or business. Policies provide a set of guiding principles that help with decision-making.</p> <p>Procedure: A description of how each policy will be put into action. Procedures often outline who will do what, what steps will be taken, and which forms to use.</p> <p>Policy and/or procedure change: A policy and/or procedure change reflects a course of action that has the potential to create or improve policies and/or procedures regarding services and supports that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.</p> <p>Change: The act of making or becoming different.</p> <p>Created: To cause to come into being.</p>
SC 1.2 Statute or Regulation Changes
SC 1.2.1 The number of statutes and/or regulations created or changed
Definitions
<p>Statute: A rule or other enactment made by a legislature and expressed in a formal document.</p> <p>Regulation: A rule or administrative code issued by governmental agencies at all levels, municipal, county, state and federal. Regulations are not laws but have the force of law since they are adopted under authority granted by statutes.</p> <p>Statute and/or Regulation Change: A law and/or rule or administrative code that has the potential to improve laws, rules, or administrative codes regarding services, supports, and other assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.</p> <p>Change: The act of making or becoming different.</p> <p>Created: To cause to come into being.</p>

SC 1.3 Promising and/or best practices
SC 1.3.1 The number of promising practices created
SC 1.3.2 The number of promising practices supported through Council Activities
SC 1.3.3 The number of best practices created
SC 1.3.4 The number of best practices supported through Council Activities
Definitions
<p>Promising Practice: A practice with an innovative approach that improves upon existing practice and positively impacts the area of practice. The practice should demonstrate a high degree of success and the possibility of replication in other areas of settings but has not been tested.</p> <p>Best Practice: A technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has proven to reliably lead to a desired result.</p> <p>Created: To cause to come into being.</p> <p>Supported: Activities funded by the Council, as based on the State Plan; Activities planned and funded by the Council as based on the State Plan.</p>
SC 1.4 Training/Education
SC 1.4.1 The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives
Definition
<p>Trained or educated: Training is an organized activity designed to give information and/or instructions to improve performance or help attain knowledge or skill; educated means to give information about something. This number would not include general public education (web site hits, newspaper, social media, etc).</p>
SC 1.5 Collaboration
SC 1.5.1 The number of Council supported system change activities with organizations actively involved.
SC 2: Long Term Measures
SC 2.1 The number of Council efforts that lead to the improvement of best or promising practices, policies, procedures, statute or regulations changes (<i>sub measures 2.1.1 and 2.1.3</i>)
SC 2.2 The number of Council efforts to transform fragmented approaches into a coordinated and effective system that assures individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. (<i>sub measures 2.1.2 and 2.1.4</i>)
Sub-Measures
SC 2.1.1 The number of policy, procedure, statute or regulations
SC 2.1.2 The number of policy, procedure, statute or regulation changes implemented
SC 2.1.3 The number of promising and/or best practices improved as a result of systems change activities.
SC 2.1.4 The number of promising and/or best practices that were implemented.
Definitions
<p>Change: The act of making or becoming different.</p> <p>Created: To cause to come into being.</p> <p>Implemented: To put into effect, put into action, put into practice, carry out, enact.</p> <p>Improved: To make or become better, to raise to a more desirable condition or quality.</p>

INDIVIDUAL and FAMILY ADVOCACY (IFA) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Short-Term Measures
<p>IFA 1.1 The <u>number of people with developmental disabilities</u> who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems. Grantees will be required to report aggregate data regarding race/ethnicity, geographical location (urban vs. rural) of project participants, sex at birth, gender identity, and sexual orientation.</p> <p>IFA 1.2 The <u>number of family members</u> who participated in Council supported activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect the family, the lives of others, and/or systems. Grantees will be required to report aggregate data regarding race/ethnicity, geographical location (urban vs. rural) of project participants, sex at birth, gender identity, and sexual orientation.</p>
Long-Term Measures
<p>IFA 2.1 After participation in Council supported activities, the percent of people with developmental disabilities who report increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work.</p> <p>IFA 2.2 After participation in Council supported activities, the percent of family members who report increasing their advocacy as a result of Council work.</p>
Sub-Measures
IFA 2 Individual and Family Advocacy Sub-Measures
<p>IFA 2.3 The percent of people who are better able to say what they want or say what services and supports they want or say what is important to them.</p> <p>IFA 2.4 The percent of people who are participating now in advocacy activities.</p> <p>IFA 2.5 The percent of people who are on cross disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies and/or serving in leadership positions.</p>
IFA 3 The percent of people satisfied with a project activity
<p>IFA 3.1 The percent of people with developmental disabilities satisfied with a project activity.</p> <p>IFA 3.2 The percent of family members satisfied with a project activity.</p>

Grantees will be **required** to report aggregate data regarding race/ethnicity, geographical location (urban vs. rural), sex at birth, gender identity, and sexual orientation of project participants, in connection with Performance Measures IFA 1.1 and IFA 1.2. Demographic information in connection with Performance Measure SC 1.4 is also welcome, but not required. Please consult the "[Demographic Data Collection](#)" tip sheet on our grants webpage for recommended survey questions. Please see a listing of the required demographics below:

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Survey Respondents
American Indian or Alaska Native	
Asian	
Black or African American	
Hispanic/Latino or Latina	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	

White	
Two or more races	
Other race or ethnicity	
Do not know or do not want to answer the question	
Geographic Location	Number of Survey Respondents
Rural	
Urban	
Do not know or do not want to answer the question	
Sex Assigned at Birth	Number of Survey Respondents
Female	
Male	
Do not know	
Do not want to answer	
Gender Identity	Number of Survey Respondents
Female	
Male	
Transgender female	
Transgender male	
Two-spirit	
Other	
Do not know	
Do not want to answer	
Sexual Orientation	Number of Survey Respondents
Bisexual	
Gay	
Lesbian	
Straight/Heterosexual	
Two-Spirit	
Other	
Do not know	
Do not want to answer	