

- Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are the primary decision makers regarding the services and supports such individuals and their families receive; and play decision making roles in policies and programs that affect the lives of such individuals and their families; and
- Services, supports, and other assistance should be provided in a manner that demonstrates respect for individual dignity, personal preference, and cultural differences. Toward these ends, ADD seeks: to enhance the capabilities of families in assisting people with developmental disabilities to achieve their maximum potential; to support the increasing ability of people with developmental disabilities to exercise greater choice and self-determination; to engage in leadership activities in their communities; as well as to ensure the protection of their legal and human rights.

The four programs funded under the DD Act are:

(1) State Councils on Developmental Disabilities that engage in advocacy, capacity building and systematic change activities.

(2) Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) that protect the legal and human rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.

(3) The National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, (UCEDD) that engages in training, outreach, and dissemination activities.

(4) Projects of National Significance (PNS), including Family Support Grants that support the development of family-centered and directed systems for families of children with disabilities, including children with developmental disabilities.

#### *C. Statutory Authorities Covered Under This Announcement*

This announcement is covered under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, 42 U.S.C. 15001, *et seq.* Projects of National Significance is Part E of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, 42 U.S.C. 15081, *et seq.* Provisions under this section provide for the award of grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements for Projects of National Significance that support:

- The development of national and State policies that reinforce and promote the self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life of individuals with developmental disabilities;

- Family support activities, data collection and analysis, technical assistance to entities that provide family support and data collection activities; and

- Other projects of sufficient size and scope that hold promise to expand or improve opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

#### **Part II. Background Information for Applicants**

##### *Description of Family Support Program*

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, 42 U.S.C., *et seq.* was authorized on October 30, 2000. The DD Act includes a new title II, the "Families of Children With Disabilities Support Act of 1999". The purpose of this new family support program is for states to create or expand statewide systems change. It allows for the award of competitive grants to conduct training, technical assistance, and other national activities designed to address the problems that impede the self-sufficiency of families with children with disabilities, including children with developmental disabilities.

#### **Part III. The Application Review**

##### *A. Eligible Applicants*

Eligible applicants include any public or private non-profit organization, including State and local governments, Federally recognized Indian tribes, faith-based organizations, and private nonprofit organization including universities and other institutions of higher education designated by the governor or chief executive officer of the State as the lead agency for this project. A letter from the office of the governor or the chief executive officer designating the applicant as the lead agency for the State or Territory must accompany the application. This lead agency is responsible for coordinating the planning, development, implementation (or expansion and enhancement), and evaluation of a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities, including children with developmental disabilities.

All applications developed jointly by more than one agency or organization must identify only one organization as the lead organization and the official applicant. The other participating agencies and organizations can be included as co-participants, subgrantees, or subcontractors.

Any nonprofit organization submitting an application must submit proof of its non-profit status in its application at the time of submission.

The non-profit agency can accomplish this by submitting a copy of the applicant's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, or by providing a copy of a valid IRS tax exemption certificate, or by providing a copy of the articles of incorporation certifying nonprofit status and bearing the seal of the State in which the corporation is located. ADD cannot fund a non-profit applicant without acceptable proof of its nonprofit status.

Applicants, who have never received a Family Support grant, may submit an application for a planning grant. Applicants who have not been previously awarded family support planning grants are eligible for family support development grants under this announcement.

Before applications under this Program Announcement are reviewed, each one will be screened to determine whether the applicant is eligible for funding. Applications from organizations that do not meet eligibility requirements will not be considered or reviewed in the competition, and the applicant will be so informed.

##### *B. Review Process and Funding Decisions*

Applications from eligible applicants received by the deadline date will be reviewed and scored by a panel of at least three (3) reviewers (primarily experts in the field from outside the Federal Government). To facilitate this review, applicants should ensure that they address each minimum requirement in the program description under each section of the project Narrative Statement.

Reviewers will determine the strengths and weaknesses of each application in terms of the evaluation criteria listed in part IV, provide comments, and assign numerical scores. The point value following each criterion heading indicates the maximum numerical weight that each applicant may receive per section in the review process. The results of this review are a primary factor in making funding decisions.

ADD reserves the option of discussing applications with, or referring them to, other Federal or non-Federal funding sources when this is determined to be in the best interest of the Federal Government or the applicant.

Grantees funded by ADD may be requested to cooperate in evaluation efforts funded by ADD. The purpose of these evaluation activities is to learn from the combined experience of