

agency lines. Services and supports may involve all or some of the following: Healthcare, Mental Health, Personal Assistance Services, Respite Care, Family Strengthening Services (such as parenting education and marriage education), Food Stamps, Cash Assistance, Accessible Transportation, Childcare, Accessible Housing, Early Intervention Services, Special Educational Opportunities, Job Training, Assistive Technology, and Employment with Reasonable Accommodations. These services and supports are available from a myriad of public and private providers, each of which has its own eligibility determination criteria and planning process. If a targeted family needs multiple services and supports, there are few States and communities with a comprehensive infrastructure to offer these families a seamless, one-point of entry (e.g., one-stop center) to establish eligibility and develop a family-centered plan to preserve and strengthen families with members with disabilities.

There are multiple funding streams and varied public and private entities that could contribute to a seamless system for targeted families. However, without funding and time to explore avenues for creating such a system, examples of promising practices will remain isolated and generally limited to demonstrating service integration for employment-related assistance for individuals with disabilities. Such efforts often result in improvements in services for individuals with disabilities seeking employment, but few opportunities for families to be strengthened and preserved as a family unit through access to a wide range of other services.

In this time of shrinking resources, it is imperative to support planning initiatives that will allow a variety of partners to discuss and develop consensus on how their collective resources could be used in a more family friendly manner. Successful States under this Program Announcement will receive planning grants to explore with their partners how to develop a common language, pool resources, coordinate services, and share expenses in order to reduce overhead and create a setting (i.e., one-stop center) in which outcome-oriented, family-centered, collaborative planning could occur.

Presently, there are several different Federal programs and funding streams available to State governments and local agencies to assist targeted families and potentially redesigned service systems. Some examples of such programs and funding streams include Medicaid

Systems Change Grants, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services' (CMS) Independence Plus, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Vocational Rehabilitation, the Ticket-to-Work and direct benefit programs through the Social Security Administration, and one-stops of the Work Force Investment Act. This myriad of programs and funding sources can create a feeling of helplessness in individual families, making discovering and learning to understand the eligibility for each program even more challenging. State agency staff members and local caseworkers may also feel confused when attempting to coordinate the various services at the local level for families. The time has arrived for us to ask fundamental questions about the effectiveness of the service system and to explore, in partnership with families, avenues to create a truly family-centered service system.

In addition to the input from targeted families and the consensus of local and State leaders, the participation and collaboration of the State's DD Network will ensure the success of this planning project. For instance, each State's Developmental Disabilities Council has a wealth of knowledge about their State's programs, public policies, and service barriers to bring to the discussion table. The Protection and Advocacy Agencies have legal experience with and understanding of program eligibility criteria associated with the complexities of the service system. The University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities have expertise in evaluating the effectiveness of service programs and developing new and innovative projects to address the unmet needs of families.

While ADD welcomes an application from each State and Territory, the Commissioner is particularly interested in providing financial support to States/Territories that are just beginning to explore the issues relating to one-stop family centers and/or States/Territories with some limited experience with service integration efforts.

Successful grantees under this competition will have the opportunity to design a one-stop family center, in collaboration with State and local partners. It may be more practical for grantees to focus their partnership planning efforts on one location for the one-stop center and a limited number of families to be served by its staff. This approach will enable the grantees to identify and project specific funding needs, staffing requirements, collaborative agreements, day-to-day procedures, and other infrastructure

considerations necessary for implementing a one-stop family center. Through such a creative and collaborative process, ADD anticipates that each grantee with its partners will develop a collective commitment to serving the targeted families and identify new ways for meeting the needs of individual families.

- *Minimum Requirements for Project Design:* ADD is particularly interested in supporting projects that include each of the activities and desired outcomes provided in the section below.

- *Involvement and Input from Targeted Families.* The meaningful involvement of individuals who are members of targeted families must be an essential and measurable element of all project planning and activities.

- *Project Partnerships.* Project activities must be conducted in partnership with at least one local elected official, the State Developmental Disabilities Council, the State Protection and Advocacy System, and the University Center(s) on Developmental Disabilities in the State/Territory, as well as others (including, but not limited to, disability-related service providers, advocacy groups, family support groups, family strengthening groups, and faith-based organizations).

- *Building Consensus for an Implementation Plan.* Projects should build a consensus for an implementation plan with their partners to establish and sustain a one-stop center for the targeted families. Implementation plans should include Federal, State, and local inter-agency collaboration, and public-private partnerships to achieve service integration for targeted families.

- *Parameters for Services and Supports in the Implementation Plan.* Implementation plans for the one-stop center must address the following parameters: information and referrals, as well as in-depth planning for services and supports with at least fifty (50) families on an annual basis. The families projected to be served would have access to individualized family-centered planning for services and supports. Individualized planning may focus on one or more the following areas of need: healthcare and mental health services, eligibility for personal assistance and supports (e.g., access to direct care workers, respite care, food stamps, and cash assistance), accessible transportation, childcare services, and family strengthening services (e.g., parenting education and marriage education), housing, and employment-related assistance.

- *Assessment of the Capacity and Capability of Information Technology.* A