

NoFA (RFP) (27IN1) Research and Recommend: Build Relationships and Decrease Loneliness

Active, Posted

[export applicants](#)

Active status is based on due date

NoFA (RFP) Summary

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General Information

Number	Title	Due Date	Start Date	End Date	Amount	Match Amount	Match Poverty Amount
27IN1	Research and Recommend: Build Relationships and Decrease Loneliness	Nov 15, 2026	Jan 01, 2027	Sep 30, 2027	\$40,000.00	\$13,333.33	\$0.00

Staff Responsible: [Felicia Dillon](#), Program Manager, felicia.dillon@gcdd.ga.gov, (404) 821-7229

Group: none selected

Application URL: https://ddsuite.org/?nofa_id=2315

When sending the Application URL link to grantees, remind them to first login, and then paste the url string into their browser.

Letter of Interest? No LOI phase

Work Plan Terminology:

DD Suite Term	NoFA (RFP) Custom Term
Title	Workplan
Goal	Goal
Objectives	Objective
Activities	Activity
Performance Measures	Performance Measure

Sections

Order	Title	Text
1	Purpose	The purpose of this funding opportunity is to identify and recommend two to three evidence-based and experience-based strategies for Georgians with IDD and their families to decrease loneliness and build relationships by 2031.
2	Schedule of Events	This Request for Proposals will be governed by the following schedule of Events: • Applications Due By – November 15, 2027 • Contracts Due By - December 18, 2027 • Project Begins - January 1, 2027



Order	Title	Text
3	Restrictions on Communication	All questions about this NoFA must be submitted in the following format: Organization/Individual Name 1. Question Citation of relevant section of the NoFA 2. Question Citation of relevant section of the NoFA Questions must be directed in writing to the Program Manager, Felicia Dillon at: felicia.dillon@gcdd.ga.gov Questions must include the company name and the referenced NoFA section. From the issue date of this NoFA until a contractor is selected and the selection is announced, Applicants are not allowed to communicate for any reason with any State staff except through the Program Manager, or during the Applicants' conference, or as provided by existing work agreement(s). The State reserves the right to reject the proposal of any Applicant violating this provision. All questions concerning this NoFA must be submitted in writing by email to felicia.dillon@gcdd.ga.gov. Only written questions will be accepted. No response other than written will be binding upon the State.
4	The DD Council	The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) is one of 56 entities of its type in the United States and territories that report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Community Living. It is authorized under Public Law 106-402, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act Amendments of 2000. The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) makes funds available to fulfill its mission in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its Five-Year Strategic Plan https://gcdd.org/about/five-year-strategic-plan Through its funding, GCDD works to increase the capacities and resources of public and private nonprofit entities and others to develop a comprehensive community system that responds to the choices, capabilities and needs of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The purpose of GCDD grants is to expand best practices and contribute to system-wide changes that support the rights of people with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion as community members. Recipients of GCDD grants are expected to be ongoing partners bringing about change. Our activities are governed by a 28-member board, appointed by the Governor and comprised of at least 60 percent individuals with developmental disabilities and family members. Other members include policymakers that represent various agencies and organizations having a vested interested in persons with developmental disabilities. GCDD serves as an advocate for all persons with developmental disabilities. We are charged with creating systems change for people with developmental disabilities and their families by increasing opportunities for independence, inclusion, integration, productivity and self-determination. Activities include public policy research and analysis, reform, project demonstrations, education and training. The GCDD is a state agency, attached to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) for administrative purposes.

Order	Title	Text
5	Scope of Work-Request For Proposals	Research and Recommend: Build Relationships and Decrease Loneliness 1. Project Purpose and Objectives Reducing loneliness and helping Georgians with IDD and their families build stronger community connections is a statewide priority for GCDD. In GCDD’s survey and town hall, community connections and relationships were identified as the second-highest priority. Participants said they want meaningful friendships, peer support, leadership opportunities, and communities where they feel valued and included (GCDD, 2025). GCDD addresses this priority through GCDD's 5 Year Plan: Goal 1: Inclusion: By 2031, GCDD will support changes at the state or local level so Georgians with I/DD and their families can increase their inclusion in their communities and live self-determined lives. This project will: • Increase awareness of national best practices for decreasing loneliness and building relationships. • Increase awareness of replicable program models, as well as regional needs and gaps across Georgia. • Identify two to three evidence- and experience-based strategies for GCDD to consider for investment. • Develop a plan for GCDD to support programs to decrease loneliness and build relationships for people with I/DD and their families in Georgia in years 2–5. 2. Required Activities The selected applicant shall perform the following activities: A. Literature Review Review relevant research, evidence-based practices, and emerging trends related to reducing loneliness and helping people with I/DD and their families build relationships. Use the findings to identify inclusive and culturally responsive strategies that can inform GCDD’s future investments. B. Environmental Scan Review existing statewide programs, services, organizations, partnerships, and funding efforts related to reducing loneliness and building relationships. Identify current resources, gaps, and emerging opportunities. C. Regional Gap Analysis Identify geographic, population, service, capacity, and funding gaps across Georgia. Use the findings to identify priority areas for investment. D. Comprehensive List of Existing, Replicable and/or Modifiable Programs Develop an inventory of existing programs that have potential for replication, adaptation, or modification to address identified needs. Review how well programs reflect the cultures, languages, needs, and experiences of diverse communities and whether they can be adapted to be culturally responsive and inclusive. E. Investment Recommendations Develop data-informed recommendations and implementation strategies based on identified needs, gaps, promising programs, and opportunities for impact. For each proposed strategy or program, provide an estimated investment range and a clear, well-supported description of the resources needed to implement, and sustain the approach. Include anticipated costs, expected reach, possible outcomes. When available, include potential cost savings, efficiencies, or other benefits, and identify the sources or assumptions used to develop the estimates. F. GCDD Years 2–5 Plan Develop recommendations for programs including investment for years 2-5. 3. Project Requirements and Deliverables The selected applicant must: • Develop all products and deliverables at approximately a sixth grade reading level and in plain language. • Obtain meaningful input from people with I/DD and family members throughout the project. • Ensure recommendations address the needs of people with I/DD, family members, and the whole family. • Participate in regular check-ins with GCDD program staff to discuss progress, findings, and emerging issues. • Submit project outputs quarterly as part of the quarterly project reporting process. GCDD may request additional or interim outputs as needed throughout the project period. • Clearly document sources, methods, community input, and findings used to develop recommendations.

Order	Title	Text
		4. Mandatory cultural expectations: • Cultural knowledge and consideration of the communities being scanned. • Cultural considerations of the gap analysis. • Cultural considerations and guidance built into the final recommendations. • Recommendations should use an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, or another appropriate community development model, and prioritize strengthening and supporting local community-based organizations, resources, and businesses. 5. Preferred Grantee Qualifications: • Experience conducting research. • Experience engaging people with I/DD and families as meaningful partners in research or community planning. • Knowledge of culturally responsive research and community engagement practices. • Experience translating research findings into practical recommendations and implementation plans.
6	Application Guidelines & Instructions	Applications must be submitted online via https://www.ddsuite.org, prior to the published deadline. No hard copies will be accepted. Applicants must have or create a DD Suite user account and an organization account in order to submit an application. Go to https://www.ddsuite.org and click on "HELP TAB" for detailed instructions on creating DD Suite user and organization accounts. (See complete application process and Guide to DD Suite attached) Additional Submission Requirements: 1) Upload of copy of the Federal W-9 (attached to this NoFA) 2) E-Verify Affidavit (attached to this NoFA) 3) 501c3 (if applicable) 4) Most recent audit including cover letter and findings OR Year to Date Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement (waived for universities) 5) Conflict of interest policy required 6) Procurement policy and/or procedure required 7) Insurance liability coverage certificate (waived for universities) 8) Letters of Recommendation (optional) 9) Resumes of Project Staff (optional) Each proposal should be prepared simply and economically, avoiding the use of elaborate promotional materials (unless materials have been requested) beyond those sufficient to provide a complete presentation. If supplemental materials are a necessary part of the proposal, the Applicant should reference these materials in the technical proposal, identifying the document(s) and citing the appropriate section and page(s) to be reviewed. Any proposal received after the due date and time will not be evaluated. Evaluation Process The evaluation of proposals received on or before the due date and time will be conducted in the following phases. Any proposal received after the due date and time will not be evaluated. Administrative Review The Program Manager will screen each proposal. The screening will consist of: (1) determining if the Applicant is eligible to receive Council funds including determining if the Applicant meets eligibility requirements and is registered to do business in Georgia; (2) the budget is within the funding limits and includes the required match; (3) the application is complete and all sections in DD Suite have responses; and, (4) the required forms are attached. DD Suite will issue an automatic reply acknowledging receipt of your proposal immediately after successful submission.

Order	Title	Text
7	NOFA Policies	Rejection of Proposals/Cancellation of NoFA The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularity or informality in a proposal, and to accept or reject any item or combination of items; when to do so would be to the advantage of the State. It is also within the right of the State to reject proposals that do not contain all the elements and information requested in this document. The State reserves the right to cancel this NoFA at any time. The State will not be liable for any cost/losses incurred by the Applicants throughout this process. NoFA Amendments The State reserves the right to amend this NoFA prior to the proposal due date. All amendments and additional information will be posted to http://ddsuite.org Applicants are encouraged to check this website frequently. Proposal Withdrawal A submitted proposal may be withdrawn prior to the due date by a written request to the Grants Manager. A request to withdraw a proposal must be signed by an authorized individual. Cost for Preparing Proposals The cost for developing the proposal is the sole responsibility of the Applicant. The State will not provide reimbursement for such costs. Conflict of Interest If an Applicant has any existing client relationship that involves the State of Georgia, the Applicant must disclose each relationship. Reciprocal Preference Law OCGA 50-5-60(b) For the purposes of evaluation only, Applicants resident in the State of Georgia will be granted the same preference over Applicants resident in another State in the same manner, on the same basis, and to the same extent that preference is granted in awarding bids for the same goods or services by such other State Applicants resident therein over Applicants resident in the State of Georgia. NOTE: For the purposes of this law, the definition of a resident Applicant is one who maintains a place of business with at least one employee inside the State of Georgia. A post office box address will not satisfy this requirement. ADA Guidelines The State of Georgia adheres to the guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Applicants should contact the Grants Manager at least 48 hours in advance if they require special arrangements when attending the Applicant's Conference. The Georgia Relay Center at 1-800-255-0056 (TDD Only) or 1-800-255-0135 (Voice) will relay messages, in strict confidence, for the speech and hearing impaired. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Requirements: All applicants must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) (https://sam.gov) and include a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) in their application, unless exempt under 2 CFR §25.110(b) or (c) (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-25/section-25.110). If your entity is already registered in SAM.gov, your UEI is assigned and available in your registration record. If not, a UEI will be issued during the registration process (https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration). Applicants must maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information throughout the application review period and for the duration of any federal award. The Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities cannot issue an award until these requirements are met.

 People

Role	Person
Council Finance Staff	Harry Nelson , Deputy Director, harry.nelson@gcdd.ga.gov , (470) 599-1890
Council Program Staff	Rena Harris , Chief Program Officer, rena.harris@gcdd.ga.gov

Order	Desc	Limit	Question
1	Organizational type and contact information	250	Please provide the following: Organizational type (nonprofit, governmental, university, tribal entity, etc.), and the Authorized signatory identification.
2	Summary Statement	1500	Please outline the problem is the project trying to solve, and why is it important. What impact do you hope the project will have on the people, groups, or communities it serves?
3	Work plan	1000	Please provide the following: Goal, Objective, Activities, Outputs, Expected outcomes including method of measurement.
4	Data Collection and Evaluation Methods	500	Please explain how you will collect and use information to track the project’s progress, measure its impact, and determine if it is meeting its goals?
5	Connection to the Council’s State Plan goal & objective	500	Please explain how this project supports the Council’s State Plan Goal 1: Inclusion and how the project’s activities and expected impact will help advance it.
6	Cultural and linguistic competence	500	Explain how the project will make sure its activities respect the culture, language, and needs of the people and communities it serves.
7	Outreach	500	Explain how will the project will reach and engage people and communities that may have limited access to services, resources, or opportunities.

[\\$ Budget Categories](#)

Category	Nature Of Expense
Personnel with Fringe	List types of fringe benefits (e.g., health insurance, retirement). Provide the percentage or amount used to calculate the fringe benefits. Explain how the fringe benefits are calculated, e.g.: Provide rationale for the fringe benefit rates used.
Personnel without Fringe	List each position with a brief description of the role and responsibilities. Specify the salary or wage rate, percentage of time dedicated to the project, and total cost. Provide a formula or calculation used to determine the total personnel cost.
Consultant/Sub-Contracted Services	Outline the services to be contracted, including scope and vendor. Provide the estimated cost of each service. Include quotes or vendor estimates. Explain why the service is needed and how it supports project objectives.
Travel	Outline the purpose of travel, destinations, and duration. Detail the estimated costs for transportation, lodging, meals, and other expenses. Explain how travel costs are estimated, referencing per diem rates or quotes from travel agencies.
Supplies/Publications	Detail the types of supplies needed and their purpose. Provide estimates for each type of supply. Explain the basis for cost estimates, such as bulk purchase prices or quotes.
Participant Support Costs	Please lists costs that help participants take part in approved program activities, such as preapproved stipends, travel, registration fees, meals, and temporary dependent care.
Other Direct Costs	Include any additional costs (e.g., publication costs, training). Provide estimates for each cost. Justify the cost estimates with relevant data or quotes.
Indirect Cost	Enter amount on match line only.

[🔗 NoFA \(RFP\)Attachments](#)

1. **GCDD _Everify** - [Contractor Affidavit aka E-Verify.\(GCDD\).pdf](#)
2. **Federal W9 2024 Version** - [Federal W9 2024 Version.pdf](#)