

NCDHHS Announces Funding Opportunity for Peer Support Services for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and Serious Mental Illness

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RALEIGH — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today released a funding opportunity to award a total of \$3 million: \$300,000 per year for up to 5 sites to develop peer-to-peer support services for individuals with co-occurring serious mental illness and intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) as well as family and parent peer supports. The goal is to help individuals, families, and caregivers navigate systems more effectively, learn from the experience of other families, feel less alone, gain hope, ideas, and information.

“NC DHHS recognizes the value of lived experience and using those with lived experience to advance health and wellbeing for all North Carolinians, said Deepa Avula, Director DMHDDSUS. “The ability to leverage mental health funding to address co-occurring serious mental illness and I/DD will be a great help to both communities”.

Programs and research in the behavioral health field support the value of a peer support program that is specifically designed for individuals with I/DD”. NCDHHS’ Division Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services is soliciting applications from non-profit behavioral health providers who have experience providing peer and/or family peer support services. Applicant agencies will:

- Develop Family Peer Support / Family Partners Pilots or Peer Support Programs
- Provide services to include: information and referral navigation; individualized supports to parents/caregivers; parent training and education; system navigation; intensive family support during crises; and specialized supports for families experiencing challenges with child-serving systems
- Initiate and lead community events that bring families together, raise awareness, and provide educational opportunities

“This is an exciting opportunity to meet the needs of an often-overlooked population,” Avula said. “NCDHHS is committed to highlighting the important work peers do in engaging and supporting quality services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

Full details on the application and performance timeline, eligibility criteria for applying and allowable uses of program funds can be found at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/grant-opportunities/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse-services-grant-opportunities>.

The funding for this program is made possible by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s COVID-19 emergency relief funding, in accordance with the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act of 2021, which is provided via the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant awarded to NCDHHS.