

**SD COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
GRANT APPLICATION - - TITLE PAGE**

Applicant Organization: Disability Rights South Dakota

Address: 2520 E. Franklin Street Pierre, SD 57501

Telephone: 605-224-8294

Federal ID Number: 46-0339207

Project Director: Cole Uecker - Executive Director, Devin Labbee-Darling - Coordinator

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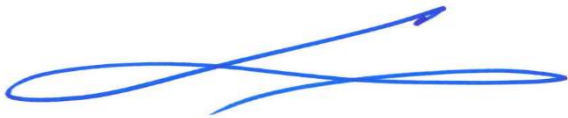
Under "Type of Organization" indicate all the following that apply: State, county, municipality, or other public institution; nonprofit or profit private institution. If "nonprofit" and/or "tax exempt", proof of status may be requested.

Type of Organization: Non-profit **Tax Exempt?** Yes

Title of Project: Leadership Development for Self-Advocates and Family Members

Project Begins: October 1, 2025 **Project Ends:** September 30, 2026

Total Council Funds Requested: \$ 210,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$ 280,000



September 12, 2025

ABSTRACT

This proposal is in response to the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities (SDCDD) Request for Funding (RFF) in the Area of Emphasis: Quality Assurance – Leadership Development. Continued funding will allow for implementation of the Leadership Training for Self-Advocates and Family Members (to include Year 34 of Partners in Policymaking and activities for SD Advocates for Change (SDAC). By the end of April 2025, approximately 750 South Dakotans were trained through these grants.

There remains a crucial need to provide individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed life decisions. The training programs have two main objectives: first, to build partnerships between individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families, and those who can influence policy and legislative changes; and second, to inspire individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to take on active leadership roles in the community.

The Partner's training is intended to equip participants with the necessary skills to drive personal success in effecting change at the local, state, and federal levels, focusing on challenging existing systems and creating new possibilities for the future. Through comprehensive training, participants will gain insights into the history, philosophy, and strategies necessary for effecting systemic change in critical disability policy areas. The program also provides timely information, leadership training, and skill-building opportunities for individuals to access services for themselves and others. The 34th-year leadership training will comprise 120 hours of instruction spread over six sessions and weekends. Participant selection for the program will take place in September of 2025. Recruitment efforts will be conducted statewide. Continuing education training will align with the final weekend of the Partners training, and previous graduates are encouraged to attend to stay updated on current issues and enhance their advocacy skills.

Additionally, the grant's SDAC portion will offer further leadership training for self-advocates and help them establish a network of leaders. This initiative will include supporting the establishment or strengthening of self-supported advocacy organizations led by individuals with developmental disabilities, enabling leadership training for others, and expanding participation in leadership coalitions that are both cross-disability and culturally diverse.

Advocates deliver presentations at the Partners in Policymaking training, continuing education sessions, and various community organizations, underlining the knowledge and ability of individuals with disabilities to express their needs and navigate service delivery systems. This serves as an inspiration for current participants, demonstrating the potential for everyone to advocate and influence service delivery systems. Many SDAC participants have completed the Partners in Policymaking program, and others are considering applying.

In FY25, the SDAC has made notable contributions by delivering presentations on important subjects including transition, self-advocacy, and community engagement and inclusion. They are actively involved in the planning of the SOAR and DD conferences and support South Dakota programs by reviewing and providing valuable input including a new proposed pen pal program.

The total Council monies requested are **\$210,000.**

PROJECT NARRATIVE

A. STATEMENT OF NEED

This proposal responds to the SDCDD current Quality Assurance Objective “Leadership Development.” This goal is to deliver training that will motivate and support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in developing their advocacy and leadership skills.

There remains a crucial need to provide individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed life decisions. The training programs have two main objectives: first, to build partnerships between individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families, and those who can influence policy and legislative changes; and second, to inspire individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to take on active leadership roles in the community.

Partner participants in Year 34 and all graduates of the program will learn the importance of completing and returning surveys. A group of Partner graduates has committed to completing surveys sent out by various agencies. These surveys are used by the DD Council, DRSD, The UCED, Division of Developmental Disabilities and others to design services and set priorities for their agencies. The importance of this activity will be stressed to the participants in the sessions and at Year 34 continuing education. Participants will understand and see the value of their input in helping to shape services in the disability arena by completing those surveys and voicing their concerns and ideas. SDAC will also learn the importance of completing and returning surveys.

Participants will complete surveys prior to a presentation and after the presentation is completed to see what they have learned from the specific topic. SDAC will assist individuals to attend conferences, assist with those that need support (drivers, etc.), and travel costs for both in-state and out-of-state travel. By incorporating this grant and the Partner grant together, it enables the SDCDD to complete more activities within its state plan. This grant will assist in developing collaboration with other agencies, helping everyone to learn from one another.

Statement of Problem

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families often do not have the confidence, training, skills, and experience to make decisions. Approximately eighteen thousand (18,000) individuals (about the seating capacity of Madison Square Garden) receive special education services in the state. In addition, an estimated 2,500 individuals receive services from residential or day programs. When decisions are made that affect a person's life, the right to make that decision is rightly the individual and/or family members. For individuals to assume a decision-making role and become their own advocate, effective skill training must be provided to assist them in this process.

The elements of the Partners in Policymaking training include, but are not limited to the following: setting personal goals; being informed about personal and legal rights; learning decision making and planning skills; learning or improving effective communication skills; asserting personal rights; taking responsibility for your life; asking for help because you want or need it; finding out who will support you in what you want to do; and beginning to change the way things are. These objectives interface with the needs of the participants and the purpose of creative leadership-training like Partners in Policymaking. In South Dakota, attitudinal, architectural, cultural, social, and political barriers continue to prevent full inclusion of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families in their communities. The following are examples of problems that are identified from DRSD advocacy experience, observation, and survey results:

- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities struggle with inclusion in the disability and non-disability populations and remain vulnerable.
- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are becoming more independent and self-directed but

continue to be exploited financially and are often targets of abuse.

- Service providers and family members are often overwhelmed by the complex needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who want to become more self-reliant.
- The costs for services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities often receive negative publicity, rather than the consideration that the benefits the public investment led to long-term financial savings.
- The national trend is to eliminate inappropriate institutional settings to require states to design service systems that provide rules to support individuals to live as independently as possible in a community environment.
- Persons without disabilities in the workplace feel threatened by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who seek competitive employment.
- Technology, while available, is often difficult for people with intellectual developmental disabilities to access in the workplace, for recreational purposes, and in their homes.
- Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are applying for entitlement programs such as SSI/SSDI and are being turned down on the initial application at an alarming rate.
- Self-advocacy skills need to be expanded. The increase in these skills increases the potential number of people who could benefit now and in the future.
- Participants will receive awareness training about sexual violence and human trafficking.
- Partners participants will receive information about their rights in the election and voting process.

This Leadership Development Grant is designed to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have diverse levels of functional skills. The training is designed to meet each person's unique needs. The state of South Dakota, service providers, school districts, advocacy organizations, and other non-profit entities that assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have an enormous educational task before them. For individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to achieve the needed advocacy skills to address their needs, an organized, structured, supportive approach like Partners in Policymaking and South Dakota. Advocates for Change need to be continued and funded. The SD Council on Developmental Disabilities has a chance to continue as an advocate for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities through these leadership-training programs.

Proposed Solutions

Partners in Policymaking is designed to provide information, training and skill building to individuals so they may obtain the most appropriate state-of-the-art services for themselves and others. This education and training project is designed for a limited number of highly motivated, committed, and interested individuals.

Partners in Policymaking involve and trains people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to assert these skills in the policymaking arena. It introduces and connects people with organizations, opportunities, and possibilities to make changes in the delivery of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It educates the participants about approaches for meeting their identified needs. It familiarizes participants with the policymaking and legislative processes in their local communities and at the state and national level. The overall goal is to achieve a productive partnership among traditionally unserved and underserved individuals who need and use services, those in a position to make policy and law, and service providers. Participants will be expected to assist others by sharing the knowledge they have gained.

The funding from this grant will teach people how to:

- 1) Demonstrate an increased knowledge of the historical perspectives and precedents of services for people with disabilities.
- 2) Describe the history and role of the parent movement.
- 3) Describe the history and role of the independent living movement.
- 4) Describe the history and role of the self-advocacy movement.
- 5) Describe the reasons for quality inclusive education.
- 6) Outline specific strategies to achieve inclusion and quality of education.
- 7) Demonstrate how to be effective in team meetings.
- 8) Demonstrate their knowledge of the case management system and what services may be available.
- 9) Build a shared vision with fellow participants.
- 10) Demonstrate how to meet with a public official and discuss issues.
- 11) Describe how a bill becomes a law at the state level.
- 12) Demonstrate successful techniques for advocating services to meet the needs of unserved and underserved individuals.
- 13) Draft and deliver testimony at actual and mock legislative hearings.
- 14) Describe state-of-the-art technologies for people with severe disabilities.
- 15) Identify strategies for beginning and sustaining grassroots level organizing around specific issues.
- 16) Identify strategies for effective involvement on boards, committees and commissions.
- 17) Identify mechanisms to promote cooperation and coalition building between separate disability organizations that will result in combined strength to influence public policy more effectively.
- 18) Understand the types of support necessary for creating a positive home environment.
- 19) Prepare for and meet with Congressional delegation members or staff.
- 20) Demonstrate proper procedures for conducting a meeting.
- 21) Learn which agency to contact if suspected abuse or neglect has occurred to an individual with a developmental disability.

B. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION PLAN- PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

Objective 1:

Project Completion Date:

Develop six two-day training sessions.	09/30/2026
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Sub-objectives 1:

Project Completion Date:

Select speakers, negotiate fees, and contract regarding competencies & presentations.	04/30/2026
Contract with facilities for site locations and to determine equipment needs.	04/30/2026
Develop agendas appropriate for each session, meet with speakers, presenters, and others as necessary. Draft agendas have been developed for Year 34 and are available upon request.	ONGOING
Review competencies for each session.	04/30/2026
Develop homework assignments and methodologies to review assignments.	04/30/2026

Coordinator will attend sessions, participate as speaker and moderator, and will provide support. as necessary	ONGOING
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Performance Outcomes: Individuals trained through Partners in Policymaking will receive training on the history of disabilities; inclusive education/community; legislative procedures; testimony; self-advocacy; person centered thinking; etc. This training will help individuals participate more fully in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and systems. Fifteen individuals will receive initial training in Year 34 (2025-2026) **IFA 1.1; IFA 1.2**

Systems Change: Participants learn who to contact, how to contact, and how to organize campaigns and coalitions to ask for better and more services; speak to policymaking to change laws & systems. Six to seven graduates will write letters, provide testimony, or otherwise contact their legislator. **SC 1.1.1; SC 1.2.1; SC 1.3.1**

Objective 2:

Project Completion Date:

Administration of Partners in Policymaking	ONGOING
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Sub-objectives 2:

Project Completion Date:

Provide information and assistance to participants between sessions as requested.	ONGOING
Modify curriculum materials as needed.	ONGOING
Be available to Partners to assist individuals requiring help with interpreting materials.	ONGOING
Meet, as needed, with participants for input on training.	ONGOING
Meet as needed with support staff to review budget, expense forms, and contract management.	AS NEEDED/BIWEEKLY
Provide daily management of the project.	ONGOING

Objective 3:

Project Completion Date:

Evaluation of Partners in Policymaking	9/30/2026
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Sub-objectives 3:

Project Completion Date:

Develop, with modifications where necessary and appropriate, and implement initial survey of participants after selection.	TWO WEEKS AFTER COMPLETION OF SELECTION
Develop, with modifications where necessary and appropriate, and implement workshop/training and session evaluations forms at each training session.	ONGOING
Review and tabulate evaluation results after each training session.	TWO WEEKS AFTER EACH TRAINING SESSION IS COMPLETE
Conduct long-term (end of project) follow-up evaluation of participants.	9/30/2026
Evaluate training project at conclusion of project.	9/30/2026
Complete monthly/final progress reports keyed to budget & project objectives.	AS REQUIRED BY RFP

Performance Outcome: Graduates are sent a survey at 6 months and 1 year and then all graduates receive a long-term survey every year to evaluate their participation in various activities; contact with policymakers; etc. Approximately 30% of all

graduates will return the survey. **IFA 3.1; IFA 3.2**

Objective 4:

Project Completion Date:

Conduct and manage ongoing professional development training for alumni.	4/30/2026
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Sub-objectives 4:

Project Completion Date:

Solicit input from graduates to determine their continuing education training needs.	03/01/2026
Based on the input from graduates, develop continuing education training agenda.	03/01/2026
Conduct continuing education training for graduates.	04/30/2026
Evaluate the training and determine training needs.	4/30/2026

Performance Outcome: Each year all graduates are eligible to attend continuing education to enhance their knowledge in self-advocacy; legislative issues; meetings; public speaking; current events; conducting meetings; quality of life wellness sessions; etc. 135 graduates of Partners in Policymaking will attend and participate in continuing education class for FY26. Five graduates will provide training at various other events, and five graduates will do outreach. **IFA 2.21; IFA 2.2.2**

Objective 5:

Project Completion Date:

Continued Partner in Policymaking graduate participation	ONGOING
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Sub-objectives 5:

Project Completion Date:

Graduates will be invited to assist with outreach activities and current trainings when they are located within proximity of their home	ONGOING
Year 33 participants will assist coordinator with promotion and recruitment of Year 34 participants	09/15/2026
Graduates will be invited to assist the coordinator with presentations to promote Partners in Policymaking and to share information about the impact of the training in their lives	ONGOING
Graduates will be actively involved in an advisory capacity to DRSD (Disability Rights South Dakota)	ONGOING
DRSD will keep graduates informed of current issues through the coordinator	ONGOING
Graduates will be asked to provide a written summary of their current advocacy efforts	ONGOING
DRSD staff will provide action alerts on an as needed basis to graduates	ONGOING
Graduates will be asked to assist with recruitment of new partners	ONGOING
Selected Partner graduates will be asked to serve on the Partner Selection Committee	09/30/26
Graduates will be asked to assist and host public listening sessions	ONGOING

Performance Outcome: Graduates will be asked to join boards, councils, committees to help change systems for individuals with disabilities. **IFA 2.23**

Objective 6:

Project Completion Date:

Recruit applicants and select participants who will represent a diverse group based on gender, marital status, geographical location, race or ethnicity and a variety of intellectual and developmental	9/20/26
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Sub-objectives 6:

Project Completion Date:

Update brochure and promotional materials	03/01/26
Make modifications, where necessary, to application and announcements.	03/01/26
Implement partnership application process for individuals who may require assistance with travel, reviewing information presented, and homework assignments	03/01/26
Disseminate announcements and applications to organizations and individuals statewide; follow-up as needed with personal phone contacts.	ONGOING
Coordinator will meet with consumer/advocacy organizations to promote Partners	ONGOING
Meet with other organizations for recruitment	ONGOING
Recruit a selection committee of graduates to review applications and select participants	09/30/26
Receive and review applications for project eligibility. Convene selection committee and apply selection criteria. Select 15-20 new participants	ONGOING
Make modifications to participant contracts as needed	10/30/25
Notify all applicants regarding the results of the selection committee	ONGOING
Contact individuals selected to guarantee their commitment	10/15/25

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN SDAC

Goal 1 – Support for SDAC

SDAC activities will include:

- Peer Support, Technical Assistance, and Training: SDAC members will provide training and technical assistance to local groups on topics such as why it is important to advocate; what happens if we don't advocate; self-advocacy skills; community outreach/volunteering; speaking about boards about inclusion, different ways to advocate. Team members will provide at least one training session in their home or nearby community.

Performance Measure IFA 1.1: The number of self-advocates who participate in SDCCD support activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their life, and the lives of others will be 20-25.

Performance Measure IFA 2.21: The number of people with disabilities who are better able to say what they want or say what services and support they want or say what is important to them will be 20-25.

- Regular communication, i.e., zoom meetings, emails, newsletters, will be led by team members. Team members will be responsible for composing the contents of the meetings, emails, etc. If print is available, they will be distributed at exhibits and displays hosted at local, statewide, and national events and trainings attended by team members and staff.

Performance Measure SC 1.4: The number of people trained or educated through SDCDD systemic change initiatives will be 20-25

Other activities will include (**but not limited to**):

- Participate in events such as Disability Awareness Day, community volunteering, school presentations, self-advocacy training, podcast, video training series, etc. (**SC 1.4**)
- Team Training is using the internet and social media (**IF 2.2**)
- Outreach activities focused on recruiting new members (**SCF1.4**)
- Participants will present at Partners Graduation Continuing Education Session

Method of Procedure

Partners in Policymaking is a well-organized and structured innovative national model of leadership training designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families who are traditionally identified as unserved or underserved. DRSD and the PADD Program propose to continue to follow the same methodologies and procedures as for Year 1 through Year 34. Throughout FY 25, SDAC gained momentum and is becoming well-known throughout South Dakota as a leadership group. Through this grant, SDAC will be exposed to Partners and those who have not participated in the past will have the opportunity to do so.

Recruitment Plan

Individuals traditionally identified as unserved and underserved are specifically targeted for recruitment. A variety of methods were used to ensure outreach to ethnic and racial minorities, families/individuals with low-incomes, and single parent families.

DRSD pays attention to recruitment from the unserved and underserved areas of the state.

The following methodologies have been completed and will be implemented again for Year 34. Some of these methodologies will be adapted by SDAC to meet their program goals and objectives. Another example of how these two programs will work together.

- Contact with advocacy organizations, which represent various ethnic communities will be established via personal contact, phone calls, and mailings. These contacts will be for information sharing. If translation assistance is required, appropriate resources will be sought.
- Nominations will be solicited from advocacy and consumer organizations.
- Minority populations will receive information via various neighborhood organizations.
- Minority communities will be contacted using the resources available through the tribal councils, contacts, support organizations, and school systems.
- Families with low income will be reached by sharing information and application packages with local and state welfare systems.
- Information will be shared with the numerous advocacy organizations that represent people with disabilities and their families.

- Presentations will be made by graduates or participants to requesting agencies. Every effort will be made to include both parents of individuals with disabilities and individuals with disabilities.
- Contact will be made with the directors of Community Service Programs for their input on who can benefit the most from the program. Also, contact will be made with Family Support Coordinators, Birth to 3 Coordinators, SpEd directors, and Head Start.
- Social media

Staffing Plan

NAME

Cole Uecker

Devin Labbee-Darling

TITLE

Executive Director

Self-Advocacy Coordinator

A. EVALUATION OF PROJECT

The Partners in Policymaking project and SDAC and its participants will be evaluated in various ways and periodically.

After recruitment of prospective participants, a selection committee will select 20-25 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and/or persons with an interest in issues affecting people from this group, with consideration for geographic dispersion. A partnership application process will be used for individuals requiring assistance.

Individuals to join the SDAC leadership team will be sought out by those currently participating and by contacting CSPs throughout South Dakota.

Participants will complete a workshop/training evaluation form to provide feedback on their perceptions of the applicability of the session to the issues they encounter in their lives. They will also complete a session evaluation form to provide feedback on the presenter and materials utilized during that training session. All evaluations will be completed at the end of each training session. Within two weeks after each session, the Project Coordinator will tabulate the evaluation results. This information will be used to measure the effectiveness of the presenter. Participants in the Partners' portion of this grant will be given homework assignments to complete between each training session. At the following session, the participants will hand in their completed homework assignment, and the coordinator will then review the homework. Evaluations will also be completed for the continuing education training for Partners in Policymaking

SDAC participants will receive training on specific topics and will do a pre survey and a post survey to evaluate what information they have gathered. These surveys will also assist the coordinator in evaluating if further education in a specific topic is needed.

The Project Coordinator will complete monthly progress reports and a final progress report for the SDCDD keyed to budget and project objectives. The coordinator will conduct an outcome based (end of project) follow-up evaluation of participants.

All graduates of Partners in Policymaking will receive a long-term survey.

Participant Information: DRSD will collect this information as required by the grant.

Budget Narrative Leadership Development For Individuals & Families w/Disabilities 10-01-2025 – 09-30-2026

(NOTE: Some figures were rounded)

Audit, Copier, Tech support, operating expenses & equipment are 4% of total DRSD budget

PERSONNEL

Staff Wages	Rate	Council Request	DRSD Share	Total
Fiscal Director	1.50%	911.90	59,881.88	60,793.78
Project Coordinator	90%	47,995.43	5,332.83	53,328.26
Fiscal Assistant	1.50%	426.30	27,994.35	28,420.65
Executive Director	1.50%	1,453.50	95,446.59	96,900.09
Total		50,787.13	188,655.65	239,442.78

Fringe Benefits	Rate	Council Request	DRSD Share	Total
FICA	0.46%	387.61	83,876.09	84,263.70
Medical Insurance	0.3%	300.10	99,735.28	100,035.38
LTD/STD	5%	715.18	13,588.58	14,303.76
SEP 5% Salary	0.4649%	256.06	54,819.93	55,073.99
Total		1,658.95	252,019.88	253,676.83
				\$ 52,446.08

TRAVEL

Meals:

Year 34 class meals:

\$40/day x 20 participants x 2 days x 4 sessions	6,400.00
\$40/day x 20 participants x 3 days x 1 sessions	2,400.00
SDAC meals:	
\$40/day x 8 participants x 2 days x 8/year	5,120.00
DD Council meal (meeting on Partners Graduation weekend):	
\$20 x 25 members	500.00
Speaker meals:	
\$20/day x 4 speakers x 4 sessions	320.00
\$14/lunch x 12 (bill coaches and Legislatures)	168.00
	\$ 14,908.00

Hotels:

Year 34 lodging:

20 participants x \$110 x 2 days x 4 sessions	17,600.00
20 participants x \$110 x 3 days x 1 session	6,600.00
SDAC lodging:	
\$110 x 8 participants x 2 days x 4/year	7,040.00

(disability awareness day, partners sessions and graduation, conferences)	
DD council lodging (meeting on Partners graduation weekend):	
\$110/day x 25 members	2,750.00
	\$ 33,990.00
Mileage:	
Year 34 mileage:	
\$0.35/mile x 20 participants x 350 miles x 6 sessions	14,700.00
SDAC mileage:	
\$0.35/mile x 10 participants x 350 miles x 8/year	9,800.00
DD Council mileage (meeting on Partners graduation weekend):	
\$0.35/mile x 25 members x 350 miles	3,062.50
Speaker mileage:	
\$0.35/mile x 5 sessions x 2 speakers x 350 miles	1,225.00
	\$ 28,787.50
Respite care/attendant care	
Year 34 respite/attendant care:	
\$100 x 4 participants x 6 sessions	2,400.00
SDAC personal attendant care:	
\$100 x 4 participants x 8/year	3,200.00
DD Council respite/attendant care:	
\$100 x 25 members	2,500.00
	\$ 8,100.00
Year 34 Partner Grad assistant:	
Mileage:	
\$0.35/mile x 448 miles x 5 sessions	784.00
Honorarium:	
\$50/day x 5 sessions x 2 days	500.00
Honorarium:	
\$50/day x 1 sessions x 3 days	150.00
Respite care/Attendant:	
\$100 x 6 sessions	600.00
Lodging:	
\$110 x 5 sessions x 2 days	1,100.00
Lodging:	

\$110 x 1 session x 3 days	330.00
	\$ 3,464.00

Continuing Education:	
Meals:	
\$40 x 219 meals	8,760.00
Lodging:	
\$110 x 1 day x 17	1,870.00
\$110 x 2 days x 42	9,240.00
\$110 x 3 days x 7	2,310.00
\$110 x 4 days x 3	1,320.00
Assistance for Past Partner Graduates:	
Fr Dinner - 30 people @ \$20 = \$600 Saturday meals \$40/day x 30 people= \$1200 Lodging – 30 people x \$55 x 2 nights = \$3300 (Unplanned people at meals, help cover difference between what Graduates pay for family members and actual cost of Sat. dinner, etc.)	

5,100.00

	\$ 28,600.00
TRAVEL TOTAL	\$ 117,849.50
CONTRACT/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
Derrick Dufresne	2,025.00
Emily Shuman	450.00
Elizabeth Nelson	633.87
Kim Neilsen	1,000.00
Sarah Lindemulder	300.00
Steve Willard	1,000.00
Patrick Schwarz	3,500.00
Robert J Kean	1,500.00
CE Speakers	1,500.00
Keynote speaker	2,000.00
DD Council meeting room (meeting on Partners graduation weekend):	
room rental \$300 + coffee and soda \$150	450.00
Year 34 sessions 1-5 room rental fee:	
meeting room \$700 + coffee and soda \$130 x 5 sessions	4,150.00
Year 34 meeting room at the Capital:	

\$100	100.00
Partners Graduation weekend meeting room rental:	
\$6225 - \$ 850 (in-kind)	5,375.00
Printing of course workbook (based on previous printing with company)	341.55
CONTRACT/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TOTAL	\$ 24,325.42
A-133 AUDIT SHARE	\$ 2,500.00
TECH SUPPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 3,179.00
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Business/Professional Insurance	2,080.00
Telecommunication	2,160.00
Rent	2,000.00
Dues/Outreach/Training	750.00
OPERATING EXPENSES TOTAL	\$ 6,990.00
EQUIPMENT	
Equipment rentals	300.00
Supplies	1,200.00
Postage	800.00
Maintenance	410.00
EQUIPMENT TOTAL	\$ 2,710.00
IN-KIND MATCH	
Panel speakers for Year 34 trainings:	
\$25/hr. x 10 speakers x 1.5 hrs. Donated travel/per diem/lodging (Based on 20 people <incl driver/attendant>/6 classes):	375.00
Participants donated time:	
Training hours: 2007 x \$15/month	30,105.00
Travel time: 540 x \$15/hour	8,100.00
Homework hours: 300 x 15/hour	4,500.00
Partner graduate assistance donated time:	
Training hours: 100 x \$25 /hr.	2,500.00

Partner graduates projected outreach activities:	
250 x \$25/hour	6,250.00
Discounted hotel rooms	
115 x 2 x \$25	5,750.00
SDAC presenters at 3 trainings/year:	
8 advocates preparing, traveling, 5 support, presenting- 13 hours @ \$20/hour	2,860.00
SDAC attend Disability Awareness Day in Pierre:	
8 advocates: 5 travel & support, presenting 3 hours x \$20/hour	3,120.00
SDAC participating in creating training videos:	
average 8 advocates - 3 travel and support - 3 hours x \$20/hr.	1,320.00
SDAC participating in creating podcast:	
average 5 advocates - 6 hours x \$20/hr.	600.00
SDAC participating in community trainings:	
average 5 advocates - 6 times/year 1 hour x \$20/hr.	600.00
Advocates participating in weekly zoom meetings:	
average 7 advocates - average 56 times/year- 30 min x \$20/hour	3,920.00
IN-KIND MATCH TOTAL	\$ 70,000
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ 280,000.00

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

PERSONNEL:

Budget expenditures will cover a proportionate share of salaries and benefits for the Partners in Policymaking training coordinator and support staff activities, including but not limited to preparing training materials, trainer travel and training requirements, participant travel and lodging requirements, group meal function arrangements, prior year partners continuing education and graduation activities, accounting activities and preparation of financial and monthly reports, etc.

DRSD fiscal and administrative support staff assists the Partners in Policymaking and SDAC training effort as needed or required to fulfill the training and contract requirements.

A proportionate share of benefits will be allocated to Partners and includes employer's share of Social Security/Medicare contributions (.0765 percent), health insurance, unemployment insurance contributions, short and long-term disability, SEP retirement plan contributions as well as booked vacation/sick leave accruals.

STAFF TRAVEL:

Project Coordinator will travel to and from designated training sites, meet with application review panel, make necessary personal contacts with state, local and national participants and provide promotional presentations for Partners in Policymaking and SDAC training projects upon requested. All other associated staff travel expenses will be incurred by DRSD.

TRAINING/TRAVEL EXPENSES:

(All training expenses, unless otherwise noted, are based on 6 trainings x 2 days per training x 20 participants for Partners and 4 trainings x 2 days x 14 participants for SDAC)

Per Diem: Applicable per diem will be paid to training participants per DRSD rate schedule of \$40.00 per day or applicable portion of a day per policy schedule.

Lodging: Two nights lodging per training session will be provided for training participants.

Mileage/Travel Expenses: Mileage or travel expenses will be paid to training participants at the rate of \$0.35 per mile. Participants will be encouraged to carpool when possible.

Personal Attendant/Respite Care: Partners in Policymaking and SDAC training will cover partial costs of personal attendants or respite care providers as needed.

Meeting Room Rentals: Hotel charges related to facility meeting room use.

Equipment: Supplemental equipment necessary for training sessions exceeding DRSD inventory will be rented.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:

Trainer Fees & Travel Expenses: Fees for trainers with expertise in areas specified in Objective I will be recruited at a rate not to exceed \$6,500 per weekend session plus actual air fare or mileage, applicable per diem or meal expenses will be paid with presentation of required receipts.

Other Training Accommodations: Specialized accommodation provisions will be made as needed for the training sessions and continuing education component, i.e. interpreters, oral or audio materials, etc. Special precautions and equipment will be provided due to the pandemic.

DD Council on Developmental Disabilities

This category also includes payment for the SD Council of Developmental Disabilities members to host a meeting. Any additional cost to attend Partners' continuing education and graduation ceremonies is budgeted under the appropriate section and category. (ex. Meals for DD council members are counted under continuing education meals, respite is under respite care etc.)

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Postage: Expenditures for general business communication and operation, mailings to disseminate announcements and applications, coordination of training and the dissemination of pertinent educational and informational materials.

Telecommunications: Expenditures for monthly line services, in-bound toll-free calls, and internet services will be allocated on a pro-rata basis.

Consumable Supplies: Expenditures for training manual binders, copy paper, writing instruments, note pads, computer/printer supplies.

Rent: A share of office rent expenses will be allocated on a pro-rata basis.

Insurance: Expenses for commercial business owners, directors' and officers' liability, and workmen's compensation insurance will be allocated on a pro-rata basis.

Maintenance: Maintenance for office cleaning and office equipment, copy machines, computers, and fax machines will be allocated on a pro-rata basis.

OTHER:

Includes expenditures for but not limited to contractual printing for outreach and training materials such as brochures, applications, homework assignments, evaluations and surveys, recruitment of potential training participants and printing and postage costs.

IN-KIND TIME MATCH:

In-kind time donated (including travel, training and homework) by individuals participating in current Partners in Policymaking training class, along with certain select trainers or panel participants. In-kind hours are figured at a rate of \$15.00 per hour for first year participants and \$25.00 per for graduates of the Partners training and \$20 for SDAC participants. For budgetary purposes, DRSD has entered \$70,000 total for in-kind.

DRSD and OTHER BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS:

These resources, while a part of the total budget, are not matching funds but sponsorships for the training of additional individuals selected by the sponsor. As in previous years, sponsorship contributions are being solicited from the USD - Center for Disabilities and Parent Connection.

Description	(A) Requested DD Council Funds	(B) Allowable Match from Applicant **	(C) Allowable Match from Other Agencies **	(D) Total Contract Grant Budget (A + B + C)	(E) Un-allowable Match from Applicant & Other Agencies	(F) Total Project Budget (D + E)
PERSONNEL	52,446.08					52,446.08
TRAVEL	117,849.50					117,849.50
CONTRACTUAL	30,004.42					30,004.42
OPERATING EXPENSES	6,990.00					6,990.00

EQUIPMENT	2,710.00					2,710.00
OTHER						
IN KIND MATCH		70,000				70,000
GRAND TOTAL	210,000	70,000				280,000

Affirmative Action Plan

DRSD is committed to a policy that all personnel activities be conducted in a manner to assure equal opportunity and nondiscrimination. Any decisions or action regarding employment, board membership and involvement of volunteers will be based solely on individual merit and fitness of applicants and employees related to specific jobs and duties without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, or other non-merit factors. This principle shall remain the focus when considering board composition requirements.

All aspects of personnel management, hiring, appointment, training, promotion, demotion, recruitment, advertising, termination, pay and other terms and conditions of participation of volunteers will be governed by this commitment to a policy of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination. It is the policy of DRSD to take affirmative action to involve, employ, and advance employment-qualified individuals with disabilities.

DRSD

DRSD is the gubernatorially designated statewide protection and advocacy system for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people with a severe and persistent mental illness diagnosis, client and client applicants of Rehabilitation Services and Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired. DRSD is a proven leader in developing innovative programs and has established the PADD Program, the Client Assistance Program (CAP), Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights Program (PAIR), Protection and Advocacy Program for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), Protection and Advocacy-Assistive Technology Program (PAAT), Protection and Advocacy Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI), Protection and Advocacy for beneficiaries of Social Security Program (PABSS), Protection and Advocacy Voting Act (PAVA) and Protection and Advocacy Beneficiary Representative Payee (PABRP).

DRSD is a statewide non-profit corporation established under South Dakota corporate statutes and meets state and federal tax exemption requirements. The corporate Board of Directors consists of 3-15 people with proven interests in disability issues from across South Dakota. Current members of the Governing Board include individuals with disabilities, including intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In fulfilling the responsibilities of these programs, DRSD has extensive experience in providing training, educational materials, and technical consultation in issues affecting individuals with disabilities. The formats for this training and representation have varied. Staff have presented to state legislative committees, parent groups, educators, members of the state bar and judiciary, provided individual representation, and have developed relationships Native American groups on and off the tribal nations.

While providing a diverse number of services through its component programs, DRSD purposefully attempts to resolve issues at the lowest possible level. The resolution efforts include the use of negotiation and mediation where appropriate.

To facilitate problem resolution at the lowest level, DRSD has developed and maintains a dialogue with key agencies. When appropriate, staff can contact necessary agency personnel to present and discuss issues. DRSD is encouraged to comment on efforts undertaken by state agencies on relevant systemic topics.

DRSD staff meet regularly to review and analyze case activity and methodology and to evaluate program effectiveness. Factors considered included in these processes are client eligibility based on mandate and case criteria; relationship to established priority area; timeliness; and client expectations versus outcome etc.

The component of DRSD that will implement the Partners in Policymaking training is the PADD Program. The PADD Program has staff located in Pierre, Sioux Falls, and Rapid City. The program staff includes Executive Director; Program Lead, Legal Director; staff attorneys, advocacy service representatives, and administrative support staff.

The Project Coordinator will implement the objectives of the project. The Executive Director, Fiscal Manager, and clerical support will be available to provide direction and technical assistance, consultation, and clerical support.

DRSD has successfully conducted Partners in Policymaking since its inception in South Dakota in 1992. Overall evaluations of the program are excellent. Testimonies from participants continuously reflect the positive impact the program continues to have on their lives and those of their family members.

Facilities and Equipment:

The Project Coordinator will utilize space at the DRSD office in Pierre. This allows for geographical dispersion in the state and enables the program staff to access key office equipment such as telephone, copier, fax, computers, etc.

The office is accessible and located near designated accessible parking. The office is self-contained to include a break area. An accessible lavatory is on site. The office is equipped for accessible communication.

Cole Uecker

1418 E. Cabot St. • Pierre SD 57501 • Phone (605) 280-5419 • cole.uecker@drsdlaw.org

Employment Experience

Disability Rights South Dakota – Executive Director/Staff Attorney/CAP, PAVA, PAIR Lead, Adult Team Lead: May 2015 – Present

- *2520 E. Franklin St. Ste #2 Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 224-5294*
- *POC Ona Vernon*
 - Protect and advocate for the safety, rights and self-determination of South Dakotan's with disabilities
 - Work with service providers to educate and effectuate systemic changes to benefit those in the disability community
 - Lead and Supervising Attorney for DRSD's *Adult Team*

Kopetsky's Ace Hardware – Customer Service/Inventory Maintenance: March 2013 – May 2015

- *2404 Broadway St Yankton, SD 57078 (605) 260-2813*
- *POC Russ Crosley*
 - Maintain, and stock merchandise in the store.
 - Provide customer service to all patrons.
 - Run cash register, make retail signs, and maintain inventory counts of all products.
- *Reason for leaving: Moved to Pierre to begin career at Disability Rights South Dakota*

Probuild Lumberyard – Yardhand: May 2011 – August 2012

- *301 E 3rd St Yankton, SD 57078 (605) 665-7423 (Out of Business)*
- *POC Rob McKittrick*
 - Maintain and stock lumber and other building materials on the premises
 - Delivery of building materials to contractors all over the Yankton area.
 - Providing customer service for those seeking materials within the store
- *Reason for leaving: Return to USD School of law for the 2012/2013 school year*

Hillcrest Country Club – Bartender: September 2011 – January 2013

- *2206 Mulberry St Yankton, SD 57078 (605) 665-4522*
- *POC Waren Muller*
 - Providing excellent, enjoyable, and friendly customer service.
 - Providing drinks for dining area at service bar.
 - Maintaining the orderliness and overall stocked condition of bar area.

DanBred North America (Onida Nucleus) – Herdsman: March 2010 – January 2011

- *8613 300th Avenue Onida, SD 57564 (605) 264-5524*
- *POC: Dave Jensen – Team Leader of Dan Bred Onida Nucleus*
 - Conduct daily procedures and inspections aimed at maintaining overall livestock health and productivity.
 - Maintained complex and precise records in relation to multiples of

- variables within the farrowing operation.
- Worked as a member of a team in order to maintain relative sterility and total bio-security at the nucleus site.
- *Reason for leaving: Move to Yankton SD to pursue Law Degree at USD School of Law*

2010 South Dakota Legislative Session – Intern: January 2010 – March 2010

- 500 E. Capitol Ave Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 773-3251
- POC: Jim Frye – Director of the Legislative Research Council (retired)
 - Conduct research to support and pass legislative acts.
 - Conduct daily duties as an executive assistant
 - Participate in every aspect of the legislative process
- *Reason for leaving: End of 2010 Legislative Session*

Education

University of South Dakota School of Law

- 414 E Clark St Vermillion SD 57069
- August 2011 – December 2014
- J.D degree (Law)

Black Hills State University

- 1200 University Street Spearfish SD 57799
- January 2008 – December 2009
- Graduated with
 - B.S. in Political Science
 - Minor in Criminal Justice

College of the Desert in Palm Desert; Major: Criminal Justice

- 43-500 Monterey Ave, Palm Desert, Ca 92260 (760) 346-8041
- January 2005 – December 2007

T.F. Riggs High School

- 1010 E Broadway Ave, Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 773-7350
- September 1996 – May 2000

Devin Labbee-Darling Sioux Falls, South Dakota | (605) 553-6270 | devin.labbee-darling@drsdlaw.org

Experience

PAIR Program Lead | Disability Rights South Dakota | Sept 2021- Present

- Assisting in developing, implementing, and reviewing the program/agency goals, priorities, and objectives
- Assist Team Leads in reporting on performance of program
- Monitoring grand expenditures based on project budget
- Assisting in preparation and coordination of all applicable program reports to ensure timely submission
- Serving as an institutional resource on requirements of the grant in implementing the program and monitoring compliance with the grant
- Coordinating with external agencies, partners, and other stakeholders in the delivery of program services
- Reviewing and revising information and promotional materials and correspondence specific to the program
- Auditing for quality assurance
- Identifying program needs and reporting to Team Lead(s)
- Making referrals based on program needs
- Draft reports for the South Dakota report

Advocacy Services Representative

- Maintain case load through providing case narratives, participating in quality assurance, working with staff attorneys, and other staff
- Meeting with and providing information including referral services to clients or potential clients
- Facility monitoring and investigation
- Monitoring and auditing service providers
- Investigating complaints, grievances, and allegations
- Completing documentation, reporting, and other information in the case management information system
- Negotiating and mediating concerns
- Conducting training and outreach on program and project
- Participate in various disability related training
- Seeking out opportunities to educate on disability awareness

Sexual Assault Disability Liaison

- Assist in civil legal advocacy efforts including but not limited to protection orders and accompanying to court hearings
- Act as a resource to domestic violence centers, victim services, first responders, and victims of sexual assault.
- Crisis intervention
- Assist clients in long term care services. Connect them with services to help with daily needs.
- Help create and promote peer support and self-advocacy
- Meet strict budgetary objectives and adjust project constraints
- Work with other organizations to address systematic inconsistencies
- Develop and offer trainings to individuals with disabilities, families, caregivers, and other persons working with individuals with disabilities

Administrative & Accounting Assistant | Community College for Sioux Falls | Nov 2017-Sept 2021

Accounting Assistant

- Perform a range of transactional accounting duties while ensuring accuracy and consistency of transactions when entering and balancing financial data in a timely manner
- Manage accounts payable, prepared journal entries, set up and maintained accounts, processed payments, and prepared reports
- Manage over 75+ vendor accounts and process 20+ vendor invoices on a weekly basis

- Budget daily cash flow and create reports to submit to Accountant
- Responsible for time-sensitive and confidential material

Administrative Assistant

- Research, create proposal for an implement a new phone system to better serve students and other businesses
- Serve diverse student population including first generation, English language learners, and high-risk
- Serve as a liaison for various main campus resources
- Maintain multiple schedules, while providing clerical and administrative support to academic and student services teams

Billing Disputes Representative | Citibank | July 2015- Nov 2017

- Inform cardholders on the regulations and timeframes for disputes along with their right and responsibilities
- Assist in training over 30+ new hires, ensuring they understand federal and local law
- Mentor new hires as they complete on the job training
- Distribute important and time sensitive policy updates
- Participate in departmental focus groups to improve procedures

Education

Bachelor Of Science: Sociology -Minor in Criminal Justice | Dec 2020 | South Dakota State University

Additional Experience


- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| • Member of the United States Air Force | Feb 2008-Apr 2010 |
| • Guest Speaker on sexual assault, disability, trauma, and trauma informed care | 15+ events |
| • Junior Achievement of South Dakota Teacher | |
| • Internship as TA for Dr. Cheryl Hartman | Six years
One Semester |

ASSURANCES

1. The applicant assures that grant funds made available under the SDCDD will not be used to supplant state or local funds but will be used to increase the amounts of such funds that would be made available for other similar activities.
2. The applicant assures that grant funds made available under the SDCDD will be used to complement and augment rather than duplicate or replace services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families who are eligible for federal assistance under other state programs.

3. The applicant assures that fund accounting, auditing, monitoring and such evaluation procedures as may be necessary to keep such records as the SDCDD shall prescribe will be provided to assure fiscal control, proper management, and efficient disbursement of funds received through the SDCDD.
4. A clear audit trail must be maintained for each source of funding. Receipts, expenditures and disbursements must be individually accounted for from each source of funds.
5. The applicant agrees to submit reports indicating activities undertaken, expenditures, match provided, program income and general progress of the project. Projects must submit a final report at the end of the grant funding period.
6. The applicant certifies that the program contained in its application meets all the requirements, that all the information is correct, that there has been appropriate coordination with affected agencies, and that the applicant will comply with all provisions of the SDCDD and all other applicable laws.
7. The applicant understands that although an effort will be made to continue the funding of projects of proven effectiveness or with a record of proven success, each project must stand on its own merit each year. No project will be guaranteed continued funding. NOTE: Projects/programs must re-apply annually for funding.
8. This agreement depends upon the continued availability of federal funds and expenditure authority from the Legislature for this purpose. This agreement will be terminated by the State if the Legislature fails to appropriate funds or grant expenditure authority. Termination for this reason is not default by the State nor does it give rise to a claim against the state.
9. The applicant also understands and agrees: 1) that funds received are to be expended only for the purpose and activities covered by the applicant's approved application and budget, and 2) that the grant may be terminated at any time by the SDCDD if the applicant fails to comply with the provisions of the SDCDD legislation or any of the certified assurances listed above and in the grant agreement.

CERTIFICATION – I certify that I have read and reviewed the above assurances and will comply with all provisions of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities legislation and all other applicable federal and state laws.



Signature of Authorizing

September 12, 2025

Official Date

Cole Uecker, Executive Director
 Disability Rights South Dakota
 2520 E Franklin St Suite 2
 Pierre, SD 57501
 605/224/8294