**2024 – 25**

**SPARKS:**

**Building Community Connections**

**GRANTS**



***Spark a change in your community with a SPARKS Grant!***

*Apply by Friday, September 6, 2024*

A picture containing drawing

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This work is supported by the Wisconsin Board for people with Developmental Disabilities, in part by grant number 2001NJSCDD-02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, D.C. 20201 as part of a financial assistance award totaling $1,305,492 with 91% funded by ACL/HHS and 9% funded by the State of WI.  Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions.  Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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|  | **SPARKS Grants Application Timeline** |

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| **Activity:** | **Date:** |
| **Applications released** | **June 1, 2024** |
| **Applications Due** | **Sept 6, 2024** |
| **Review process complete/applicants notified** | **Sept 20, 2024** |
| **SPARKS Kick-off event (via Zoom)**  **Participation is mandatory to receive grant.** | **Sept 27, 2023**  **9:30 am to Noon** |
| **Start date of contract** | **Oct 1, 2024** |
| **End date of contract** | **Sept 30, 2025** |

Questions? Contact Jenny Neugart at [jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov) or at (608) 266-7707.

***\*Diverse Identities*** *refers to people of various races, cultural and ethnic heritages, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, ages, and religions**from diverse socio-economic and geographic backgrounds*

*The term* ***“unserved and underserved****” includes populations such as individuals from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, disadvantaged individuals, individuals with limited English proficiency, individuals from underserved geographic areas (rural or urban), and specific groups of individuals within the population of individuals with developmental disabilities, including individuals who require assistive technology in order to participate in and contribute to community life.*

**What are the Sparks Building Connections Grants?**

The purpose of these grants is to:

* Provide people with disabilities more social connections by participating in inclusive, meaningful community activities.
* Help individuals and organizations understand how to offer and implement more inclusive programming.
* Encourage community members to get to know someone with a disability and improve overall attitudes about people with disabilities.

In writing your grant application, consider the following inclusion model…

Diagram

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**Examples of what you can do with the grant.**

* Make school extracurriculars accessible to students with disabilities and be intentional about inviting them to participate.
* Host a community conversation to talk about ways to meaningfully include people with disabilities in community programs and then work on an idea or two over the next year.
* Implement innovative ways to make families with children with disabilities feel welcome in their faith community.
* Create inclusive recreation programs instead of separate, adaptive programs for people with disabilities.

**Please note: we cannot fund projects that benefit an individual, capital projects or existing projects. If you have a new idea that would expand an existing project, you may submit an application. Be sure to clearly describe the new activities in your application.**

**What can you expect from BPDD?**

Grant recipient will **receive ongoing coaching/technical assistance** to help you get started on your project as well as throughout your project. You will also have opportunities to **share your project ideas and resources** with other grant recipients from around the state.

**What are you committing to?**

1. Attend the **mandatory** **virtual** **Kickoff on September 27, 2024 from 9:30 am to noon via Zoom.** This event will focus on:
   1. strategies for projects to be successful
   2. sharing ideas with other projects
   3. reviewing grant expectations
   4. confirming contracts
2. Start the project **no earlier than October 1, 2024** and complete the work plan by **September 30, 2025.**
3. Provide **quarterly updates** throughout the year.
4. **Submit monthly or quarterly requests for reimbursements**, along with required receipts for all expenses.
5. **Share information on the project**, including any public events that are planned and photos that can be used in BPDD social media.
6. Conduct **targeted outreach** with **people of** **diverse identities and/or individuals who are underserved.**

**Who can apply?**

An ideal grantee would be any individual or group who wants to be more inclusive of people with disabilities, has an idea but may need help implementing it. Traditionally underserved groups are especially encouraged to apply. Examples include:

* Faith-based, civic and nonprofit groups
* School districts
* Municipalities or local governments such as community recreation programs
* Family groups
* Individuals or groups with strong connections to their community

**How much funding can you request?**

A total of $20,000 has been allocated. Funding for individual grants **ranges between $500 - $5,000**. A **detailed budget** must accompany all grant proposals (a budget template is included in the application packet).

**How do you apply?**

* Complete and submit the **Building Connections application packet** (application, budget, **and** work plan). ***If you would prefer to complete the application through an interview process, please contact Jenny Neugart at*** [***jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov***](mailto:jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov) ***or (608) 266-7707 to set up a time to talk.***
* Application materials are due **by 12:00 p.m. on September 6, 2024.**
* Application materials can be **submitted via email (preferred) or regular mail.**
  + To submit via **email (preferred)**, please send to [jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov)
  + To submit via **regular mail**, please send to:

Sparks Grants

c/o WI-BPDD

101 East Wilson St, Rm 219

Madison, WI 53703

**How will projects be chosen?**

* Applications will be reviewed and scored by a **team of no less than 3 people**.
* Proposals that **target individuals with I/DD who have diverse identities and/or individuals who are underserved** will be given priority.
* Each member will read and score each proposal independently, discuss each proposal jointly, and then **submit final results for tabulation**.
* The **scores from each reviewer** will be averaged, and a final score will be assigned to the proposal. Scores will be ranked from highest to lowest scores. The **highest-ranked proposals will be funded**. We reserve the right to discuss modifications to the proposal.

**Glossary of Terms for Project Work Plan**

**Goal:** A goal states the best possible outcome for people. Goals are simple, clear, and optimistic – e.g., ***More people with disabilities will participate in park and rec programs in their community.***

**Objective:** Objectives are steps needed to reach the goal. They describe a concrete change in people’s actions or condition. Objectives are concrete, measurable, optimistic, but realistic – e.g., ***The number of people with disabilities participating in park and rec programs will double by the end of the grant.***

**Outcome:** Results of an activity, plan process or program, accomplishment/impact – e.g., ***Increase the number of people with disabilities participating in park and rec programming.***

**Project Work Plan:** A project work plan defines the tasks you need to complete to fulfill the requirements/deliverables of the project. The written plan includes project purpose, goals, objectives, specific activities, outcomes, deliverable and target dates.

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|  | **APPLICATION**  **FORM** |

***Application materials (application form, budget, and work plan) are due by 12:00 p.m. on September 6, 2024.***

**Lead Applicant Name and/or Organization:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email address:**

1. Tell us about yourself or your organization.
2. Please describe your **project idea** in 8 to 10 sentences. What will you do?
3. If this is an existing project, how will your idea expand on it? We cannot fund existing projects without a new component.
4. How many people do you hope to reach with your project?
5. How will this project make your community more inclusive?
6. Successful projects will **build on community strengths** to address community problems. What **strengths** does your community have that you will build on (e.g. active community engagement, strong partners already in place, support from local elected officials, etc.)?
7. Please list the people, agencies, organizations, etc. that will work on this project with you.
8. Successful projects include team members with disabilities who provide guidance and perspective through their lived experience. How will your project team meaningfully include people with disabilities from the planning stage through implementation?
9. How will your project work with people who have **diverse identities and/or individuals who are underserved, including people with disabilities and people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.**
10. How will you know that your **project was successful**?
11. How will you **continue** these activities without project funding next year?

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|  | **BUDGET**  **WORKSHEET** |

BPDD has allocated a total of $20,000 funds for the SPARKS grants. Funding for individual grants ranges between $500 - $5,000. A detailed budget must accompany all applications.

Funding cannot be used for vehicles or vehicle modifications, technology, building modifications, fundraising, playground equipment, to pay for services an agency/organization is already charged with providing, or to pay staff time already being paid by an agency/organization.

**SAMPLE BUDGET**

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| **ITEM** (be as specific as possible) | **COST** |
| Meeting supplies (wall board, markers, post-it notes, copies) | $300.00 |
| Materials for rec program (i.e. sensory items) | $500.00 |
| Refreshments ($100 x 6 meetings) | $600.00 |
| Staff time (5 hrs/wk for 25 weeks @ $18/hr) | $2,250.00 |
| Event t-shirts 100 @ $5/ea. (rest of the shirts were donated) | $500.00 |
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| **TOTAL** | **$4,150.00** |
| **In-kind contributions** |  |
| Volunteers at 2 events (10 people for 4 hours x 2 events) | 80 hours |
| Event t-shirts (donated from ABC org.) 50 shirts x $5.00 each | $250.00 |

**YOUR PROJECT’S BUDGET**

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| **ITEM** (be as specific as possible) | **COST** |
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| **TOTAL** |  |
| **In-kind contributions** |  |
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|  | **PROJECT**  **WORK PLAN** |

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| **Primary Project Contact Person:**  **Project Title**: | | **Contact Info** (address, phone number, email): | | |
| **Project Goal(s):** | | | | |
| **Work Plan** | | | | |
| **Project Objectives/Activities:**  **(What will you do?)** | **Outcomes:**  **(What will you achieve?)** | | **Deliverables/Products:**  **(What will you develop/create?)** | **Target Date:**  **(When will it be done?)** |
| **EXAMPLE:** Create an inclusive soccer program for kids ages 3 to 5 years old. | **EXAMPLE:** 7 youth with disabilities will play soccer with their nondisabled peers in the community. | | **EXAMPLE:** Tip sheet or guide on how to include people with disabilities in existing rec programs. | **EXAMPLE:** 7/1/23 |
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