

Administration for Community Living

Center for Innovation and Partnership

Assistive Technology Act National Activities: State Training and Technical Assistance for Assistive Technology Programs and National Assistive Technology Public Internet Site
HHS-2022-ACL-CIP-ATTA-0053
06/28/2022

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ACL Center:
Center for Innovation and Partnership

Funding Opportunity Title:
Assistive Technology Act National Activities: State Training and Technical Assistance for Assistive Technology Programs and National Assistive Technology Public Internet Site

Funding Opportunity Number:
HHS-2022-ACL-CIP-ATTA-0053

Primary CFDA Number:
93.464

Due Date for Letter of Intent:
06/03/2022

Due Date for Applications:
06/28/2022

Date for Informational Conference Call:
06/01/2022

Applications that fail to meet the application due date will not be reviewed and will receive no further consideration. You are strongly encouraged to submit your application a minimum of 3-5 days prior to the application closing date. Do not wait until the last day in the event you encounter technical difficulties, either on your end or, with https://www.grants.gov. Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours to notify you of a successful submission.

Executive Summary

Additional Overview Content/Executive Summary

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) issues the FY 2022 Assistive Technology National Activities Program Funding Opportunity Announcement. The purpose of the National Activities Program under section 6 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (AT Act of 2004) is to support activities designed to improve the administration of the AT Act, which authorizes grants to States and Territories under section 4 to support comprehensive, statewide assistive technology programs (State Grant for AT Programs) that increase access to and acquisition of AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities. The AT Act requires ACL to support training and technical assistance to the entities funded under the AT Act and entities not funded under the AT Act, and to support a national AT public Internet site to improve awareness of and access to AT devices and AT services, through a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

State Training and Technical Assistance for Assistive Technology Programs and National Assistive Technology Public Internet Site

Section 6 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (AT Act of 2004) authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living (ACL) to fund programs to support National Activities. ACL announces one discretionary grant competition for State Training and Technical Assistance for Assistive Technology Programs and National Assistive Technology Public Internet Site under section 6(b) of the AT Act, to fund a cooperative agreement to provide training and technical assistance to support the entities authorized under section 4 of the AT Act and entities not funded under the AT Act to improve the effectiveness of activities supported under the AT Act, including an assistive technology (AT) Internet site to provide to the public comprehensive, up-to-date information on resources related to AT and programs funded under the AT Act. ACL takes this action to assist the entities funded under the AT Act to administer and manage their programs in order to improve their performance, to provide information to the public, and to increase access to and acquisition of AT devices and services for individuals with disabilities.

If the applicant chooses to award sub-grants or subcontracts to carry out activities required under this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), the applicant's proposal must reflect clearly how the applicant will collaborate with any entities to which the applicant will provide a sub-grant or subcontract in order to ensure that activities conducted by those entities meet the requirements of this FOA and are consistent with the applicant's proposal.

Under this FOA, the applicant must--

1. Address State-specific information requests concerning assistive technology (AT) from entities funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (AT Act of 2004), and public entities not funded under the AT Act, including--
    a. Requests for information on effective approaches to Federal-State coordination of programs for individuals with disabilities, related to improving funding for, or access to, AT devices and AT services for individuals with disabilities of all ages;

b. Requests for state-of-the-art, or model, Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate, and overcome barriers to, funding for, and access to, AT devices and AT services;
c. Requests for information on effective approaches to developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining activities described in section 4 of the AT Act that are related to improving funding for, or access to, AT devices and AT services for individuals with disabilities of all ages, and requests for assistance in developing corrective action plans;
d. Requests for examples of policies, practices, procedures, regulations, or judicial decisions that have enhanced or may enhance access to funding for AT devices and AT services for individuals with disabilities;
e. Requests for information on effective approaches to the development of consumer-controlled systems that increase access to, funding for, and awareness of, AT devices and AT services; and
f. Other requests for training and technical assistance from entities funded under the AT Act as well as public and private entities not funded under the AT Act;

2. Assist targeted individuals and entities by disseminating information about--
    a. Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate, and overcome barriers to, funding for, and access to, AT devices and AT services, to promote fuller independence, productivity, and inclusion in society for individuals with disabilities of all ages; and
    b. Technical assistance activities undertaken under paragraph (1) of this announcement;

3. Provide State-specific, regional, and national training and technical assistance concerning AT to entities funded under the AT Act as well as public and private entities not funded under the AT Act, including--
    a. Annually providing a forum for exchanging information concerning, and promoting program and policy improvements in, required activities of the statewide assistive technology programs (State Grant for AT Programs);
    b. Facilitating on site and electronic information sharing using state-of-the-art Internet technologies, such as real-time online discussions, multi-point video conferencing, and Web-based audio/video broadcasts, on emerging topics that affect State Grant for AT Programs;
    c. In collaboration with ACL, convening experts from State Grant for AT Programs, representatives of organizations representing individuals with disabilities and their families, representatives of Federal agencies, researchers in AT, and AT developers and vendors to discuss and make recommendations with regard to national emerging issues of importance to individuals with AT needs to identify priority topics for training and technical assistance and coordinate implementation of the activities with ACL;
    d. Sharing information on evidence-based and promising practices among State Grant for AT Programs, including strategies that promote coordination across AT programs and State No Wrong Door Systems, Aging and Disability Resource

Centers, State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, Early Intervention and Special Education Services, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Independent Living, home modification and housing programs, transportation programs, programs that address social isolation and loneliness, programs that help people transition out of institutions, workforce development and employment programs, education programs, and additional organizations from the aging and disability networks;

e. Assisting State Grant for AT Programs to reduce the costs of AT through the development or use of existing model cooperative volume-purchasing mechanisms;
f. Assisting State Grant for AT Programs to leverage their knowledge and resources and reduce the duplication of their activities;
g. Assisting State Grant for AT Programs in developing highly impactful partnerships that would significantly increase access to AT, including reuse of AT devices through community partnerships and additional community access points to ease individual access to AT.
h. Assisting State Grant for AT Programs in providing state-specifc information and national resources to enhance acquisition of AT devices and services through programs such as Medicaid Money Follows the Person and Home and Community Based Services.
i. Providing access to experts in the areas of banking, micro-lending, and finance for entities funded under the AT Act as well as other entities not funded under the AT Act;
j. Facilitating collaboration at the National and State level among entities funded under the AT Act and other entities involved in AT;
k. Working in coordination with ACL and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded technical assistance resource centers to promoted increased awareness and use of AT. ACL funded technical assistance resource centers include, but are not limited to: Housing and Services Resource Center (HSRC), ADA Participation Action Research Consortium (PARC), Paralysis Resource Center (PRC), Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) Program, Long-Term Service and Support Technical Assistance Center, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), Nutrition and Aging Resource Center, Transit Planning 4 All Program, and the Coordinating Center to Address Social Isolation. FTA funded technical assistance resource centers include: National Aging and Disability Transportation Resource Center (NADTC), National Center on Mobility Management, Rural Transportation Assistance Program, Shared Use Mobility Center, and the National Center for Applied Transit Technology; and
l. Facilitating consumer involvement in entities funded under the AT Act at the National and State level;

4. Updating and maintaining an accessible National Public Internet Site that includes links to entities funded under the AT Act, appropriate Federal departments agencies, and private associations that contains the following features:

a. Availability of information at any time. The site must be developed and designed so that any member of the public may obtain information posted on the site at any time.

At a minimum, the site must maintain updated information on and provide links, if available, to--

- Device demonstration programs funded under the AT Act, and, to the extent practicable, not funded under the AT Act, where individuals may try out AT devices;
- Device loan programs funded under the AT Act and, to the extent practicable, not funded under the AT Act, where individuals have access to a repository of available AT devices to borrow;
- Device reutilization programs funded under the AT Act and, to the extent practicable, not funded under the AT Act, that provide for the exchange, repair, recycling, or other reutilization of AT devices;
- State financing systems, including Alternative Financing Programs (AFPs) operated through, or independently of, State Grant for AT Programs, and other sources of funding for AT devices;
- Cooperative volume-purchasing programs funded under the AT Act or, to the extent practicable, not funded under the AT Act;
- Protection and advocacy for assistive technology programs (PAAT Programs);
- Other projects funded under section 6 of the AT Act;
- Relevant State and Federal programs, and other resources, that provide or increase access to AT devices and services; and

b. Resources--

- Library on AT. The site must include access, either directly or through links, to a comprehensive working library on AT for all environments, including home, workplace, education, transportation, and other environments and shall be constructed with an innovative automated intelligent agent that is a diagnostic tool for assisting users in problem definition and selection of appropriate assistive technology devices, services and resources;
- Information on accommodating individuals with disabilities. The site must include access, either directly or through links, to evidence-based research and best practices concerning how AT can be used to accommodate individuals with disabilities in the areas of education, employment, health care, community living, and telecommunications and information technology; and
- Resources for a number of disabilities. The site must include, either directly or through links, resources relating to the largest possible number of disabilities, including resources relating to low-level reading skills;

5. Collaborate in developing and providing training and technical assistance with other organizations, in particular--
    a. Organizations representing individuals with disabilities;
    b. Organizations representing AT programs;
    c. Organizations representing State officials and agencies engaged in the delivery of AT;

d. Organizations representing State No Wrong Door Systems, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies, Early Intervention and Special Education Services, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Independent Living, Agencies on Aging, and additional organizations from the aging and disability networks;
e. Tribal organizations serving people with disabilities; and
f. The entity responsible for data collection reporting and assistance under the AT Act;

6. Include plans to increase awareness and use of AT through partnerships at the national, state and community levels;
7. Provide ACL the data, information, surveys, and feedback necessary to evaluate and improve the delivery of technical assistance and training to the statewide AT programs and to revise and redirect activities, as necessary; and
8. Include plans for evaluating the effectiveness of the technical assistance and training programs and the national public internet site.

Statutory Authority
Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (P.L. 108-364)

II. Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:
CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Estimated Total Funding:
$3,125,000

Expected Number of Awards:
1

Award Ceiling:
$625,000
Per Budget Period

Award Floor:
$500,000
Per Budget Period

Length of Project Period:
60-month project period with five 12-month budget periods

Additional Information on Project Periods and Explanation of 'Other'
Once a cooperative agreement is in place, requests to modify or amend it or the work plan may be made by ACL or the awardee at any time as long as it stays within the original confines of the proposed project description. Major changes may affect the integrity of the competitive review process. Modifications and/or amendments of the Cooperative Agreement or work plan shall be effective upon the execution of an award notice. When an award is issued the cooperative agreement terms and conditions from the program announcement are incorporated by reference unless ACL is authorized under the Terms and Conditions of award, 45 CFR Part 75, or other applicable regulation or statute to make unilateral amendments.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

For FY 2022 the below guidance is provided to advance the Administration's policy, as stated in E.O. 13985, to "pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality." This guidance is intended to begin to address inequities in HHS programs, processes, and policies that may serve as barriers to equal opportunity. By advancing equity in our NOFOs, we can "create opportunities for the improvement of communities that have been historically underserved, which benefits everyone."

Foreign entities are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement. Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity announcement.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:
No

For awards that require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources (at or above the statutory requirement) in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. The applicant will be held accountable for all proposed non-federal resources as shown in the Notice of Award (NOA). **A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching or cost sharing amount (and any voluntary committed amount in excess) may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients are not expected to provide cost sharing or matching. However, recipients are allowed to voluntarily propose a commitment of non-federal resources. If an applicant decides to voluntarily contribute non-federal resources towards project costs and the costs are accepted by ACL, the non-federal resources will be included in the approved project budget. The applicant will be held accountable for all proposed non-federal resources as shown in the Notice of Award (NOA). **A recipient's failure to meet the voluntary amount of non-federal resources that was accepted by ACL as part of the approved project costs and that was identified in the approved budget in the NOA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

3. Responsiveness and Screening Criteria

Application Responsiveness Criteria

All applicants will go through an initial programmatic screening to verify that the applicant is an eligible applicant as outlined in this Program Announcement. Applications that fail to meet the responsiveness criteria described below will not be reviewed and will receive no further consideration.

Application Screening Criteria

All applications will be screened to assure a level playing field for all applicants. Applications that fail to meet the three screening criteria described below will not be reviewed and will

receive no further consideration.

In order for an application to be reviewed, it must meet the following screening requirements:

1. Applications must be submitted electronically via http//www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, by the **due date listed in section IV.3 Submission Dates and Times.**
2. The Project Narrative section of the Application must be **double-spaced** on 8 ½" x 11" plain white paper with **1" margins** on both sides, and a **standard font size of not less than 11, preferably Times New Roman or Arial.**
3. The Project Narrative must not exceed 35 pages. **Project Narratives that exceed 35 pages** will have the additional pages removed and only the first 35 pages of the Project Narrative will be provided to the merit reviewers for funding consideration. NOTE: The Project Work Plan, Budget Narrative Justification, Budget Template, Letters of Commitment, and Vitae of Key Project Personnel **are not counted** as part of the Project Narrative for purposes of the 35-page limit.

Unsuccessful submissions will require authenticated verification from http://www.grants.gov indicating system problems existed at the time of your submission. For example, you will be required to provide an http://www.grants.gov; submission error notification and/or tracking number in order to substantiate missing the application deadline.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application materials can be obtained from https://www.grants.gov or https://www.acl.gov/grants/applying-grants.

Please note, ACL requires applications for all announcements to be submitted electronically through http://www.grants.gov in Workspace. Grants.gov Workspace is the standard way for organizations and individuals to apply for federal grants in Grants.gov. An overview and training on Grants.gov Workspace can be found here at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html

The Grants.gov registration process can take several days. If your organization is not currently registered, please begin this process immediately. For assistance with https://www.grants.gov, please contact them at support@grants.gov or 800-518-4726 between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

- At the https://www.grants.gov website, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, including the hours of operation. ACL strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application due date to begin the application process because of the time involved to complete the registration process.
- All applicants must have a UEI and be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM, www.sam.gov) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete, and should a grant be made, throughout the life of the award. Effective June 11, 2018, when registering or renewing your registration, you must submit a notarized letter appointing the authorized Entity Administrator. Please be sure to read the FAQs located at www.sam.gov to learn

more. Applicants should allot sufficient time prior to the application deadline to finalize a new, or renew an existing registration. This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application or receive an award. Maintain documentation (with dates) of your efforts to register or renew at least two weeks before the deadline. See the SAM Quick Guide for Grantees at: https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/help/samQUserGuides.jsf.

Note: Once your SAM registration is active, allow 24 to 48 hours for the information to be available in Grants.gov before you can submit an application through Grants.gov. This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application or receive an award.

- Note: Failure to submit the correct EIN Suffix can lead to delays in identifying your organization and access to funding in the Payment Management System.
- Effective October 1, 2010, HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for and ultimately receive federal grant funds from any HHS Operating/Staff Division (OPDIV/STAFFDIV) or receive subawards directly from the recipients of those grant funds to:

1. Register in SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
2. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV; and
3. Provide its UEI number in each application or plan to submit to the OPDIV.

Additionally, all first-tier subaward recipients must have a UEI number at the time the subaward is made.

- The Federal Government will transition from the DUNS Number to the New Unique Entity Identifier. By April of 2022, the federal government will stop using the DUNS number to uniquely identify entities. At that point, entities doing business with the federal government will use a Unique Entity Identifier (SAM) created in SAM.gov. It is entered on the SF-424. It is a unique, nine-digit identification number, which provides unique identifiers of single business entities.
- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information included on the SF424 and all necessary assurances and certifications. In accordance with the Federal Government's efforts to reduce reporting burden for recipients of federal financial assistance, the general certification and representation requirements contained in the Standard Form 424B (SF-424B) – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs, and the Standard Form 424D (SF-424D) – Assurances – Construction Programs, have been standardized federal-wide. Effective January 1, 2020, the updated common certification and representation requirements will be stored and maintained within SAM. Organizations or individuals applying for federal financial assistance as of January 1, 2020, must validate the federally required common certifications and representations annually through SAM located at SAM.gov.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment from https://www.grants.gov that contains https://www.grants.gov tracking number. The Administration for Community Living will retrieve your application form from https://www.grants.gov.

Contact person regarding this Program Announcement:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living

Robert Groenendaal
Center for Innovation and Partnership
Email: Robert.Groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Letter of Intent

Due Date for Letter Of Intent 06/03/2022

06/03/2022
Applicants are requested, but not required, to submit a letter of intent to apply for this funding opportunity to assist ACL in planning for the application independent review process. The purpose of the letter of intent is to allow our staff to estimate the number of independent reviewers needed and to avoid potential conflicts of interest in the review. Letters of intent should be sent to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Community Living
Robert Groenendaal
Center for Innovation and Partnership
Email: Robert.Groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov

Project Narrative

The Project Narrative must be double-spaced on 8 ½" x 11" paper with 1" margins on both sides, and a standard font size of not less than 11, preferably Times New Roman or Arial. You can use smaller font sizes to fill in the Standard Forms and Sample Formats. The suggested length for the Project Narrative is 25 to 35 pages; 35 pages is the maximum length allowed. Project Narratives that exceed 35 pages will have the additional pages removed and only the first 35 pages of the Project Narrative will be provided to the merit reviewers for funding consideration. The Project Work Plan, Letters of Commitment, and Vitae of Key Personnel are not counted as part of the Project Narrative for purposes of the 35-page limit, but all of the other sections noted below are included in the limit.

The sample components of the Project Narrative counted as part of the 35-page limit include:

- Summary/Abstract
- Problem Statement
- Goal(s) and Objective(s)
- Proposed Intervention
- Special Target Populations and Organizations

- Outcomes
- Project Management
- Evaluation
- Dissemination
- Organizational Capability

The Project Narrative is the most important part of the application, since it will be used as the primary basis to determine whether or not your project meets the minimum requirements for grants under the authorizing statutes. The Project Narrative should provide a clear and concise description of your project. ACL recommends that your project narrative include the following components:

Summary/Abstract

This section should include a brief - no more than 265 words maximum - description of the proposed project, including: goal(s), objectives, outcomes, and products to be developed. Detailed instructions for completing the summary/abstract are included in the "Instructions for Completing the Project Summary/Abstract."

Problem Statement

This section should describe, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, the nature and scope of the particular problem or issue the proposed intervention is designed to address, including how the project will potentially affect older adults and /or people with disabilities, their families and caregivers and the health care and social services systems.

Goals and Objectives

This section should consist of a description of the project's goal(s) and major objectives. Unless the project involves multiple, complex interventions, we recommend you have only one overall goal.

Proposed Intervention

This section should provide a clear and concise description of the intervention you are proposing to use to address the problem described in the "Problem Statement". You should also describe the rationale for using the particular intervention, including factors such as: "lessons learned" for similar projects previously tested in your community, or in other areas of the country; factors in the larger environment that have created the "right conditions" for the intervention (e.g., existing social or economic factors that you'll be able to take advantage of, etc.). Also note any major barriers you anticipate encountering, and how your project will be able to overcome those barriers. Be sure to describe the role and makeup of any strategic partnerships you plan to involve in implementing the intervention, including other organizations, supporters, and/or consumer groups.

Special Target Populations and Organizations

This section should describe how you plan to involve organizations in a meaningful way in the planning and implementation of the proposed project. This section should also describe whether, and if so, how the proposed intervention will target disadvantaged populations, including limited-English speaking populations, those of greatest economic need and those of greatest social need.

Outcomes

This section of the project narrative must clearly identify the measurable outcome(s) that will result from the project. (NOTE: ACL will not fund any project that does not include measurable outcomes). This section should also describe how the project's findings might benefit the field at large, (e.g., how the findings could help other organizations throughout the nation address the same or similar problems.) List measurable outcomes in the optional work plan grid ("Project Work Plan – Sample Template") under "Measurable Outcomes" in addition to any discussion included in the narrative along with a description of how the project might benefit the field at large.

A "measurable outcome" is an observable end-result that describes how a particular intervention benefits consumers. It demonstrates the functional status, mental well-being, knowledge, skill, attitude, awareness or behavior. It can also describe a change in the degree to which consumers exercise choice over the types of services they receive, or whether they are satisfied with the way a service is delivered. Additional examples include: a change in the responsiveness or cost-effectiveness of a service delivery system; a new model of support or care that can be replicated in the ACL network; new knowledge that can contribute to the field of community living; a measurable increase in community awareness; or a measurable increase in persons receiving services. A measurable outcome is not a measurable "output", such as: the number of clients served; the number of training sessions held; or the number of service units provided.

You should keep the focus of this section on describing what outcome(s) will be produced by the project. You should use the Evaluation section noted below to describe how the outcome(s) will be measured and reported.

Your application will be scored on the clarity and nature of your proposed outcomes, not on the number of outcomes cited. It is totally appropriate for a project to have only ONE outcome that it is trying to achieve through the intervention reflected in the project's design.

Project Management

This section should include a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of project staff, consultants and partner organizations, and how they will contribute to achieving the project's objectives and outcomes. It should specify who would have day-to-day responsibility for key tasks such as: leadership of project; monitoring the project's on-going progress, (i.e., measure of performance towards the goals stated in the funding opportunity announcement and for your specific intervention/activities) preparation of reports; communications with other partners and ACL. It should also describe the approach that will be used to monitor and track progress on the project's tasks and objectives.

Evaluation

This section should describe the specific outcomes (e.g., changes in clients, organizations, and/or communities) expected as a result of this funding as well as method(s), techniques and tools that will be used to: 1) determine whether the proposed intervention achieved its anticipated outcome(s), and 2) document the "lessons learned" – both positive and negative - from the project that will be useful to people interested in replicating the intervention, if it proves successful.

Dissemination

This section should describe the method that will be used to disseminate the project's results and findings in a timely manner and in easily understandable formats, to parties who might be interested in using the results of the project to inform practice, service delivery, program development, and/or policy-making, including and especially those parties who would be interested in replicating the project.

Organizational Capability

Each application should include an organizational capability statement and vitae for key project personnel. The organizational capability statement should describe how the applicant agency (or the particular division of a larger agency which will have responsibility for this project) is organized, the nature and scope of its work and/or the capabilities it possesses. It should also include the organization's capability to sustain some or all project activities after Federal financial assistance has ended.

This description should cover capabilities of the applicant agency not included in the program narrative, such as any current or previous relevant experience and/or the record of the project team in preparing cogent and useful reports, publications, and other products. If appropriate, include an organization chart showing the relationship of the project to the current organization. Please attach short vitae for key project staff only. Neither vitas nor an organizational chart will count towards the narrative page limit. Also include information about any contractual organization(s) that will have a significant role(s) in implementing project and achieving project goals.

Budget Narrative/Justification

The Budget Narrative/Justification can be provided using the format included in the document, "Budget Narrative/Justification – Sample Format." Applicants are encouraged to pay particular attention to this document, which provides an example of the level of detail sought. A combined multi-year Budget Narrative/Justification, as well as a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for each year of potential grant funding is required.

Note: Applicants will be required to resubmit budget narrative/justification documents that do not include the appropriate level of detail.

Work Plan

The Project Work Plan should reflect and be consistent with the Project Narrative and Budget and should cover all three (3) years of the project period. It should include a statement of the project's overall goal, anticipated outcome(s), key objectives, and the major tasks / action steps that will be pursued to achieve the goal and outcome(s). For each major task / action step, the work plan should identify timeframes involved (including start- and end-dates), and the lead person responsible for completing the task. Please use the "Project Work Plan - Sample Template" format as a reference and resource, if desired.

Letters of Commitment from Key Participating Organizations and Agencies

Include confirmation of the commitments to the project (should it be funded) made by key collaborating organizations and agencies in this part of the application. Any organization that is specifically named to have a significant role in carrying out the project should be considered an

essential collaborator. For applications submitted electronically via http://www.grants.gov, signed letters of commitment should be scanned and included as attachments. Applicants unable to scan the signed letters of commitment may fax them to the ACL Office of Grants Management at 202-357-3467 by the application submission deadline. In your fax, be sure to include the funding opportunity number and your agency name.

3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

The Grants.gov registration process can take several days. If your organization is not currently registered, please begin this process immediately. For assistance with https://www.grants.gov, please contact them at support@grants.gov or 800-518-4726 between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

- At the https://www.grants.gov website, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, including the hours of operation. ACL strongly recommends that you do not wait until the application due date to begin the application process because of the time involved to complete the registration process.
- All applicants must have a UEI number and be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM, www.sam.gov) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete, and should a grant be made, throughout the life of the award. Effective June 11, 2018, when registering or renewing your registration, you must submit a notarized letter appointing the authorized Entity Administrator. Please be sure to read the FAQs located at www.sam.gov to learn more. Applicants should allot sufficient time prior to the application deadline to finalize a new, or renew an existing registration. This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application or receive an award. Maintain documentation (with dates) of your efforts to register or renew at least two weeks before the deadline. See the SAM Quick Guide for Grantees at: https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/help/samQUserGuides.jsf.

Note: Once your SAM registration is active, allow 24 to 48 hours for the information to be available in Grants.gov before you can submit an application through Grants.gov. This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application or receive an award.

- Note: Failure to submit the correct EIN Suffix can lead to delays in identifying your organization and access to funding in the Payment Management System.
- Effective October 1, 2010, HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for and ultimately receive federal grant funds from any HHS Operating/Staff Division (OPDIV/STAFFDIV) or receive subawards directly from the recipients of those grant funds to:

1. Register in SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
2. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV; and
3. Provide its UEI number in each application or plan to submit to the OPDIV.

Additionally, all first-tier subaward recipients must have a UEI number at the time the subaward is made.

- The Federal Government will transition from the DUNS Number to the New Unique Entity Identifier. By April of 2022, the federal government will stop using the DUNS number to uniquely identify entities. At that point, entities doing business with the federal government will use a Unique Entity Identifier (SAM) created in SAM.gov. They will no longer have to go to a third-party website to obtain their identifier. This transition allows the government to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government. If your entity is registered in SAM.gov today, your Unique Entity ID (SAM) has already been assigned and is viewable in SAM.gov. This includes inactive registrations. The Unique Entity ID is currently located below the DUNS Number on your entity registration record. Remember, you must be signed in to your SAM.gov account to view entity records. To learn how to view your Unique Entity ID (SAM) go to this help article.
- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information included on the SF424 and all necessary assurances and certifications. In accordance with the Federal Government's efforts to reduce reporting burden for recipients of federal financial assistance, the general certification and representation requirements contained in the Standard Form 424B (SF-424B) – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs, and the Standard Form 424D (SF-424D) – Assurances – Construction Programs, have been standardized federal-wide. Effective January 1, 2020, the updated common certification and representation requirements will be stored and maintained within SAM. Organizations or individuals applying for federal financial assistance as of January 1, 2020, must validate the federally required common certifications and representations annually through SAM located at SAM.gov.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment from https://www.grants.gov that contains https://www.grants.gov tracking number. The Administration for Community Living will retrieve your application form from https://www.grants.gov.

4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications 06/28/2022

06/28/2022

Date for Informational Conference Call:
06/01/2022

Applications that fail to meet the application due date will not be reviewed and will receive no further consideration. You are strongly encouraged to submit your application a minimum of 3-5 days prior to the application closing date. Do not wait until the last day in the event you encounter technical difficulties, either on your end or, with http://www.grants.gov. Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours to notify you of a successful submission.

In addition, if you are submitting your application via Grants.gov, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and (2) register yourself with Grants.gov as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined at the following Grants.gov web page: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html.

After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only)

If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, please contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice and provide a written explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. ACL will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: We will not consider your application for further review if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

If for any reason (including submitting to the wrong funding opportunity number or making corrections/updates) an application is submitted more than once prior to the application due date, ACL will only accept your last validated electronic submission, under the correct funding opportunity number, prior to the Grants.gov application due date as the final and only acceptable application

Unsuccessful submissions will require authenticated verification from http://www.grants.gov indicating system problems existed at the time of your submission. For example, you will be required to provide an http://www.grants.gov submission error notification and/or tracking number in order to substantiate missing the cut off date.

Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) will automatically send applicants a tracking number and date of receipt verification electronically once the application has been successfully received and validated in http://www.grants.gov.

INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCE CALL
3:00 PM EASTERN TIME, JUNE 1, 2022
TOLL FREE NUMBER: 888-843-9982
PARTICIPANT PASSCODE: 2293814

5. Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

6. Funding Restrictions

The following activities are not fundable:

- *Construction and/or major rehabilitation of buildings*
- *Basic research (e.g. scientific or medical experiments)*
- *Continuation of existing projects without expansion or new and innovative approaches*

Note: A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report has raised considerable concerns about grantees and contractors charging the Federal Government for additional meals outside of the standard allowance for travel subsistence known as per diem expenses. Executive Orders on Promoting Efficient Spending (E.O. 13589) and Delivering Efficient, Effective and Accountable Government (E.O. 13576) have been issued and instruct Federal agencies to promote efficient spending. Therefore, if meals are to be charged in your proposal, applicants should understand such costs must meet the following criteria outlined in the Executive Orders and HHS Grants Policy Statement:

- *Meals are generally unallowable except for the following:*
    - *For subjects and patients under study (usually a research program);*
    - *Where specifically approved as part of the project or program activity, e.g., in programs providing children's services (e.g. Head Start);*
    - *When an organization customarily provides meals to employees working beyond the normal workday, as a part of a formal compensation arrangement,*
    - *As part of a per diem or subsistence allowance provided in conjunction with allowable travel; and*
    - *Under a conference grant, when meals are necessary and integral part of a conference, provided that meal costs are not duplicated in participants' per diem or subsistence allowances. (Note: Conference grant means the sole purpose of the award is to hold a conference.)*

The following updated sections 2 CFR 200.216 "Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment" became **effective on or after August 13, 2020**.

Recommended Actions for any recipient that has received a loan, grant, or cooperative agreement **on or after August 13, 2020**:

- Develop a compliance plan to implement 2 CFR 200.216 regulation.
- Develop and maintain internal controls to ensure that your organization does not expend federal funds (in whole or in part) on covered equipment, services or systems.
- Determine through reasonable inquiry whether your organization currently uses "covered telecommunication" equipment, services, or systems and take necessary actions to comply with the regulation as quickly as is feasibly possible.

7. Other Submission Requirements

Letters of intent should be emailed to Robert.Groenendaal@acl.hhs.gov.

V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Applicants must document all of their source material. If any text, language and/or materials are from another source, the applicant must make it clear the material is being quoted and where the text comes from. The applicant must also cite any sources when they obtain numbers, ideas, or other material that is not their own. If the applicant fails to comply with this requirement, regardless of the severity or frequency of the plagiarism, the reviewers shall reduce their scores accordingly even to the degree of issuing no points at all.

Please remember that peer reviewers are instructed that appendix material is to be considered

supplemental material to support or show evidence supporting statements made in the narrative. They are neither requested nor expected to consider appendix material in rating applications.

Applicants responding to this announcement should become familiar with the selection criteria. These criteria will be used by reviewers and the Administration for Community Living staff to evaluate all applications. Applicants should respond to each identified criterion since failure to do so will put an application at a significant disadvantage.

Reviewers of applications report that an application written in a format that follows the peer review criteria and contains a separate budget section greatly facilitates the review process. Such a format would appear as follows:

SECTION A: Project Relevance & Current Need
SECTION B: Approach
SECTION C: Organizational Capacity
SECTION D: Budget
SECTION E: Project Impact
APPENDICES: Work Plan, Assurances/Certifications, One-page Resumes, Bibliography, Letters of Support, etc.

State Training and Technical Assistance for Assistive Technology Programs and National Assistive Technology Public Internet Site applications are scored by assigning a maximum of 100 points across 5 selection criteria:

Project Relevance & Current Need **Maximum Points:** 15

In determining the review of the Project Relevance & Current Need, the following factors are considered:

Purpose and Need (10 points maximum)

1. The extent to which the proposed project clearly and adequately responds to the priority area to improve the effectiveness of entities funded under the AT Act to conduct the required state-level and state leadership activities, and to entities not funded under the AT Act to improve awareness of, access to, and use of AT, as described in this Program Announcement.
2. The extent to which the proposed project describes the need for the dissemination of training and technical assistance to comprehensive, statewide AT programs and technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities.

Problem to be Addressed (5 points maximum)

1. The extent to which the applicant includes a description of the problems to be addressed by the proposed project.
2. The extent to which the proposed project is justified in terms of the most recent, relevant, and available resources and knowledge to support national activities to improve the administration of the AT Act.

Approach **Maximum Points:** 40

In determining the review of the Approach, the following factors are considered:

Methods of Addressing the Problem (25 points maximum)

1. The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priorities established for this Program Announcement.
2. The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of State Grant for AT programs in conducting the required state-level and state leadership activities under the AT Act.
3. The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information and resources to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project.
4. The extent to which the proposed project includes relevant and specific expertise of State Grant for AT programs in the delivery of technical assistance and training.
5. The extent to which the design of the proposed project reflects up-to-date knowledge from effective practice.
6. The extent to which the design of the proposed project includes a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools and expertise to ensure successful achievement of project objectives.
7. The extent to which the proposed project will establish linkages with other appropriate agencies and organizations providing services to individuals with disabilities, entities funded under the AT Act, and entities not funded under the AT Act.
8. The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services and encourages consumer involvement and continuous improvement.
9. The extent to which the proposed project will obtain and use feedback from recipients of the technical assistance and training.
10. The extent to which entities that are to be served by the proposed technical assistance project demonstrate support for the project.
11. The extent to which the training or technical assistance to be provided by the proposed project are of demonstrated quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.
12. The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project involve the collaboration of appropriate partners for maximizing the efficiency of strategies and the effectiveness of project services.
13. The extent to which the national public internet site includes a library on AT and resources for people with disabilities and organizations that support them and will increase awareness of, access to, and use of AT.
14. The extent to which the applicant plans to use data to inform and enhance technical assistance, training and the national public internet site.

Work Plan (15 points maximum)

1. The extent to which the objectives to be achieved by the proposed project in the Work Plan are clearly specified and measurable, including clearly defined responsibilities for accomplishing project tasks.
2. The sufficiency of the Work Plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget.
3. The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and other key project personnel are appropriate and sufficient to meet the objectives of the proposed project and use expertise from the State Grant for AT programs to deliver technical assistance and training.

Organizational Capacity **Maximum Points:** 15

In determining the review of the Organizational Capacity, the following factors are considered:

Project Staffing and Qualifications (10 points maximum)

1. Do the proposed project director(s), key project personnel and project consultants or subcontractors have the background, relevant training, experience, and other qualifications required to carry out their designated roles?
2. Are the roles and responsibilities of project staff, consultants, and partners clearly delineated and linked to specific objectives and tasks?

Organization and Management (5 points maximum)

1. Does the applicant's approach clearly identify the capacity for carrying out the proposed project?
2. Does the applicant describe the relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project?
3. Are letters from participating organizations included, as appropriate, and do they express the clear commitment and areas of responsibility of those organizations, consistent with the Work Plan description of their intended roles and contributions?

Budget **Maximum Points:** 15

In determining the review of the Budget, the following factors are considered:

1. The extent to which the budget is justified with respect to adequacy and reasonableness of resources requested for the administration of the proposed project.
2. The extent to which the time commitment of the proposed project director and other key staff is sufficient to implement the proposed project, assure proper direction, management, and timely completion of the project.
3. The extent to which budget amounts proposed for personnel are proportionate to other activities, given the scope of the proposal.

Project Impact **Maximum Points:** 15

In determining the review of the Project Impact, the following factors are considered:

Project Outcomes (10 points maximum)

1. Are the proposed outcomes quantifiable and measurable, consistent with the priorities contained in this Program Announcement?
2. Are the anticipated outcomes of the proposed project likely to be achieved and will they significantly benefit statewide AT programs and individuals with disabilities?
3. Are the expected project results and benefits clear, realistic, and consistent with the purpose and objectives for this Program Announcement?

Project Evaluation (5 points maximum)

1. The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness and impact of project implementation strategies.
2. The extent to which the methods of evaluation will use annual AT program data and needs assessment surveys to inform the delivery of appropriate technical assistance and training.
3. The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

2. Review and Selection Process

As required by 2 CFR Part 200 of the Uniform Guidance, effective January 1, 2016, ACL is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), https://www.fapiis.gov before making any award in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $150,000) over the period of performance. An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency has previously entered into FAPIIS. ACL will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR Section 200.205 Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants (https:// www.ecfr.gov/ cgi-bin/ text-idx?node=se2.1.200_1205&rgn=div8).

An independent review panel of at least three individuals will evaluate applications that pass the screening and meet the responsiveness criteria if applicable. These reviewers are experts in their field, and are drawn from academic institutions, non-profit organizations, state and local governments, and federal government agencies. Based on the Application Review Criteria as outlined under section V.1, the reviewers will comment on and score the applications, focusing their comments and scoring decisions on the identified criteria.

Final award decisions will be made by the Administrator, ACL. In making these decisions, the Administrator will take into consideration: recommendations of the review panel; reviews for programmatic and grants management compliance; the reasonableness of the estimated cost to the government considering the available funding and anticipated results; and the likelihood that the proposed project will result in the benefits expected.

3. Anticipated Announcement Award Date

Award notices to successful applicants will be sent out prior to the project start date.

The anticipated project period start date for this announcement is: 09/01/2022

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive an electronic Notice of Award. The Notice of Award is the authorizing document from the U.S. Administration for Community Living authorizing official, Office of Grants Management. Acceptance of this award is signified by the drawdown of funds from the Payment Management System. Unsuccessful applicants are generally notified within 30 days of the final funding decision and will receive a disapproval letter via e-mail. Unless indicated otherwise in this announcement, unsuccessful applications will not be retained by the agency and will be destroyed.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The award is subject to HHS Administrative Requirements, which can be found in 45 CFR Part 75 and the Standard Terms and Conditions, included in the Notice of Award as well as implemented through the HHS Grants Policy Statement.

Recipients of federal financial assistance (FFA) from HHS must administer their programs in compliance with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and, in some circumstances, religion, conscience, and sex. This includes ensuring programs are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. The HHS Office for Civil Rights provides guidance on complying with civil rights laws enforced by HHS. Please see the appendix for this announcement to review the entire policy and guidelines. For additional information, please visit the website.

A standard term and condition of award will be included in the final notice of award; all applicants will be subject to a term and condition that applies the terms of 48 CFR section 3.908 to the award and requires the grantees inform their employee in writing of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712 in the predominant native language of the workforce.

Applicants may follow their own procurement policies and procedures when contracting with Project Funds, but You must comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317-200.326. Additionally, when using Project Funds to procure supplies and/or equipment, applicants are encouraged to purchase American-manufactured goods to the maximum extent practicable. American-manufactured goods are those products for which the cost of their component parts that were mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States exceeds 50 percent of the total cost of all their components. For further guidance regarding what constitutes an American manufactured good (also known as a domestic end product), see 48 C.F.R. Part 25.

3. Reporting

Reporting frequency for performance and financial reports, as well as any required form or formatting and the means of submission will be noted within the terms and conditions on the Notice of Award.

4. FFATA and FSRS Reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires data entry at the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (http://www.FSRS.gov) for all sub-awards and sub-contracts issued for $25,000 or more as well as addressing executive compensation for both grantee and sub-award organizations.

For further guidance please follow this link to access ACL's Terms and Conditions: https://www.acl.gov/grants/managing-grant#

VII. Agency Contacts

Project Officer

First Name:
Robert

Last Name:
Groenendaal

Phone:
202-795-7356

Office:
Office of Interagency Innovation

Grants Management Specialist

First Name:
Carla

Last Name:
Kirksey

Phone:
202-795-7303

Office:
Office of Grants Management

VIII. Other Information

Application Elements

• SF 424, required – Application for Federal Assistance (See "Instructions for Completing Required Forms" for assistance).

• SF 424A, required – Budget Information. (See Appendix for instructions).

• Separate Budget Narrative/Justification, required (See "Budget Narrative/Justification - Sample Format" for examples and "Budget Narrative/Justification – Sample Template.")

NOTE: Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grant projects are REQUIRED to provide a Narrative/Justification for each year of potential grant funding, as well as a combined multi-year detailed Budget Narrative/Justification.

• SF 424B – Assurance, required. Note: Be sure to complete this form according to instructions and have it signed and dated by the authorized representative (see item 18d on the SF 424).

• Lobbying Certification, required.

• Proof of non-profit status, if applicable

• Copy of the applicant's most recent indirect cost agreement or cost allocation plan, if requesting indirect costs. If any sub-contractors or sub-grantees are requesting indirect costs, copies of their indirect cost agreements must also be included with the application.

• Project Narrative with Work Plan, required (See "Project Work Plan – Sample Template" for a formatting suggestions).

• Vitae for Key Project Personnel.

• Letters of Commitment from Key Partners, if applicable.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-13)

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The project description and Budget Narrative/Justification is approved under OMB control number 0985-0018. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed and reviewing the collection information.

Appendix

Accessibility Provisions for All Grant Application Packages and Funding Opportunity Announcements

Recipients of federal financial assistance (FFA) from HHS must administer their programs in compliance with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age and, in some circumstances, religion, conscience, and sex. This includes ensuring programs are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. The HHS Office for Civil Rights provides guidance on complying with civil rights laws enforced by HHS. Please see https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/provider-obligations/index.html and http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/understanding/section1557/index.html.

- Recipients of FFA must ensure that their programs are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. HHS provides guidance to recipients of FFA on meeting their legal obligation to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to their programs by persons with limited English proficiency. Please see https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/limited-english-proficiency/fact-sheet-guidance/index.html and https://www.lep.gov. For further guidance on providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services, recipients should review the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care at https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=53.

- Recipients of FFA also have specific legal obligations for serving qualified individuals with disabilities. Please see http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/understanding/disability/index.html.
- HHS funded health and education programs must be administered in an environment free of sexual harassment. Please see https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/sex-discrimination/index.html; https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/shguide.html; and https://www.eeoc.gov/sexual-harassment.
- Recipients of FFA must also administer their programs in compliance with applicable federal religious nondiscrimination laws and applicable federal conscience protection and associated anti-discrimination laws. Collectively, these laws prohibit exclusion, adverse treatment, coercion, or other discrimination against persons or entities on the basis of their consciences, religious beliefs, or moral convictions. Please see https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/conscience-protections/index.html and https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/religious-freedom/index.html.

Please contact the HHS Office for Civil Rights for more information about obligations and prohibitions under federal civil rights laws at https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html or call 1-800-368-1019 or TDD 1-800-537-7697.

Instructions for Completing Required Forms

This section provides step-by-step instructions for completing the four (4) standard Federal forms required as part of your grant application, including special instructions for completing Standard Budget Forms 424 and 424A. Standard Forms 424 and 424A are used for a wide variety of Federal grant programs, and Federal agencies have the discretion to require some or all of the information on these forms. ACL does not require all the information on these Standard Forms. Accordingly, please use the instructions below in lieu of the standard instructions attached to SF 424 and 424A to complete these forms.

a. Standard Form 424

1. **Type of Submission:** (REQUIRED): Select one type of submission in accordance with agency instructions.

- Preapplication
- Application
- Changed/Corrected Application – If ACL requests, check if this submission is to change or correct a previously submitted application.

2. **Type of Application**: (REQUIRED) Select one type of application in accordance with agency instructions.

- New
- Continuation
- Revision

3. **Date Received:** Leave this field blank.

4. **Applicant Identifier**: Leave this field blank

5a **Federal Entity Identifier**: Leave this field blank

5b. **Federal Award Identifier**: For new applications leave blank. For a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the previously assigned Federal award (grant) number.

6. **Date Received by State:** Leave this field blank.

7. **State Application Identifier:** Leave this field blank.

8. **Applicant Information**: Enter the following in accordance with agency instructions:

a. Legal Name: (REQUIRED): Enter the name that the organization has registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), formally the Central Contractor Registry. Information on registering with SAM may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website (https://www.grants.gov) or by going directly to the SAM website (www.sam.gov).

b. Employer/Taxpayer Number (EIN/TIN): (REQUIRED): Enter the Employer or Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN or TIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, we encourage the organization to include the correct suffix used to identify your organization in order to properly align access to the Payment Management System.

c. Organizational UEI (REQUIRED): If your entity is registered in SAM.gov today, your Unique Entity ID (SAM) has already been assigned and is viewable in SAM.gov. This includes inactive registrations. The Unique Entity ID is currently located below the DUNS Number on your entity registration record. Remember, you must be signed in to your SAM.gov account to view entity records.

d. Address: (REQUIRED) Enter the complete address including the county.

e. Organizational Unit: Enter the name of the primary organizational unit (and department or division, if applicable**)** that will undertake the project.

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application: Enter the name (First and last name required), organizational affiliation (if affiliated with an organization other than the applicant organization), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person to contact on matters related to this application.

9. **Type of Applicant:** (REQUIRED) Select the applicant organization "type" from the following drop down list.

A. State Government B. County Government C. City or Township Government D. Special District Government E. Regional Organization F. U.S. Territory or Possession G. Independent School District H. Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education I. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized) J. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized) K. Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization L. Public/Indian Housing Authority M. Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) N. Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) O. Private Institution of Higher Education P. Individual Q. For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business) R. Small Business S. Hispanic-serving Institution T. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) U. Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) V. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions W. Non-domestic (non-US) Entity X. Other (specify)

10. **Name of Federal Agency**: (REQUIRED) Enter U.S. Administration for Community Living

11. **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number/Title:** The CFDA number can be found on page one of the Program Announcement.

12. **Funding Opportunity Number/Title:** (REQUIRED) The Funding Opportunity Number and title of the opportunity can be found on page one of the Program Announcement.

13. **Competition Identification Number/Title:** Leave this field blank.

14. **Areas Affected by Project:** List the largest political entity affected (cities, counties, state etc.)

15. **Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:** (REQUIRED) Enter a brief descriptive title of the project (This is not a narrative description).

16. **Congressional Districts Of**: (REQUIRED) 16a. Enter the applicant's Congressional District, and 16b. Enter all district(s) affected by the program or project. Enter in the format: 2 characters State Abbreviation – 3 characters District Number, e.g., CA-005 for California 5th district, CA-012 for California 12th district, NC-103 for North Carolina's 103rd district. If all congressional districts in a state are affected, enter "all" for the district number, e.g., MD-all for all congressional districts in Maryland. If nationwide, i.e. all districts within all states are affected, enter US-all. See the below website to find your congressional district:

https://www.house.gov/

17. **Proposed Project Start and End Dates**: (REQUIRED) Enter the proposed start date and final end date of the project**. If you are applying for a multi-year grant, such as a 3 year grant project, the final project end date will be 3 years after the proposed start date.** In general, all start dates on the SF424 should be the 1st of the month and the end date of the last day of the month of the final year, for example 7/01/2014 to 6/30/2017. The Grants Officer can alter the start and end date at their discretion.

18. **Estimated Funding:** (REQUIRED) If requesting multi-year funding, enter the full amount requested from the Federal Government in line item 18.a., as a multi-year total. For example and illustrative purposes only, if year one is $100,000, year two is $100,000, and year three is $100,000, then the full amount of federal funds requested would be reflected as $300,000. The amount of matching funds is denoted by lines b. through f. with a combined federal and non-federal total entered on line g. Lines b. through f. represents contributions to the project by the applicant and by your partners during the total project period, broken down by each type of contributor. The value of in-kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines, as applicable.

NOTE: Applicants should review cost sharing or matching principles contained in Subpart C of 45 CFR Part 75 before completing Item 18 and the Budget Information Sections A, B and C noted below.

All budget information entered under item 18 should cover the total project period. For sub-item 18a, enter the federal funds being requested. Sub-items 18b-18e is considered matching funds. For ACL programs that have a cost-matching requirement (list here), the dollar amounts entered in sub-items 18b-18f must total at least 1/3 of the amount of federal funds being requested (the amount in 18a). For a full explanation of ACL's match requirements, see the information in the

box below. For sub-item 18f (program income), enter only the amount, if any, that is going to be used as part of the required match. Program Income submitted as match will become a part of the award match and recipients will be held accountable to meet their share of project expenses even if program income is not generated during the award period.

There are two types of match: 1) non-federal cash and 2) non-federal in-kind. In general, costs borne by the applicant and cash contributions of any and all third parties involved in the project, including sub-grantees, contractors and consultants, are considered **matching funds**. Examples of **non-federal cash match** includes budgetary funds provided from the applicant agency's budget for costs associated with the project. Generally, most contributions from sub-contractors or sub-grantees (third parties) will be non-federal in-kind matching funds. Volunteered time and use of third party facilities to hold meetings or conduct project activities may be considered in-kind (third party) donations.

NOTE: **Indirect charges** may only be requested if: (1) the applicant has a current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another federal agency; or (2) the applicant is a state or local government agency. State governments should enter the amount of indirect costs determined in accordance with HHS requirements. **If indirect costs are to be included in the application, a copy of the approved indirect cost agreement or cost allocation plan must be included with the application. Further, if any sub-contractors or sub-grantees are requesting indirect costs, a copy of the latest approved indirect cost agreements must also be included with the application, or reference to an approved cost allocation plan.**

19. **Is Application Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?** Please refer to IV. Application and Submission Information, 4. Intergovernmental Review to determine if the ACL program is subject to E.O. 12372 and respond accordingly.

20. **Is the Applicant Delinquent on any Federal Debt?** (Required) This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. If yes, include an explanation on the continuation sheet.

21. **Authorized Representative**: (Required) To be signed and dated by the authorized representative of the applicant organization. Enter the name (First and last name required) title (Required), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person authorized to sign for the applicant. A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as the official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)

Standard Form 424A

NOTE: Standard Form 424A is designed to accommodate applications for multiple grant programs; thus, for purposes of this ACL program, many of the budget item columns and rows are not applicable. You should only consider and respond to the budget items for which

guidance is provided below. Unless otherwise indicated, the SF 424A should reflect a multi-year budget.

Section A - Budget Summary

Line 5: Leave columns (c) and (d) blank. Enter TOTAL Federal costs in column (e) and total non federal costs (including third party in-kind contributions and any program income to be used as part of the grantee match) in column (f). Enter the sum of columns (e) and (f) in column (g).

Section B - Budget Categories

Column 1: Enter the breakdown of how you plan to use the Federal funds being requested by object class category.

Column 2: Enter the breakdown of how you plan to use the non-Federal share by object class category.

Column 5: Enter the total funds required for the project (sum of Columns 1 and 2) by object class category.

Section C - Non-Federal Resources

Column A: Enter the federal grant program.

Column B: Enter in any non-federal resources that the applicant will contribute to the project.

Column C: Enter in any non-federal resources that the state will contribute to the project.

Column D: Enter in any non-federal resources that other sources will contribute to the project.

Column E: Enter the total non-federal resources for each program listed in column A.

Section D - Forecasted Cash Needs

Line 13: Enter Federal forecasted cash needs broken down by quarter for the first year only.

Line 14: Enter Non-Federal forecasted cash needs broken down by quarter for the first year.

Line 15: Enter total forecasted cash needs broken down by quarter for the first year.

Note: This area is not meant to be one whereby an applicant merely divides the requested funding by four and inserts that amount in each quarter but an area where thought is given as to how your estimated expenses will be incurred during each quarter. For example, if you have initial startup costs in the first quarter of your award reflect that in quarter one or you do not expect to have contracts awarded and funded until quarter three, reflect those costs in that quarter.

Section E – Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project (i.e. subsequent years 2, 3, 4 or 5 as applicable).

Column A: Enter the federal grant program

Column B (first): Enter the requested year two funding.

Column C (second): Enter the requested year three funding.

Column D (third): Enter the requested year four funding, if applicable.

Column E (forth): Enter the requested year five funding, if applicable.

Section F – Other Budget Information

Line 21: Enter the total Indirect Charges

Line 22: Enter the total Direct charges (calculation of indirect rate and direct charges).

Line 23: Enter any pertinent remarks related to the budget.

Separate Budget Narrative/Justification Requirement

Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grant programs are REQUIRED to provide a combined multi-year Budget Narrative/Justification, as well as a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for each year of potential grant funding. A separate Budget Narrative/Justification is also REQUIRED for each potential year of grant funding requested.

For your use in developing and presenting your Budget Narrative/Justification, a sample format with examples and a blank sample template have been included in these Attachments. In your Budget Narrative/Justification, you should include a breakdown of the budgetary costs for all of the object class categories noted in Section B, across three columns: Federal; non-Federal cash; and non-Federal in-kind. Cost breakdowns, or justifications, are required for any cost of $1,000 or for the thresholds as established in the examples. The Budget Narratives/Justifications should fully explain and justify the costs in each of the major budget items for each of the object class categories, as described below. Non-Federal cash as well as, sub-contractor or sub-grantee (third party) in-kind contributions designated as match must be clearly identified and explained in the Budget Narrative/Justification The full Budget Narrative/Justification should be included in the application immediately following the SF 424 forms.

Line 6a: **Personnel**: Enter total costs of salaries and wages of applicant/grantee staff. Do not include the costs of consultants, which should be included under 6h Other.

In the Justification: Identify the project director, if known. Specify the key staff, their titles, and time commitments in the budget justification.

Line 6b: **Fringe Benefits**: Enter the total costs of fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

In the Justification: If the total fringe benefit rate exceeds 35% of Personnel costs, provide a breakdown of amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs, such as health insurance, FICA, retirement, etc. A percentage of 35% or less does not require a breakdown but you must show the percentage charged for each full/part time employee.

Line 6c: **Travel**: Enter total costs of all travel (local and non-local) for staff on the project. NEW: Local travel is considered under this cost item not under Other. Local transportation (all travel which does not require per diem is considered local travel). Do not enter costs for consultant's travel - this should be included in line 6h.

In the Justification: Include the total number of trips, number of travelers, destinations, purpose (e.g., attend conference), length of stay, subsistence allowances (per diem), and transportation costs (including mileage rates).

Line 6d: **Equipment**: Enter the total costs of all equipment to be acquired by the project. For all grantees, "equipment" is nonexpendable tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit. If the item does not meet the $5,000 threshold, include it in your budget under Supplies, line 6e.

In the Justification: Equipment to be purchased with federal funds must be justified as necessary for the conduct of the project. The equipment must be used for project-related functions. Further, the purchase of specific items of equipment should not be included in the submitted budget if those items of equipment, or a reasonable facsimile, are otherwise available to the applicant or its subgrantees.

Line 6e: **Supplies**: Enter the total costs of all tangible expendable personal property (supplies) other than those included on line 6d.

In the Justification: . For any grant award that has supply costs in excess of 5% of total direct costs (Federal or Non-Federal), you must provide a detailed break down of the supply items (e.g., 6% of $100,000 = $6,000 – breakdown of supplies needed). If the 5% is applied against $1 million total direct costs (5% x $1,000,000 = $50,000) a detailed breakdown of supplies is not needed. Please note: any supply costs of $5,000 or less regardless of total direct costs does not require a detailed budget breakdown (e.g., 5% x $100,000 = $5,000 – no breakdown needed).

Line 6f: **Contractual**: Regardless of the dollar value of any contract, you must follow your established policies and procedures for procurements and meet the minimum standards established in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR's) mentioned below. Enter the total costs of all contracts, including (1) procurement contracts (except those which belong on other lines such as equipment, supplies, etc.). Note: The 33% provision has been removed and line item budget detail is not required as long as you meet the established procurement standards. Also include any awards to organizations for the provision of technical assistance. Do not include payments to individuals on this line. Please be advised: A subrecipient is involved in financial assistance activities by receiving a sub-award and a subcontractor is involved in procurement activities by receiving a sub-contract. Through the recipient, a subrecipient performs work to accomplish the public purpose authorized by law. Generally speaking, a sub-contractor does not seek to accomplish a public benefit and does not perform substantive work on the project. It is merely a vendor providing goods or services to directly benefit the recipient, for example procuring landscaping or janitorial services. In either case, you are encouraged to clearly describe the type of work that will be accomplished and type of relationship with the lower tiered entity whether it be labeled as a subaward or subcontract.

In the Justification: Provide the following three items – 1) Attach a list of contractors indicating the name of the organization; 2) the purpose of the contract; and 3) the estimated dollar amount. If the name of the contractor and estimated costs are not available or have not been negotiated, indicate when this information will be available. The Federal government reserves the right to request the final executed contracts at any time. If an individual contractual item is over the small purchase threshold, currently set at $100K in the CFR, you must certify that your procurement standards are in accordance with the policies and procedures as stated in 45 CFR Part 75 for states, in lieu of providing separate detailed budgets. This certification should be referenced in the justification and attached to the budget narrative.

Line 6g: **Construction**: Leave blank since construction is not an allowable costs for this program.

Line 6h: **Other**: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable, may include, but are not limited to: insurance, medical and dental costs (i.e. for project volunteers this is different from personnel fringe benefits), non-contractual fees and travel paid directly to individual consultants, postage, space and equipment rentals/lease, printing and publication, computer use, training and staff development costs (i.e. registration fees). If a cost does not clearly fit under another category, and it qualifies as an allowable cost, then rest assured this is where it belongs.

Note: A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report number 11-43, has raised considerable concerns about grantees and contractors charging the Federal government for additional meals outside of the standard allowance for travel subsistence known as per diem expenses. If meals are to be charged towards the grant they must meet the following criteria outlined in the Grants Policy Statement:

- *Meals are generally unallowable except for the following:*
- *For subjects and patients under study(usually a research program);*
- *Where specifically approved as part of the project or program activity, e.g., in programs providing children's services (e.g., Headstart);*
- *When an organization customarily provides meals to employees working beyond the normal workday, as a part of a formal compensation arrangement;*
- *As part of a per diem or subsistence allowance provided in conjunction with allowable travel; and*
- *Under a conference grant, when meals are a necessary and integral part of a conference, provided that meal costs are not duplicated in participants' per diem or subsistence allowances (Note: the sole purpose of the grant award is to hold a conference).*

  In the Justification: Provide a reasonable explanation for items in this category. For example, individual consultants explain the nature of services provided and the relation to

activities in the work plan or indicate where it is described in the work plan. Describe the types of activities for staff development costs.

Line 6i: **Total Direct Charges**: Show the totals of Lines 6a through 6h.

Line 6j: **Indirect Charges**: Enter the total amount of indirect charges (costs), if any. If no indirect costs are requested, enter "none." Indirect charges may be requested if: (1) the applicant has a current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another federal agency; or (2) the applicant is a state or local government agency. **State governments should enter the amount of indirect costs determined in accordance with DHHS requirements.** An applicant that will charge indirect costs to the grant must enclose a copy of the current rate agreement. Indirect Costs can only be claimed on Federal funds, more specifically, they are to only be claimed on the Federal share of your direct costs. Any unused portion of the grantee's eligible Indirect Cost amount that are not claimed on the Federal share of direct charges can be claimed as un-reimbursed indirect charges, and that portion can be used towards meeting the recipient match.

Line 6k: **Total**: Enter the total amounts of Lines 6i and 6j.

Line 7: **Program Income**: As appropriate, include the estimated amount of income, if any, you expect to be generated from this project that you wish to designate as match (equal to the amount shown for Item 15(f) on Form 424). **Note:** Any program income indicated at the bottom of Section B and for item 15(f) on the face sheet of Form 424 will be included as part of non-Federal match and will be subject to the rules for documenting completion of this pledge. If program income is expected, but is not needed to achieve matching funds, **do not** include that portion here or on Item 15(f) of the Form 424 face sheet. Any anticipated program income that will not be applied as grantee match should be described in the Level of Effort section of the Program Narrative.

c. Standard Form 424B – Assurances (required)

This form contains assurances required of applicants under the discretionary funds programs administered by the Administration for Community Living. Please note that a duly authorized representative of the applicant organization must certify that the organization is in compliance with these assurances.

d. Certification Regarding Lobbying (required)

This form contains certifications that are required of the applicant organization regarding lobbying. Please note that a duly authorized representative of the applicant organization must attest to the applicant's compliance with these certifications.

Proof of Nonprofit Status (as applicable)

Non-profit applicants must submit proof of non-profit status. Any of the following constitutes acceptable proof of such status:

- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate.
- A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.

Indirect Cost Agreement

Applicants that have included indirect costs in their budgets must include a copy of the current indirect cost rate agreement approved by the Department of Health and Human Services or another federal agency. This is optional for applicants that have not included indirect costs in their budgets.

Budget Narrative/Justification- Sample Format

NOTE: Applicants requesting funding for a multi-year grant program are REQUIRED to provide a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for EACH potential year of grant funding requested.

Object Class Category	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Cash	Non-Federal In-Kind	TOTAL	Justification
Personnel	$47,700	$23,554	$0	$71,254	**Federal** Project Director (name) = .5 FTE @ $95,401/yr = $47,700 **Non-Fed Cash** Officer Manager (name) = .5FTE @ $47,108/yr = $23,554 **Total** 71,254
	$17,482	$8,632	$0	$26,114	**Federal**

Fringe Benefits					Fringe on Project Director at 36.65% = $17,482 FICA (7.65%) Health (25%) Dental (2%) Life (1%) Unemployment (1%) **Non-Fed Cash** Fringe on Office Manager at 36.65% = $8,632 FICA (7.65%) Health (25%) Dental (2%) Life (1%) Unemployment (1%)
Travel	$4,707	$2,940	$0	$7,647	**Federal** Local travel: 6 TA site visits for 1 person Mileage: 6RT @ .585 x 700 miles $2,457 Lodging: 15 days @ $110/day $1,650 Per Diem: 15 days @ $40/day $600 Total $4,707 **Non-Fed Cash** Travel to National Conference in (Destination) for 3 people Airfare 1 RT x 3 staff @ $500 $1,500 Lodging: 3 days x 3 staff @ $120/day $1,080 Per Diem: 3 days x 3 staff @ $40/day $360

					Total $2,940
Equipment	$10,000	$0	$0	$10,000	No Equipment requested OR: Call Center Equipment Installation = $5,000 Phones = $5,000 Total $10,000
Supplies	$3,700	$5,670	$0	$9,460	**Federal** 2 desks @ $1,500 $3,000 2 chairs @ $300 $600 2 cabinets @ $200 $400 **Non-Fed Cash** 2 Laptop computers $3,000 Printer cartridges @ $50/month $300 Consumable supplies (pens, paper, clips etc…) @ $180/month $2,160 Total $9,460
Contractual	$30,171	$0	$0	$30,171	(organization name, purpose of contract and estimated dollar amount) Contract with AAA to provide respite services: 11 care givers @ $1,682 = $18,502

					Volunteer Coordinator = $11,669 Total $30,171 *If contract details are unknown due to contract yet to be made provide same information listed above and:* A detailed evaluation plan and budget will be submitted by (date), when contract is made.
Other	$5,600	$0	$5,880	$11,480	**Federal** 2 consultants @ $100/hr for 24.5 hours each = $4,900 Printing 10,000 Brochures @ $.05 = $500 Local conference registration fee (name conference) = $200 Total $5,600 **In-Kind** **Volunteers** 15 volunteers @ $8/hr for 49 hours = $5,880
Indirect Charges	$20,934	$0	$0	$20,934	21.5% of salaries and fringe = $20,934 IDC rate is attached.
TOTAL	$140,294	$40,866	$5,880	$187,060	

Budget Narrative/Justification - Sample Template

NOTE: Applicants requesting funding for a multi-year grant program are REQUIRED to provide a detailed Budget Narrative/Justification for EACH potential year of grant funding requested.

Object Class Category	**Federal Funds**	**Non-Federal Cash**	**Non-Federal In-Kind**	**TOTAL**	**Justification**
Personnel					
Fringe Benefits					
Travel					
Equipment					

Supplies					
Contractual					
Other					
Indirect Charges					
TOTAL					

Project Work Plan - Sample Template

NOTE : Applicants requesting funding for a multi-year grant program are REQUIRED to provide a Project Work Plan for EACH potential year of grant funding requested.

Goal:

Measurable Outcome(s):

* Time Frame (Start/End Dates by Month in Project Cycle)

Major Objectives	Key Tasks	Lead Person	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	7*	8*	9*	10*	11*	12*
1.														
2.														
3.														
4.														
5.														
6.														

NOTE: Please do note infer from this sample format that your work plan must have 6 major objectives. If you need more pages, simply repeat this format on additional pages.

Instructions for Completing the Project Summary/ Abstract

- All applications for grant funding must include a Summary/Abstract that concisely describes the proposed project. It should be written for the general public.
- To ensure uniformity, limit the length to 265 words or less, on a single page with a font size of not less than 11, doubled-spaced.
- The abstract must include the project's goal(s), objectives, overall approach (including target population and significant partnerships), anticipated outcomes, products, and duration. The following are very simple descriptions of these terms, and a sample Compendium abstract.

Goal(s) - broad, overall purpose, usually in a mission statement, i.e. what you want to do, where you want to be.

Objective(s) - narrow, more specific, identifiable or measurable steps toward a goal. Part of the planning process or sequence (the "how") to attain the goal(s).

Outcomes - measurable results of a project. Positive benefits or negative changes, or measurable characteristics among those served through this funding (e.g., clients, consumers, systems, organizations, communities) that occur as a result of an organization's or program's activities. These should tie directly back to the stated goals of the funding as outlined in the funding opportunity announcement. (Outcomes are the end-point)

Products - materials, deliverables.

- A model abstract/summary is provided below:

The Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD), in **partnership** with the Delaware Lifespan Respite Care Network (DLRCN) and key stakeholders will, in the course of this two-year project, expand and maintain a statewide coordinated lifespan respite system that builds on the infrastructure currently in place.
The **goal** of this project is to improve the delivery and quality of respite services available to families across age and disability spectrums by expanding and coordinating existing respite systems in Delaware. The **objectives** are: 1) to improve lifespan respite infrastructure; 2) to improve the provision of information and awareness about respite service; 3) to streamline access to respite services through the Delaware ADRC; 4) to increase availability of respite services. Anticipated **outcomes** include: 1) families and caregivers of all ages and disabilities will have greater options for choosing a respite provider; 2) providers will demonstrate increased ability to provide specialized respite care; 3) families will have streamlined access to information and satisfaction with respite services; 4) respite care will be provided using a variety of existing funding sources and 5) a sustainability plan will be developed to support the project in the future. The expected **products** are marketing and outreach materials, caregiver training, respite worker training, a Respite Online searchable database, two new Caregiver Resource Centers (CRC), an annual Respite Summit, a respite voucher program and 24/7 telephone information and referral services.

Instructions for Completing the "Supplemental Information for the SF-424" Form

1. Project Director.

Name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

2. Novice Applicant. Select "Not Applicable To This Program."

3a. Human Subjects Research. Check **No** if research activities involving human subjects are not planned at any time during the proposed project period. The remaining parts of Item 3 are then not applicable. Check **Yes** if research activities involving human subjects are planned at any time during the proposed project period, either at the applicant organization or at any other performance site or collaborating institution. Check **Yes** even if the research is exempt from the regulations for the protection of human subjects.

3b. Human Subjects Research. **Yes** if all the research activities proposed are designated to be exempt from the regulations. Check the exemption number(s) corresponding to one or more of the six exemption categories listed in I. B. Exemptions. In addition, follow the instructions in II. A. Exempt Research Narrative below.

Check **No** if some or all of the planned research activities are covered (not exempt). In addition, follow the instructions in II. B. Nonexempt Research Narrative in the attached page entitled Definitions for U.S. Department of Education Supplemental Information for the SF-424.

3b. Human Subjects Assurance Number. If the applicant has an approved Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) on file with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that covers the specific activity, insert the number in the space provided. (A list of current FWAs is available at: http://ohrp.cit.nih.gov/search/search.aspx?styp=bsc) If the applicant does not have an approved assurance on file with OHRP, enter None. In this case, the applicant, by signature on the SF-424, is declaring that it will proceed to obtain the human subjects assurance upon request by the designated NIDILRR official. If the application is recommended/selected for funding, the designated NIDILRR official will request that the applicant obtain the assurance within 30 days after the specific formal request.

3c. Human Subjects Narratives. If applicable, please attach your Exempt Research or Nonexempt Research narrative to your submission of the Supplemental Information for the SF-424 form as instructed in item II, Instructions for Exempt and Nonexempt Human Subjects Research Narratives," below.

Note about Institutional Review Board Approval. NIDILRR does not require certification of Institutional Review Board approval with the application. However, if an application that involves non-exempt human subjects research is recommended/selected for funding, the designated NIDILRR official will request that the applicant obtain and send the certification to NIDILRR within 30 days after the formal request. **No covered human subjects research can be conducted until the study has NIDILRR clearance for protection of human subjects in research.**

I. Definitions and Exemptions

A. Definitions.

Research

a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge." Activities which meet this definition constitute research whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program that is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities.

Human Subject

"a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research information. (1) If an activity involves obtaining information about a living person by manipulating that person or that persons environment, or by communicating or interacting with the individual, as occurs with surveys and interviews, the definition of human subject is met. (2) If an activity involves obtaining private information about a living person in such a way that the information can be directly or indirectly linked to that individual), the definition of human subject is met.

B. Exemptions.

Research activities in which the only involvement of human subjects will be in one or more of the following six categories of exemptions are not covered by the regulations:

(1) Research conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, involving normal educational practices, such as (a) research on regular and special education instructional strategies, or (b) research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods. ***If an educational practice is being introduced to the site and is not widely used for similar populations, it is not covered by this exemption.***

(2) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior, unless: (a) information obtained is recorded in such a manner that human subjects can be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; and (b) any disclosure of the human subjects responses outside the research could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects financial standing, employability, or reputation. ***If the subjects are children, exemption 2 applies only to research involving*** **educational tests and observations of public behavior when the investigator(s) do not participate in the activities being observed. Exemption 2 does not apply if children are surveyed or interviewed or if the research involves observation of public behavior and the investigator(s) participate in the activities being observed.** [Children are defined as persons who have not attained the legal age for consent to treatments or procedures involved in the research, under the applicable law or jurisdiction in which the research will be conducted.]

(3) Research involving the use of educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures or observation of public behavior that is not exempt under section (2) above, if the human subjects are elected or appointed public officials or candidates for public office; or federal statute(s) require(s) without exception that the confidentiality of the personally identifiable information will be maintained throughout the research and thereafter.

(4) Research involving the collection or study of existing data, documents, records, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens, if these sources are publicly available or if the information is recorded by the investigator in a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects. [***This exemption applies only to retrospective studies using data collected before the initiation of*** the research.]

(5) Research and demonstration projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of department or agency heads, and which are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine: (a) public benefit or service programs; (b) procedures for obtaining benefits or services under those programs; (c) possible changes in or alternatives to those programs or procedures; or (d) possible changes in methods or levels of payment for benefits or services under those programs. ***[The standards of this exemption are rarely met because it was*** designed to apply only to specific research conducted by the Social Security Administration and some Federal welfare benefits programs.]

(6) Taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies, (a) if wholesome foods without additives are consumed or (b) if a food is consumed that contains a food ingredient at or below the level and for a use found to be safe, or agricultural chemical or environmental contaminant at or below the level found to be safe, by the Food and Drug Administration or approved by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

II. Instructions for Exempt and Nonexempt Human Subjects Research Narratives

If the applicant marked Yes for Item 3.b. of the Supplemental Information for the SF 424, the applicant must attach a human subjects exempt research or nonexempt research narrative to the Supplemental Information for the SF-424 form. If you have multiple projects and need to provide more than one narrative, be sure to label each set of responses as to the project they address.

A. Exempt Research Narrative.

If you marked Yes for item 3.b. and designated exemption numbers(s), attach the exempt research narrative to the Supplemental Information for the SF-424. The narrative must contain sufficient information about the involvement of human subjects in the proposed research to allow a determination by NIDILRR that the designated exemption(s) are appropriate. The narrative must be succinct.

B. Nonexempt Research Narrative.

If you marked No for item 3.b. you must attach the nonexempt research narrative to the Supplemental Information for the SF-424. The narrative must address the following seven points. Although no specific page limitation applies to this section of the application, be succinct.

(1) **Human Subjects Involvement and Characteristics**: Provide a detailed description of the proposed involvement of human subjects. Describe the characteristics of the subject population, including their anticipated number, age range, and health status. Identify the criteria for inclusion or exclusion of any subpopulation. Explain the rationale for the involvement of special classes of subjects, such as children, subpopulation. Explain the rationale for the involvement of special classes of subjects, such as children, children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, persons

with mental disabilities, pregnant women, prisoners, institutionalized individuals, or others who are likely to be vulnerable.

(2) **Sources of Materials**: Identify the sources of research material obtained from individually identifiable living human subjects in the form of specimens, records, or data. Indicate whether the material or data will be obtained specifically for research purposes or whether use will be made of existing specimens, records, or data.

(3) **Recruitment and Informed Consent**: Describe plans for the recruitment of subjects and the consent procedures to be followed. Include the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, who will seek it, the nature of the information to be provided to prospective subjects, and the method of documenting consent. State if the Institutional Review Board (IRB) has authorized a modification or waiver of the elements of consent or the requirement for documentation of consent.

(4) **Potential Risks**: Describe potential risks (physical, psychological, social, legal, or other) and assess their likelihood and seriousness. Where appropriate, describe alternative treatments and procedures that might be advantageous to the subjects.

(5) **Protection Against Risk**: Describe the procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to confidentiality, and assess their likely effectiveness. Where appropriate, discuss provisions for ensuring necessary medical or professional intervention in the event of adverse effects to the subjects. Also, where appropriate, describe the provisions for monitoring the data collected to ensure the safety of the subjects.

(6) **Importance of the Knowledge to be Gained**: Discuss the importance of the knowledge gained or to be gained as a result of the proposed research. Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to subjects and in relation to the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result.

(7) **Collaborating Site**(s): If research involving human subjects will take place at collaborating site(s) or other performance site(s), name the sites and briefly describe their involvement or role in the research.