



# Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**#ExpectationsMatter Grant**

**Amount: Up to \$5000**

**Proposals Due: November 30, 2020**

### **About Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council's (Council) mission is to advance the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life by eliminating barriers, creating opportunities, empowering people, and promoting innovation. Our 5-Year State Plan, which furthers our mission by identifying our priorities, includes an objective that states, *Increase the expectations that family members, providers, educators, and others have about people with developmental disabilities.*

### **What is the #ExpectationsMatter Grant?**

Expectations play an important role in our lives. Both anecdotal evidence and research prove that the assumptions other people have about our abilities are quite influential and have a long-lasting effect. This is why raising expectations is a theme that runs through the Council's work as we address educational, employment, community living, and person-centered planning goals related to people with developmental disabilities. It is why we started a campaign in 2017 to convey the simple point- #ExpectationsMatter #ExpectAbility. We knew that hashtags alone would not raise every expectation, or change every mind or every action, but we wanted to spur all of us – family members, providers, educators, employers, everyday citizens – to stop and think twice about what we think people with disabilities can do. To continue this work, the Council now seeks proposals for small grants that focus on raising expectations about people with developmental disabilities in their schools, homes, workplaces, and communities so everyone feels respected, welcomed, and supported.

The maximum amount of each #ExpectationsMatter Grant award is \$5,000. The Council expects to fund multiple grants for this initiative.

### **Do you have a project in mind that promotes the meaning of #ExpectationsMatter?**

The Council invites proposals for projects that continue, and expand upon the work of our #ExpectationsMatter campaign. **People with developmental disabilities and/or family members must meaningfully participate in this grant project.** Find additional information and other resources about the campaign here: <http://www.md-council.org/resources/expectations-matter/>.

Raising expectations in and around the community can have long-lasting effects. We believe that opportunities and projects that promote this message and focus on different audiences will improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Every community and culture is unique, and this initiative should demonstrate how the project is valuable and meets the needs of the community. Consider broad topics, focusing on raising the expectations of family members, schools, communities, employers, direct support professionals, or others that support people with developmental disabilities.

### **What can you accomplish?**

We are looking for proposals that are innovative, replicable, and demonstrate new and measurable outcomes. When drafting your proposal, consider the effect of high expectations throughout all facets of life – childcare, education, recreation, social relationships, employment, transportation, housing, and community participation. Consider how the use of media outlets, like Facebook, podcasts or YouTube can support #ExpectationsMatter and immerse the community in your project. Think of different partners like graduate school students and sibling groups, and how they may support the work of your project. Identify the opportunity for growth in your community. What is important to you and others when you think about raising expectations? What is the goal of your project and what will the impact be?

### **Examples of what funds can be used to do:**

- Education and skill-building of community members;
- Develop and disseminate information and resources that demonstrate community inclusion;
- Raise awareness about successful employment of people with developmental disabilities;
- New ideas or expanding current initiatives, such as updating a training curriculum to include a different audience, achieve a new outcome. Projects like these will need to fully explain what makes this project different and why additional money is needed for the initiative;
- Working with a religious organization or place of worship to develop or implement practices that support and include people with disabilities; and
- Use of various media such as YouTube clips, Podcast and blogs to increase awareness or to facilitate conversations around raising expectations.

### **Funds cannot be used for:**

- Activities that do not align with the Council’s mission.
- Projects that only benefit one individual or family;
- T-shirts, buttons, or similar items;
- Fundraising;
- Compensating project members for working on any project activities.

### **Who can apply?**

Any person, group, or organization may apply for a #ExpectationsMatter Grant. Funding can only go to a public or private, for profit or not for profit organization. If you or your group does not include an organization, the Council can assist you in identifying an organization to receive the funds on your behalf and dispense them at your discretion.

### **How much funding can you request?**

Funding cannot exceed \$5,000.

### **What happens if you receive funding?**

You will:

- Start your project no later than **January 1, 2021**;
- Work on the activities you outlined in your application;
- Report progress and outcomes to the Council; and
- Work with the Council to share information about your projects and accomplishments with others who could benefit.

**How will grantees be chosen?**

Applications will be reviewed based on the following:

- All requested information is provided;
- People with developmental disabilities and/or family members meaningfully participate in the project; and
- The proposed goals and activities are realistic and likely to lead to the desired outcome.

The Council seeks to support a diverse array of projects that reflect the cultural, ethnic, racial, geographical, and economic diversity of Maryland’s communities.

**How can you learn more?**

There will be one information session to review this request for proposal and answer questions. The information session is not mandatory, but is the only opportunity to ask questions.

To register for the information session, email [info@md-council.org](mailto:info@md-council.org) by **3:00 P.M. Friday October 30, 2020**. You will receive confirmation of your registration and the link to the Zoom meeting. Please include in your request your name, your organization’s name, and any questions you would like to submit in advance.

**Zoom information session**

Date: **November 2, 2020**

Time: **10:00 A.M.**

**How to apply?**

Complete and submit the #ExpectationsMatter grant application.

Applications MUST be emailed to [info@md-council.org](mailto:info@md-council.org) by **12:00 P.M. (noon) on November 30, 2020**

***Important Note: The Council will acknowledge receipt of all applications by email or phone. If you do not receive confirmation by 2:00 P.M. November 30, 2020 contact Shawan Pearson at 410-767-6249 or 800-305-6441.***

