



# Offer and Acceptance

**AZ Developmental Disabilities  
Planning Council**

3839 North Third Street, Ste. 306

Phoenix, AZ 85012

SOLICITATION NO.: ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001

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OF  
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OFFEROR:

## OFFER

### TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA:

The Undersigned hereby offers and agrees to furnish the material, service or construction in compliance with all terms, conditions, specifications and amendments in the Solicitation and any written exceptions in the offer. Signature also certifies Small Business status.

Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona

Company Name

P.O. Box 210158, Rm 510

Address

Tucson, AZ 85721-0158

City

State

Zip

sponsor@email.arizona.edu

Contact Email Address

Mark A. Drury  
Contracts Manager

Signature of Person Authorized to Sign Offer

for Sangita Pawar, PhD, MBA

Printed Name

Vice President, Operations

Title

Phone: (520) 626-6000

By signature in the Offer section above, the Offeror certifies:

1. The submission of the Offer did not involve collusion or other anticompetitive practices.
2. The Offeror shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment in violation of Federal Executive Order 11246, State Executive Order 2009-9 or A.R.S. §§ 41-1461 through 1465.
3. The Offeror has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted offer. Failure to provide a valid signature affirming the stipulations required by this clause shall result in rejection of the offer. Signing the offer with a false statement shall void the offer, any resulting contract and may be subject to legal remedies provided by law.
4. The Offeror certifies that the above referenced organization  IS/  IS NOT a small business with less than 100 employees or has gross revenues of \$4 million or less.
5. The Offeror is not debarred by, or otherwise prohibited from participating in any publicly-funded contract awarded by any Federal, State or local jurisdiction.

## ACCEPTANCE OF OFFER

The Offer is hereby accepted.

The Contractor is now bound to sell the materials or services listed by the attached contract and based upon the solicitation, including all terms, conditions, specifications, amendments, etc., and the Contractor's Offer as accepted by the State.

This Contract shall henceforth be referred to as Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_

The effective date of the Contract is \_\_\_\_\_

The Contractor is cautioned not to commence any billable work or to provide any material or service under this contract until Contractor receives purchase order, contract release document or written notice to proceed.

State of Arizona

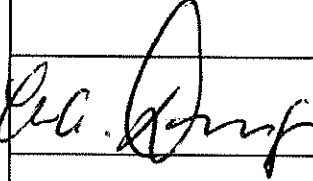

Awarded this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

20\_\_\_\_

Erica McFadden, PhD, MSW, Executive Director

**A SIGNED COPY OF THIS AMENDMENT SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION.**

<p>APPLICANT HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ABOVE AMENDMENT</p>	<p>THE ABOVE REFERENCED GRANT APPLICATION AMENDMENT IS HEREBY EXECUTED ON BEHALF OF THE ARIZONA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING COUNCIL BY:</p>
<p> Mark A. Drury Contracts Manager</p>	<p>4/27/20</p>
<p>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE DATE</p>	<p>MARCELLA CRANE DATE CONTRACTS MANAGER, ADDPC</p>
<p> Sangita Pawar, PhD, MBA Vice President, Operations</p>	<p>Arizona Board of Regents University of Arizona</p>
<p>PRINTED NAME AND TITLE</p>	
<p>Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW</p>	
<p>PRINTED APPLICANT NAME</p>	

**Project Narrative: Crisis of Sexual Violence Against Children and Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Arizona: A Comprehensive Systems Evaluation to Inform Prevention and Policy Change**

**Overview:** The Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities (UCEDD) in the University of Arizona Department of Family & Community Medicine (UA-DFCM) is resubmitting this application in response to the request by the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) to conduct research into the ongoing crisis of sexual violence against children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Arizona. The Sonoran UCEDD has enlisted collaborating organizations with a commitment to serving the community of individuals with I/DD. They also possess the expertise and a network of contacts to address issues related to sexual abuse and violence. Our collaborating organizations include: The Arc of Arizona, the Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL) and the DIRECT Center for Independence. The primary goal is to raise awareness and understanding of the issues related to sexual abuse and violence from the perspectives of people with I/DD, their families, and their networks of support. This will be accomplished by 1) providing a platform to share ideas and different perspectives of the problem; 2) identifying what information is available and what is needed; 3) engaging mental health practitioners and service providers in the discussion; and 4) creating informational products to serve as resources for local, state, and national audiences. For this resubmission, an added component is the inclusion of state and national mental health experts in sexual abuse and trauma.

**1) Describe the proposed research design, including methodology, proposed research questions the project seeks to answer, and describe the sample population.**

**A. Background**

Sexual violence is an epidemic and a serious public health and safety problem for people with I/DD in the United States. In January 2018, National Public Radio (NPR) reported about their year-long investigation titled “The Sexual Assault Epidemic No One Talks About.” The key findings were extremely disturbing. One of the groups that are at most risk are people with I/DD. Using data from the Justice Department’s unpublished federal crime statistics, NPR found that people with I/DD are sexually assaulted at a rate seven times higher than those without disabilities. Individuals are more likely to be assaulted by someone they know, and predators often target people with I/DD because they are seen as easily manipulated. These cases are also difficult to win in court, making police and prosecutors reluctant to arrest and prosecute. Individuals with I/DD also have difficulty testifying. Additionally, the key findings point out that there is a widespread lack of awareness around sexual violence against persons with I/DD; family members and professional care providers often lack information about how to recognize signs that a person with I/DD experienced sexual assault or abuse; and systems for reporting sexual violence and prosecuting offenders do not have procedures in place to protect the rights of persons with I/DD and ensure victims can navigate the criminal justice system.

In December 2018, the nation became aware of the Arizona case where a Hacienda HealthCare licensed practical nurse was accused and subsequently indicted for raping and impregnating a 29-year old Native American woman with I/DD who was described as

incapacitated. In Arizona, it is known that incidents of sexual violence and abuse against persons with I/DD are underreported and prosecution has not been a priority. A 2017 report by The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability® notes that professionals may not have experience talking about victimization with women with I/DD. Additionally, victims with disabilities are unlikely to raise the topic of sexual violence themselves as they often have limited health literacy and lack of knowledge about what constitutes sexual assault or abuse. In January 2019, the ADDPC published a report with legislative and regulatory recommendations for the prevention of abuse among people with I/DD. Next, Governor Douglas A. Ducey issued Arizona Executive Order 2019-03 in February 2019 and appointed The Abuse & Neglect Prevention Task Force. This task force developed 30 recommendations. In July 2019, the ADDPC funded the Improvement Assurance Group, LLC, led by Dr. Meghan Kenney Velasquez, to conduct a literature and best practice review as well as a comprehensive analysis of state policies and practices. This proposal intends to build on that research by seeking input from Dr. Velasquez.

This proposal recognizes that conducting research on the issue of sexual abuse and violence is complicated. It requires a level of trust and sensitivity among researchers, direct support professionals (DSPs), service providers, people with I/DD and their family. It will involve listening to the lived experiences and perspectives of individuals with I/DD and people that support them (e.g., families, DSPs, health care providers, advocates, administrators, Division of Developmental Disabilities [DDD] staff and vendors). In order to facilitate data collection from these diverse stakeholders, collaborative partnerships were formed with individuals and organizations who bring expertise in areas necessary to complete this research and achieve the desired outcomes. Our collaborators include two primary groups: a) organizations that serve people with I/DD and b) mental health experts that are knowledgeable about abuse, exploitation, and trauma. The Arc of Arizona, the Arizona Center on Disability Law, Special Olympics, and Diverse Ability are organizations that will assist in opening doors and connecting researchers with key stakeholders as well as facilitating data collection. Dr. Karyn Harvey, Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, and The DIRECT Center for Independence will provide consultation and mental health support during all project-related events where people with I/DD may share personal experiences. Dr. Lynne Tomasa from the Sonoran UCEDD will ensure that all aspects of data collection meets the University of Arizona's Human Subjects guidelines to protect the privacy and confidentiality of participants. Research findings will be integrated in deliverables that can be used by various stakeholders and the broader public.

## **B. Methodology**

In order to meet the ADDPC's stated goals to motivate regulatory and legislative change, determine types of targeted training to prevent, recognize and report sexual violence/abuse and raise awareness about sexual violence against persons with I/DD. The underlying value held across all data collection strategies is that participants must feel comfortable with the organizers, presenters, and research team before they will engage in the discussion. Therefore, Dr. Tomasa has taken a mixed methods and developmental evaluation approach to this research project. This means that after each event, the

research team from the Sonoran UCEDD will assess the event (e.g., venue, agenda, format, group size, length of time, facilitation process) in order to make continued improvements. Specific activities are to:

- Convene a volunteer advisory group separate from the project collaborators who have experience, interest, or expertise in the area of sexual health, sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma in individuals with I/DD. Their role would be to advise the project team on recruitment and data collection strategies. The goal is to identify individuals within organizations who can help to facilitate networking and “open doors” so the Sonoran UCEDD can explain the project and broaden recruitment efforts.
- Complete a literature review on the topics of sexual assault prevention for individuals with I/DD, the lifelong impact of abuse and trauma, and the interventions necessary to support victims. This review will also enlist the help of interest groups within national organizations such as the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), NADD, American Academy of Developmental Medicine & Dentistry (AADMD). An online search of the National Information Reporting System (NIRS), which is accessible by all 67 UCEDD’s across the US, will identify products and best practices. This literature review will build on the one conducted by Dr. Velasquez’s team.
- Conduct three different surveys with each of the following groups:
  - Individuals with I/DD and families
  - Professionals (e.g., health care providers, mental health practitioners, legal community, teachers)
  - Service providers (e.g., support coordinators, DSPs, DDD vendors)
- Conduct six focus groups with individuals with I/DD, family members, caregivers, service providers, and behavioral health professionals.
- Conduct six community forums inviting staff and professionals who support individuals with I/DD and members from groups such as representatives of agencies of the State of Arizona. Examples are the Department of Economic Security (DES), DDD, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Department of Education (ADE), legislators, law enforcement, etc.

### Sample Population

In order respect privacy and confidentiality, it will be more feasible to obtain informed consent from adults with I/DD. Recruitment efforts will target adults with I/DD and family members but are not limited to this population. Participants for the community forums and focus groups must pre-register in order to limit the size of the group. Pre-registration can be done by phone, email, or an online link on the Sonoran UCEDD website. Participants will be notified that this is a research project and that sessions will be recorded, but names will not be used in any reports. Registration is limited to 30 individuals for each community forum and 10 individuals for each focus group. A waiting list will be kept, so persons can attend if others cancel. The target for the six community forums is 180 participants whether the forums are held in-person or virtually via Zoom. This will allow participants enough time for discussion. The target for the six

focus groups will be 60 or ten per group. The groups, whether in-person or virtual, will be limited to 10 individuals in each group. A waiting list will be kept.

The community forums will be scheduled for one and a half hours. The Sonoran UCEDD project team, including the program coordinator and technology staff person, will be present for two hours to set up and to debrief. The forum will begin with a 20-minute presentation and followed by a Question and Answer (Q&A) session. At each forum, Dr. Tomasa and Jon Meyers from The Arc of Arizona will be present along with one of our community partners (ACDL, Special Olympics, Diverse Ability). Our partners will have the opportunity to co-present topics related to sexual abuse, exploitation, sexual health and safety and will also participate in the Q & A. The community forums will serve as a recruitment strategy for the focus groups that will follow. A mental health professional will be present at each forum to provide psychological support if needed. A notetaker(s) such as an MSW student through Arizona State University (ASU) or a Sonoran UCEDD intern will be present to take notes.

The same pre-registration process will occur for the 2-hour focus groups. Upon pre-registration, individuals will be provided a consent form by mail or email that must be completed before attending the focus group. A mental health professional will be present at each focus group to provide psychological support if needed. A notetaker(s) such as an MSW student through ASU or a Sonoran UCEDD intern will be present to record the conversations and take notes.

Discussions at the community forums and focus groups are not limited to adults with I/DD. Issues related to children and youth will be explored. However, the criteria for participation in the focus group is a person 18 years and older who is their own guardian or attends with their guardian.

This year and possible continuing into 2021, the Sonoran UCEDD project team must consider the impact of COVID-19 on participants and data collection. We are prepared to have the community forums and focus groups virtually and in-person when it is deemed safe for all persons involved. We will keep the ADDPC informed of our data collection strategies and changes on a monthly basis via email or video conference. The University of Arizona (UA) provides the video conference capability that is HIPAA compliant.

### Recruitment

Recruitment efforts for the Advisory Group and the community forums will target diverse groups and communities. The Sonoran UCEDD staff and Jon Meyer from The Arc of Arizona have extensive relationships with a diverse group of organizations and individuals. The Sonoran UCEDD staff (Jacy Farkas, Melissa Kushner, Dr. Julie Armin, and Dr. Jamie Edgin) and Jon Meyer have suggested exploring the following participants: Santa Cruz Parent Love Connection, Arizona Center for African American Resources, American Indian Disability Planning Committee, Intertribal Council of Arizona, AZ Dept. of Education, Vocational Rehab., AHCCCS, Department of Child Safety (DCS), Adult Protective Services (APS), Alzheimer's Association, Midwestern University, Down Syndrome Network, Southern Arizona Network for Down Syndrome/SANDS,

Arizona's Children Association, Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs, AZ Caregiver Coalition, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging – Alzheimer's Task Force, Maricopa County Public Fiduciary Office, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACES-DV), Raising Special Kids, Centers for Independent Living such as Ability360, Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA), faith-based organizations, and the Arizona Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (AAPPD). Membership in the Advisory Group will be limited to 15 individuals. Participants will be asked to commit two hours per month and attend a one-hour virtual meeting per month.

Sonoran UCEDD staff and Jon Meyers have established relationships with many organizations. This will facilitate Dr. Tomasa's outreach efforts as recruitment is more successful when individual contact is made by familiar people. If an organization wants to know more about the project before making a commitment to participate, Dr. Tomasa will have a phone call or virtual meeting to introduce the project and answer questions.

Sonoran UCEDD will use a variety of methods to recruit participants representative of diverse backgrounds and communities. As part of the pre-registration process, participants will be asked a few demographic questions. For those who do not have access to the internet, registration by phone with the demographic questions can be completed.

#### Research Objectives

The research objectives are designed to increase understanding about sexual violence/abuse in Arizona among people with I/DD. Therefore, this research takes a broad and systematic approach by engaging diverse groups that may have different perspectives and incentives for identifying, reporting, and preventing abuse.

The project's objectives include:

1. Use the network of disability providers and professionals to champion and encourage individuals with I/DD, family members, DSPs, service providers, state organizations, and mental health providers to participate in the project.
2. Identify important literature and resources about the identification, prevention, and impact of sexual violence/abuse on individuals with I/DD. For example, The Arc National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability has useful resources at <https://thearc.org/our-initiatives/criminal-justice/>.
3. Provide recommendations to ADDPC about improved communication and coordination of critical information necessary to identify, report, prosecute, and prevent sexual violence/abuse cases against persons with I/DD.
4. Collect stories about sexual violence/abuse from adults with I/DD, family members, and service/support providers to inform messaging. Provide recommendations for future trainings.

### Research Questions

Answering the Who, What, When, Where, How and Why provides a framework for the following research questions.

1. **Who** do individuals with I/DD and families turn to when they suspect, witness, or experience inappropriate behaviors? Do they know who to turn to?
2. **What** incentives or disincentives do victims, families, DSPs, service providers, and mental health professionals experience when reporting sexual violence and abuse? Are the systems in place viewed as safe, helpful, or a barrier?
3. **When** do we investigate sexual violence and abuse and what data are needed and collected?
4. **Where** are data on violence and abuse kept, how is it organized and monitored, and who has access to this information? Is there a process to request this information?
5. **How** can we empower victims?
6. **Why** are service providers, mental health professionals, and other stakeholders inadequately trained to support victims of sexual violence/abuse and what can be done about it?

The project objectives and research questions were developed to add the perspectives of individuals with I/DD, families, and those who are involved in the lives of these individuals. Questions 1 through 6 address ADDPC's concerns about the reporting process within different types of settings such as residential settings, healthcare facilities and service agencies. It will also uncover concerns about reporting incidents. We will examine how individuals with I/DD, families, school personnel, service/support personnel and other stakeholders are made aware of the reporting process and how systems use information about sexual violence/abuse. This project will reach out to Dr. Velasquez to solicit her cooperation in integrating our data with her data. The ADDPC posed the following questions and this proposal will focus on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> question.

1. What is the current staffing, regulatory or legislative requirements to reporting, tracking and monitoring, and prevention efforts among state agencies and organizations regarding the I/DD population?
2. How are organizations and state agencies currently working together to address sexual violence/abuse detection, reporting, tracking, monitoring, and prevention among the population with I/DD. What is working in these relationships and where are the gaps?
3. What barriers exist and what successes can be built upon?
4. Describe experiences, knowledge, and perspectives on sexual violence/abuse identification, reporting, training, and prevention from individuals with I/DD, families, providers, and DDD support coordinators.



### Research Activities and Data Collection

Before data collection begins, Dr. Tomasa and her team will:

- Review project tasks and timeline,
- Reach out to Dr. Velasquez to identify her project's successes and barriers to inform improvements to this project,
- Identify community champions that are willing to introduce Dr. Tomasa and this project to appropriate personnel within key organizations,
- Work with Dr. Karyn Harvey to review the data collection tools that include survey questions, community forum format, focus group questions, and process to approach mental health support,
- Establish data collection processes and file with the University of Arizona Human Subjects application,
- Identify Advisory Group members, explain roles, schedule meetings and assign tasks,
- Call community agencies to offer a presentation on the project with the goal of engaging their staff to participate,
- Engage collaborators in identifying best strategies to recruit and engage participants in community forums and focus groups, and
- Establish, engage, and communicate strategies among collaborators, and finalize project goals, objectives, and deliverables.

Throughout the data collection process, monthly updates and data will be shared with the research team for input and feedback. This will allow for ongoing assessment of progress and adheres to a developmental approach to evaluation. Dr. Tomasa integrates this approach in her evaluation methods in order to use input from stakeholders and data to improve subsequent data collection efforts.

Dr. Tomasa, from the Sonoran UCEDD, will serve as the Project Director. She will develop research consent forms in plain language that will be approved by the UA Institutional Review Board (IRB).

### **Project Team Roles and Activities**

**Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW** will conduct the literature review and online searches for existing resources. She has the primary responsibility for data compilation, analysis and synthesis. She will create and disseminate the surveys, co-facilitate focus group and community forums, consult with her collaborators and lead the advisory group. Dr. Tomasa will revise the content of the *My House My Home workbook* to include a new chapter on sexual abuse prevention, reporting, and resources. She will ensure that data collection meets all the requirements set by the UA's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

**Melissa Kushner, MSW** will assist Dr. Tomasa with all project tasks including the marketing of and participant recruitment for the community forums and focus groups. She will coordinate the logistics for the events that include room reservation, refreshments, registration, and sign in. Ms. Kushner will transcribe focus group

recordings and edit the materials for the revised *My House My Home* housing workbook that includes a new chapter on sexual abuse prevention, reporting, resources, etc.

**Jeffrey Javier, MBA** will be responsible for making materials accessible, posting materials on the Sonoran UCEDD website and assisting with social media and technology needs. He will review the use of Zoom for Healthcare, which is HIPAA compliant, to ensure that the site is secure and private. He will set up the pre-registration process and online capabilities.

**Patricia Philbin** will be responsible for graphic design of the 2021 *My House My Home* workbook. She has worked with Dr. Tomasa on the 2013 edition and the recent *Future Planning: A Roadmap of Our Futures Our Wishes*. She will follow the ADDPC's style guide requirements.

**Jon Meyers** from The Arc of Arizona serves as the lead partner in this proposal and will help the research team navigate the state's efforts to address sexual violence and abuse against persons with I/DD in Arizona. He will facilitate networking with key stakeholders, help with outreach and recruitment efforts, attend the forums and focus groups virtually or in-person to serve as co-lead, assist in literature and data review, and contribute to written reports. He will serve as a useful liaison as he draws on resources from The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability.

**J.J. Rico** from Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL), will identify a staff member who will participate in three community forums. Their role is to co-lead three community forums by presenting a 30-minute talk that is followed by a Q & A session.

**Vicki Cuscino, MSW**, from DIRECT Center for Independence is our liaison and primary contact person. She has identified Gabrielle Ficchi, PhD to work on the project as the mental health counselor on the team. Dr. Ficchi will co-facilitate three focus groups and will be responsible for providing psychological support.

### **Mental Health Team**

**Dr. Karyn Harvey** will facilitate activities of the mental health team which includes three doctoral level counselors that have been identified for this project. They have training and expertise in sexual violence, abuse, trauma, and disabilities. They will participate in a pre-training led by Dr. Harvey before involvement in community forums and focus groups. Additional roles include contributing to a debriefing session after each forum and focus group that is led by Dr. Tomasa or Dr. Harvey. The mental health team includes Drs. Harvey, Roe-Sepowitz, Ficchi, and Tomasa. Additional qualifications are listed in the key staff section.

### Data Analysis

Dr. Tomasa will review all data collected related to the research questions. She has requested funding for the yearly subscription to SPSS software to analyze quantitative data. The MAXQDA software is needed to analyze qualitative data. Data sources include the following:

- Qualitative analysis of data from:
  - Advisory group meetings with key stakeholders.
  - Community forum discussions
  - Focus groups
- Quantitative and Qualitative (open-ended responses) analysis of
  - Online surveys
- Document analysis of
  - Literature review, online and paper resources
  - Agency reports and policies
  - Records and data that are available and shared by key stakeholder organizations

### Deliverables

The team plans to provide the following deliverables to ADDPC.

1. A final report with an executive summary. This report will highlight stories and lived experience from participants as well as gaps in the current system of detection, reporting, data tracking, monitoring, training and prevention efforts. Recommendations for improvement that are based on best practices will be included.
2. New information will replace an outdated section on behavioral health (pages 36 & 37) in the existing *My House My Home: Real Homes for Real People* that was developed in 2013. This will include a checklist in plain language for individuals, family caregivers, and service/support providers to help with identification and reporting of sexual violence/abuse. This section will also include personal safety tips. It will be added to the English and Spanish versions.
3. A six-hour online training on sexual abuse and trauma will be developed by Dr. Harvey with input from Dr. Tomasa. This online and free training on sexual abuse and trauma will be designed for service providers, agency personnel, DDD staff, mental health professionals, and any interested parties. Agencies and organizations will be encouraged to offer it as continuing education. Dr. Tomasa will reach out to the advisory group to solicit help with dissemination. It will be made available on the Sonoran UCEDD and ADDPC websites. It will be advertised on listservs of participating groups as well as provided to stakeholders and disability organizations.

- 2) Briefly describe the capacity for the Applicant to successfully complete the methodology of this project. Provide any previous experience that is similar to this scope of work, and a web link to the final product(s), if available.**

**Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW** has a broad and extensive career in academia that is enhanced by her community engagement and service. Her work as a hospice social worker gave her the opportunity to engage patients in difficult and intimate conversations. She joined the University of Arizona's Department of Family & Community Medicine (DFCM) in 1987 where her clinical responsibilities included depression and dementia screenings, making home visits, assessing caregiver needs, and teaching family medicine residents and faculty about aging and disability issues. She has worked within and with complex health care

systems where her emphasis was on teamwork, communication, and evaluation. She taught learners of all levels including undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, and faculty. Her professional development activities include a faculty teaching fellowship through the DFCM program in 1997 and the University of Delaware National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities Leadership training in 1009. She was recently awarded a Fellow status with the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) for her contributions to the field in June 2020.

Dr. Tomasa has been a Court Investigator for the Pima County Superior Court Probate Division for over 25 years. She reviews case files and medical records, conducts interviews and writes case histories to assess the need for guardianship and or conservatorship. As a neutral fact-finder, she collects and examines data from school records, bank records, legal documents, and communicates with appropriate individuals. The goal is to provide a clear and complete picture and history of the individual's (ward) life, abilities, and wishes. Since 2017, Dr. Tomasa has been a member of the Independent Oversight Committee (IOC) that is within the Arizona Department of Administration. It was formerly known as the Division of Developmental Disabilities Human Rights Committee. One of the objectives of the IOC is to "review all allegations of possible abuse, neglect, or denial of recipient rights." She reviews cases that are referred to the DDD District South Quality Assurance Division.

Dr. Tomasa has applied a mixed methods approach to most of her research and program evaluation efforts. She is knowledgeable about survey development, the use of software for both quantitative and qualitative data analysis (SPSS and MAXQDA), and thematic analysis of verbal and written communications.

The following list includes examples of specific projects and skills necessary to complete this research on sexual violence and abuse.

- **Literature Review:** Completed a systematic review of instruments that measure attitudes toward aging and healthcare. Dr. Tomasa and her collaborators are currently completing this manuscript.
- **Survey Development:** Created and in process of validating a questionnaire about aging attitudes, designed and administered multiple surveys to evaluate education and training programs, and designed/administered/analyzed surveys for the Future Planning Roadmap project (funded by ADDPC).
- **Program Evaluation and Improvement:** Involved as program evaluator for the PBIS grant that was funded by ADDPC. Responsible for collecting data through surveys, focus groups, and interviews.
- **Focus Groups and Interviews:** Conducted interviews and focus groups for the Future Planning Roadmap projects (2007 & 2016) and the *Picture of a Life* project led by Jacy Farkas. Dr. Tomasa has extensive experience with coding schemes for analyses and syntheses of verbal and written text.

- Commitment to Improving the Safety and Quality of Life of Individuals with Disabilities and I/DD. Dr. Tomasa has served as a court investigator for conservator and guardianship petitions in Pima County Probate Division for over 25 years. This included interviewing individuals with I/DD, family members, and service/support providers.
- Application of Research Data: Dr. Tomasa uses research data to create useful tools for individuals with I/DD, service/support professionals, family members, as well as the broader community. She utilizes “plain language” into her tools, resources, and training materials. The following are examples of the products she has created.

Web links to final products:

- Older Caregivers and Transitions Study. This included the development of the first edition of *Future Care Planning: A Roadmap for Family Caregivers (2010)*. Available at: <https://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/ocat>
- Aging and End of Life Project involved a comprehensive literature review and data collection from hospital personnel and family medicine physicians in training. The outcome was a workbook titled, *My Life, My Wishes: Sharing My Journey*. Available at: <https://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/aging-and-end-life>
- The Arizona Community Live NOW project was funded by the ADDPC. The outcome was a guidebook titled, *My House My Home: Real Homes for Real People*. Available at: <https://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/projects/azcommunitylivingnow>
- The Future Planning Roadmap project was an example of participatory research. It includes the voices of individuals with I/DD, family members, and service/support providers. Data collection included online surveys and interviews with family caregivers and adults with I/DD. It resulted in the workbook titled, *Future Planning: A Roadmap of Our Futures Our Wishes* published in 2018. Available at: <https://sonoranucedd.fcm.arizona.edu/publications/OurFuturesOurWishes>

**3) Briefly provide an overview of the name(s) of the key staff who would be assigned to this project, their educational background, length of time with organization, current job title, and previous experience with this type of research.**

Dr. Tomasa has assembled a team from the Sonoran UCEDD and state/national of experts with the knowledge, skills, and experience that will support the research goals and objectives. Key staff include Lynne Tomasa, PhD MSW and Melissa Kushner, MSW from the Sonoran UCEDD. State and national experts include Jon Meyers from The Arc of Arizona and the mental health team that includes Karyn Harvey, PhD, Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, PhD, and Gabrielle Ficchi, PhD.

**Lynne T. Tomasa, PhD, MSW, Principal Investigator/Project Director**

Education background: Dr. Tomasa received her Master in Social Work from the University of Hawaii in 1983. She received her PhD in Higher Education with a PhD minor in Gerontology from the University of Arizona in 1998.

Length of time with organization: Dr. Tomasa has been with the UA-DFCM for 32 years. She joined the department in 1987 and the UA-DFCM Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities Education, Research, Service (UCEDD) in 2006.

Current job title: Assistant Professor

Previous experience with this type of research: Dr. Tomasa has 12 years of experience conducting community-based, participatory research with persons with I/DD, family members, caregivers, services providers and other stakeholders. She conducted two research projects on future planning (2006-2007 and 2015-2016) about how individuals with I/DD and their family members address difficult issues during the planning process. The fear of sexual violence/abuse, neglect, and exploitation were a significant barrier to making plans. Relevant skills include but are not limited to: community engagement, selecting appropriate research methodology, survey development, recruiting participants, conducting one-on-one interviews, as well as focus groups and community forums. She is a mixed method researcher who analyzes both quantitative and qualitative data. She applies appropriate evaluation processes and systems analysis to complex environment.

**Melissa Kushner, MSW, Project Coordinator**

Educational Background: Ms. Kushner earned her Master in Social Work from Indiana University School of Social Work in 1980.

Length of time with organization: Ms. Kushner joined the Sonoran UCEDD in 2017 to coordinate Project I-AADAPT (Identify and Address Alzheimer's and Dementia in adults with I/DD through Prevention and Training).

Current Title: Senior Program Coordinator

Previous experience with this type of research: For more than 25 years Ms. Kushner has worked with people with I/DD, of these, she worked 21 years at the Arizona DDD. During her time there she held a variety of positions related to child welfare and was the DDD Child Welfare Specialist (Training Officer I) and liaison with the DCS for 15 years. She created and presented the DDD Support Coordinator mandatory training "Recognizing and Reporting Abuse and Neglect of People with Developmental Disabilities," which included presentations from hotline staff of Adult Protective Services and the DCS, and provided foster care/child welfare training for DDD and DCS workers statewide. In her current role at the Sonoran UCEDD, Ms. Kushner has been involved in projects related to dementia capable care for adults with I/DD and dementia, futures planning, person-centered thinking and planning, and youth with disabilities aging out of the foster care system.

**Jon Meyers, Legal and Public Policy Consultant**

Education background: Jon Meyers received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University. He also completed the Global Leadership Certificate Program from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, AZ.

Length of time with organization: Jon Meyers has been the Executive Director of The Arc of Arizona in Phoenix since 2013. He has more than 20 years of experience as a Senior Executive in higher education, health, human and social services, and the arts.

Current job title: Executive Director of The Arc of Arizona

Previous experience with this type of research: Mr. Meyers provides expertise in multiple areas that will ensure the success of this research project. He has extensive knowledge about policy development and analysis, legislative processes and operations, community outreach, and administration of projects. He has over 30 years' experience as a non-profit executive in higher education, health, human and social services, and the arts. In his role with The Arc, he oversees state and federal public policy, advocacy, and outreach efforts. He and his staff organize and deliver three major events each year: *Wings for Autism*, Sprout Film Festival and Developmental Disabilities Family Resources Conference. This reflects his skills in organization and collaboration and his broad networks. He has developed strong relationships with stakeholders and advocacy groups throughout Arizona. Mr. Meyers participated in the roundtable discussions and stakeholder meetings facilitated by the ADDPC in 2018. In February, as a result of ADDPC's 2019 Legislative and Regulatory Recommendations for Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Governor Ducey issued an executive order to strengthen protections for people with disabilities. As a result of these efforts, an Abuse & Neglect Prevention Task Force was developed. Mr. Meyers is a member of this task force.

**Karyn Harvey, PhD, Psychologist and Mental Health Trainer/Consultant**

Education background: Dr. Harvey received her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology in 1986 and a PhD in Applied Developmental Psychology in 1996 from the University of Maryland.

Length of time with organization: Dr. Harvey joined Park Avenue Group in 2018. Before that she was the Associate Executive Director of Clinical Supports at the Arc of Baltimore for 9 years and an adjunct professor at the University of Baltimore.

Current job title: Director, Park Avenue Group Training Program and Development.

Previous experience with this type of research: Dr. Harvey is a psychologist, author, trainer and speaker and has worked as a clinician in the field of intellectual disabilities for over 25 years. She has published articles about therapeutic interventions with individuals with I/DD, workbooks for individuals with I/DD and two books. Her first book, *Positive Identity Development*, was published in 2009 and presents both theory and guidance for clinicians doing therapy with individuals with ID. Her second book, *Trauma-Informed Behavioral Interventions*, was published in 2011 and presents a trauma-informed care approach to working with individuals with ID both programmatically and clinically. She consults with various state and individual agencies throughout the US and Canada and trains staff, administrators and clinicians on trauma-informed care.

**Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, PhD, Mental Health Clinician**

Education background: Dr. Roe-Sepowitz received her Master in Social Work degree in 2000 from Arizona State University (ASU) and her PhD in Direct Practice Social Work in 2005 from Florida State University.

Length of time with organization: Dr. Roe-Sepowitz joined the ASU faculty in 2005.

Current job title: Director of the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR).

Previous experience with this type of research: Dr. Roe-Sepowitz is a tenured professor at ASU and has done extensive research in the areas of sex trafficking, exploitation, violence against women, bullying, domestic violence, and interventions for victims. She is recognized as a subject matter expert and was invited to participate in the development of the US Department of Justice National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction in 2020. Her extensive publications are in her CV.

**Gabrielle Ficchi, PhD, Mental Health Clinician**

Education background: Dr. Ficchi received her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling in 2012 and a PhD in Rehabilitation Counseling & Mental Health in 2017 from the University of Arizona.

Length of time with organization: Dr. Ficchi joined DIRECT Center for Independence in 2015 and has been in its Counseling DIRECTIONS program since 2018.

Current job title: Senior Counselor

Previous experience with this type of research: Dr. Ficchi established the counseling program Counseling DIRECTIONS and a peer mentor counseling program. She provides individual and group therapy for individuals with various disabilities. She is an adjunct teacher at the UA where she has taught courses on counseling techniques, assessment, diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders, disability perspectives, and research methods. Dr. Ficchi was also employed by The Beacon Group in 2011 where she conducted one on one counseling.

- 4) **Provide a timeline with key tasks to complete the research.**  
Please see below.



ACTIVITY	Responsible Partner(s)	MONTHS													
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
Review project tasks, establish team protocols and process, finalize project goals, objectives, deliverables.	Tomas, Kushner, Javier	X													
Reach out to Dr. Velasquez for guidance and lessons learned from her project	Tomas	X													
Identify and recruit Advisory Group members, explain roles, assign tasks	Tomas, Kushner & Meyer	X	X												
Call community agencies to offer a presentation on the project to engage participants in community forums and focus groups	Tomas & Kushner		X	X											
Design data collection tools and review with consultants (surveys, forum and focus group discussion questions)	Tomas & Harvey	X	X												
Orient Mental Health (MH) Team	Tomas & Harvey		X												
Complete and get humans subjects approval for project	Tomas			X											
Schedule regular meetings with Project Team and Advisory Group	Tomas & Kushner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Assess technology needs, format, accessibility, HIPAA compliance and delivery	Tomas & Javier		X	X	X										

ACTIVITY	Responsible Partner(s)	MONTHS												
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Schedule and conduct community forums	Tomasa, Kushner, Meyer, MH Team				X	X	X	X		X				
Schedule and conduct focus groups	Tomasa, Kushner, Meyer, MH Team				X	X	X	X		X				
Administer surveys	Tomasa, Kushner, Javier, Meyer				X	X								
Analyze data from surveys, transcriptions, etc.	Tomasa				X	X	X	X		X		X		
Create and conduct free 6-hour online training on sexual abuse and trauma	Harvey & Tomasa									X		X		
Revise <i>My House My Home</i> workbook	Tomasa & Kushner									X		X		
Translate <i>My House My Home</i>													X	X
Write reports to include recommendations	Tomasa & Meyer												X	X
Present findings to ADDPC	Tomasa													X

### Applicant's Background Information Questionnaire

Complete each item, using attachments where necessary and label your response "Applicant's Background Information Questionnaire". Attachments shall indicate the item number and heading being referenced as it appears below. Failure to make full and complete disclosure may result in the rejection of your application as unresponsive.

1. Contact Name for Project: Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW

Organization Name: Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona

Department of Family and Community Medicine, 1501 N. Campbell Avenue,  
P.O. Box 245017

Address: Tucson, AZ 85724

Phone Number: (520) 626-7823 Email: ltomasa@email.arizona.edu

2. The Applicant is and was established when:

TYPE	YEAR ESTABLISHED
Corporation – Nonprofit	
Corporation – For Profit	
Limited Liability Company	
Limited Liability Partnership	
Partnership	
Unit of Local Government	
Indian Tribal Government	
Other	1885

3. As the lead applicant, read each statement carefully and mark Yes or No.

	YES	NO
a. Has any Federal or State agency ever made a finding of noncompliance with any relevant civil rights requirements with respect to your business activities? If YES, please attach an explanation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Has the Applicant, its major stockholders with a controlling interest, or its officers been the subject of criminal investigations or prosecutions or convicted of a felony? IF YES, please attach an explanation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

c. Does the Applicant have sufficient funds to meet obligations on time under the Contract while awaiting reimbursement from ADDPC? If NO, please attach an explanation.	X	
d. Have any licenses ever been denied, revoked or suspended or provisionally issued within the past five years? If YES, please attach an explanation.		X
e. Have you or has your organization terminated any contracts, had any contracts terminated, had any liquidated damages assessed or been involved in contract lawsuits? If YES, please attach an explanation.		X
f. Do you, your staff, any of your relatives, or voting members of your Board of Directors maintain any ownerships, employments, public and private affiliations or relationships which may have substantial interest (as defined in A.R.S. §38-502, Conflict of Interest) in any contract, sale, purchase, or service involving the ADDPC? If YES, please attach an explanation.		X
g. Has your organization ever gone through bankruptcy? If YES, when? Include the State, District and case number.		X

4. Authorized Signatory:

Mark A. Drury, Contracts Manager, University of Manager

(Name and Title of Authorized Signatory) is the signatory to this Contract on behalf of the Contractor and is responsible for the delivery of Contract Services during the term of this Contract.

ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001  
University of Arizona Board of Regents

Item E. Financial Systems Survey

Not applicable. University of Arizona Department of Family & Community  
Sonoran UCEDD has an existing contract with the ADDPC.

**ASSURANCES FOR NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**  
**OMB Approval No. 0348-0040**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503

**NOTE:** If you have a current contract with the ADDPC OR have received a grant from the ADDPC in the past 3 years, you are not required to sign the Assurances for Non-Construction Programs.

**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of the project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the

- Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to the nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing or housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of the Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
  8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
  9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276C and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction sub agreements.
  10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
  11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air ) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
  12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers

system.

13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.
18. Will comply with the Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights and Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights of 2013 (P.L. 112-239, U.S.C. §§4712 et seq., section 828 of the National Defense Authorization Act).
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program, including the U.S. Health and Human Services, 2 CFR Part 300, and 45 CFR Part 75; and Grants Policy Statement. Each governs the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.

SIGNATURE OR AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE  Mark A. Drury, Contracts Manager,  University of Arizona
OFFEROR ORGANIZATION Arizona Board of Regents,  University of Arizona	DATE  4/27/2020





For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

April 23, 2020

Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW  
University of Arizona  
Department of Family & Community Medicine  
Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities

**Re: Sexual Violence and IDD Research Grant (ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001)**

Dear Dr. Tomasa:

On behalf of The Arc of Arizona, I offer this letter in support of your 2020 application to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to conduct research on sexual violence against children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the state of Arizona. The mission of The Arc of Arizona is to advocate for the rights and full community participation of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are committed to speaking up for their rights and educating the public about the value that persons with disabilities bring to our society. Through The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability® (NCCJD), we are working to build strong, continual capacity of the criminal justice and disability services systems to respond to gaps in existing services for people with disabilities, focusing on people with I/DD who remain a hidden population within the criminal justice system.

Data from a 2017 Talk About Sexual Violence report by NCCJD indicates that nationally, 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted. However, women and girls with intellectual or developmental disabilities are four to ten times more likely to face sexual assault, with nearly 90 percent experiencing sexual assault during their lifetime. According to data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the rate of violent victimization (defined as rape or sexual assault) of people with disabilities is more than three times higher than the rate for people without disabilities. (See link: [https://www.thearc.org/file/nccjd\\_sexual-violence/ARC-BRC-finalreport-6-FINAL.pdf](https://www.thearc.org/file/nccjd_sexual-violence/ARC-BRC-finalreport-6-FINAL.pdf) ).

Even before recent events in Arizona, including the rape and subsequent childbirth of a woman with a cognitive disability at Hacienda HealthCare in Phoenix along with the widespread media coverage that ensued, The Arc of Arizona had taken a leadership role in advocating for improved protection of Arizonans with I/DD against sexual predators. Better protection, however, relies upon a complete understanding of the scope and magnitude of the problem of sexual violence against this population in our state – understanding that is sorely lacking at this time. Achieving full understanding of this problem, and proposing solutions to it, requires extensive research and detailed analysis of, among others things, the systemic barriers to reporting, lack of interagency communication, and inadequate education and trauma supports for persons with disabilities.



In order to be effective and comprehensive, research needs to involve everyone in the I/DD community: persons living with I/DD, caregivers, service providers, state agencies, as well as the criminal justice system. Dr. Tomasa, we want to offer The Arc's experience, expertise and resources to facilitate your research to increase awareness of the issue; identify the needs and concerns expressed by individuals with IDD; and focus efforts to prevent and develop supports to respond to sexual violence against children and adults with I/DD.

In support of your proposal/application, The Arc of Arizona agrees to:

- Serve as the lead partner to help the Sonoran UCEDD research team navigate what has occurred in AZ to address this issue.
- Facilitate networking among the research team and disability organizations, individuals with I/DD, service providers, advocates, and representatives of agencies of the State of Arizona (i.e., DES, DDD, AHCCCS, DHS, ADE), etc.
- Facilitate outreach to, and communication with, individuals with I/DD who have been victims of sexual assault or abuse and their guardians/caregivers (where applicable).
- Attend community forums and focus groups virtually or in-person to co-lead events.
- Provide data and insights related to rates of sexual abuse involving individuals with I/DD, barriers to identifying and reporting abuse incidents, models used to address these issues, and outcomes of efforts in Arizona and elsewhere, drawing upon the resources of The Arc of Arizona, The Arc of the U.S., and The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability.
- Assist in literature and data review to establish current state and identify trends, gaps, ongoing concerns, and recommendations for improvement.
- Assist in creating written reports for presentation to ADDPC upon completion of the funded project.

Again, The Arc of Arizona fully supports your research application to the ADDPC. Nationally, we have been at the forefront on the issue of sexual violence against persons with I/DD and believe that together we can create solutions that will benefit persons with I/DD in Arizona. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact me at (602) 290-1632 or [jon@arcarizona.org](mailto:jon@arcarizona.org). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Meyers'.

Jon Meyers  
Executive Director



April 24, 2020

Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW  
University of Arizona  
Department of Family & Community Medicine  
Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
655 N. Alvernon Way, Suite 228  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Re: Sexual Violence and IDD Research Grant (ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001)

Dear Dr. Tomasa:

On behalf of the Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL), I am writing this letter in support of your application to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to evaluate sexual violence/abuse against children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). ACDL is a non-profit law firm that assists Arizonans with disabilities to promote and protect their legal rights to independence, justice, and equality.

Incidents of sexual violence/abuse against children and adults with IDD are unfortunately commonplace. People with intellectual disabilities are sexually assaulted at a rate seven times higher than those without disabilities. ACDL has received multiple reports of this type of abuse and neglect. People with IDD are often targeted as they could be manipulated and will have difficulty testifying later. These incidents go unreported and the victim often has no recourse. While these types of situations need to be addressed, it is imperative to examine the perspectives of individuals with IDD and their families and how the current reporting system is functioning and how it can be improved.

The ACDL staff and its board of directors continues to view the issue of sexual violence as an area of focus. The goal is to ensure that persons with IDD are free from abuse and neglect and have appropriate safeguards to ensure their legal rights are protected.

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5025 East Washington Street, Suite 202  
Phoenix, Arizona 85034-7437  
(602) 274-6287 (Voice) – (602) 274-6779 (Fax)

177 North Church Avenue, Suite 800  
Tucson, Arizona 85701-1119  
(520) 327-9547 (Voice) – (520) 884-0992 (Fax)

[www.azdisabilitylaw.org](http://www.azdisabilitylaw.org)

Follow us on:  Facebook  Twitter  YouTube



Our participation in your research study will assist you in your recruitment efforts and data collection. In support of your application, the ACDL agrees to:

- Participate in 3 community forums that last two hours each. At each forum, our role would be to co-lead a 30-minute presentation that is followed by a Q & A discussion. We can answer legal and system issues related to sexual violence/abuse among persons with IDD. The Sonoran UCEDD will be responsible to arrange the logistics for the community forums. We can help to disseminate the information.
- Participate as a volunteer member of your advisory group that will help to guide you throughout the research process and data collection. This requires active participation in bi-monthly meetings held virtually.
- Serve as liaison to the legal community and service agencies as needed.

Again, I want to emphasize ACDL's commitment to the issue of sexual violence/abuse against children and adults with IDD. Our staff have the expertise and resources to evaluate the Arizona's current laws and regulatory systems and to provide recommendations that will ensure children and adults with IDD have effective protections and timely response and support in instances of sexual violence/abuse. If you have further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 520-327-9547, ext. 331 or by email to: [jrico@azdisabilitylaw.org](mailto:jrico@azdisabilitylaw.org).

Sincerely,

J.J. Rico, Chief Executive Officer  
Arizona Center for Disability Law

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5025 East Washington Street, Suite 202  
Phoenix, Arizona 85034-7437  
(602) 274-6287 (Voice) – (602) 274-6779 (Fax)

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[www.azdisabilitylaw.org](http://www.azdisabilitylaw.org)

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*Mission: To advocate voice, choice and independence for people with disabilities*

April 23, 2020

Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW  
University of Arizona, Department of Family & Community Medicine Sonoran  
University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (UCEDD)  
655 N. Alvernon Way, Suite 228  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Re: Sexual Violence and IDD Research Grant (ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001)

Dear Dr. Tomasa:

I am writing to offer unwavering support for your research application to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to further understand the complex issues regarding sexual violence and abuse against individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

For the past five years, I have served as Executive Director of DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc., the center for independent living (CIL) serving Southern Arizona. As a CIL, DIRECT is a private, nonprofit organization operated by and for people with disabilities. DIRECT's programs include advocacy, peer support/mentoring, life skills training, transitioning services, information and referral, benefits to work consulting, educating employers, and home modifications. Our affiliate, founded three years ago, Counseling DIRECTions, LLC, provides mental/behavioral health counseling to individuals with diverse disabilities. This program is grounded in the independent living philosophy and peer model with emphasis on guidance and support with disability related issues.

This places us in a key position to participate in your proposal. I agree with your emphasis on meeting the mental health needs of participants in your community forums and focus groups. Due to the sensitive and often traumatic experiences that individuals with I/DD face when being a victim of sexual violence and abuse, having experienced and knowledgeable professionals available at these events is critical. Your application addresses this issue by forming a mental health team. We are happy to be a part of that team and have identified Gabrielle Ficchi, PhD to participate. Dr. Ficchi is very familiar with the Sonoran UCEDD and is featured in the *My House My Home* workbook.

I wholeheartedly support Dr. Ficchi's involvement in this project. Our understanding is that Dr. Ficchi will serve as a member of the mental health team that will provide support during the event and make referrals as needed. As part of her role, she will:

- Attend a pre-orientation/training that is led by Karyn Harvey, PhD, who is a



*Mission: To advocate voice, choice and independence for people with disabilities*

national expert on sexual violence/abuse.

- Participate in 3 focus groups that are 2-hours in length. The target audience is individuals with IDD, families, and their support network.
- Debrief each event with Dr. Tomasa and the mental health team.

I understand that one outcome of this project is a six-hour, online training that will be developed by Dr. Harvey. This training is free and open to all staff at DIRECT Center for Independence and Counseling DIRECTIONS. This is a much-needed training for all behavioral health professionals.

Sexual violence and abuse permeate disability culture and individuals with I/DD are particularly vulnerable. By working together, we can:

- Give individuals with IDD who have experienced sexual violence or abuse a safe space and a voice
- Assist the state in identifying unmet needs, gaps in services, specific audiences in need of training, and the types of training necessary to increase identification and early intervention
- Raise awareness about the prevalence of abuse and the need for prevention and intervention
- Provide recommendations to enhance advocacy resources for persons with IDD, caregivers, healthcare and service providers, and other key stakeholders in the IDD community

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 520-549-1190 or [vickic@directilc.org](mailto:vickic@directilc.org).

Sincerely,

*Vicki Cuscino*

Vicki Cuscino, MSW  
Executive Director

DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc. and Counseling DIRECTIONS, LLC

April 24, 2020

Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW  
University of Arizona  
Department of Family & Community Medicine  
Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
655 N. Alvernon Way, Suite 228  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Re: Sexual Violence and I/DD Research Grant (ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001)

Dear Dr. Tomasa:

This letter of support is to share our enthusiasm and support for your research application to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council on sexual violence against children and adults with I/DD. Special Olympics Arizona (SOAZ) is especially excited to work with you on this project as we are also focusing on the topics of sexuality, healthy relationships, and abuse as it relates to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

The purpose of Special Olympics Arizona (SOAZ) is to empower children and adults with intellectual disabilities to live healthy, fulfilling and meaningful lives to the fullest extent of their ability. We realize our vision of acceptance and inclusion through inclusive health, leadership and advocacy programs, as well as our mission to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

SOAZ understands that all people have the right to healthy and safe relationships. Unfortunately, there is a lack of appropriate education and resources out there to support those relationships for people with disabilities. People with intellectual disabilities are 7 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than those without. In fact, it is estimated that as many as 40 percent of women with disabilities experience sexual assault or physical violence in their lifetimes and that more than 90 percent of all people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual assault. Currently, there is no standard of sexual health education regarding people with disabilities in Arizona, leaving a gap for quality health care services, sexual education, self-advocacy, and protection through reporting provided to people with I/DD. To ensure that all current and future providers, coaches, and staff are confidently serving Arizona communities, Special Olympics Arizona's goal is to deliver the Sexual Health Education Training through title X funding as a way to protect the rights of all individuals in Arizona. The Sexual Health Education and Healthy Relationships program aims to provide inclusive sex education and healthy relationship resources and information to Special Olympics Arizona constitutions, staff, coaches, teachers, and participants. The project will including training for SOAZ clinical directors (health professionals that have completed a Special Olympics International training to host Healthy Athlete events), providers, staff, and teachers/coaches. The project will also include the creation of resources regarding sex education and healthy relationships that will be

taught/implemented by trained coaches/teachers to SOAZ athletes and partners. All of this is in effort to make sexual health more inclusive and is based off of the lack of current resources that exist as well as the stories we have been told by various SOAZ constituents regarding this topic and the need for trainings/resources.

We have a history of collaborations with the Sonoran UCEDD on various projects, mostly with Tamsen Bassford, MD who serves as a Health Promotion and MedFest Clinical Director for Special Olympics Arizona providing educational opportunities as well as free physicals for SOAZ participants. More recently, Dr. Tomasa invited us to participate in their ADDPC sponsored Adulting workshop where SOAZ athletes serve as co-planners and leaders in the all-day event to be held this year in Tucson. Dr. Tomasa was very interested in our Title X grant on sexual health among our athletes and now serves on our Sex Education and Healthy Relationships (SEHR) committee assisting in the development, evaluation and dissemination of all project objectives.

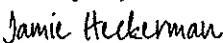
For the sexual violence and abuse grant, Special Olympics Arizona will collaborate by:

- Co-presenting a 30-minute educational topic on sexual health and relationships with Dr. Tomasa at three community forums.
- Introduce Dr. Tomasa's project at our community events in hopes of recruiting participants for her project.
- Disseminate information about her project (surveys, forums, and focus groups) through our social media platforms.

We are looking forward to working with Dr. Tomasa to move our project and her project forward. If you have any questions, please contact me at [Jamie@specialolympicsarizona.org](mailto:Jamie@specialolympicsarizona.org)

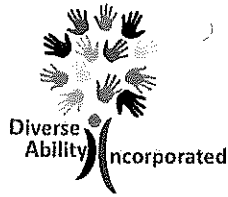
Sincerely,

Jamie Heckerman

DocuSigned by:  
  
45F77AE34EFA490...



PO Box 46316  
Phoenix AZ 85063



602-425-5135 (Phone)  
602-333-7605 (Fax)

[www.diverseabilityincorporated.org](http://www.diverseabilityincorporated.org)

[admin@diverseabilityincorporated.org](mailto:admin@diverseabilityincorporated.org)

April 24, 2020

Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW  
University of Arizona  
Department of Family & Community Medicine  
Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
655 N. Alvernon Way, Suite 228  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Re: Sexual Violence and I/DD Research Grant (ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001)

Dear Dr. Tomasa:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer this letter of support for your research grant proposal to the Arizona Developmental Disability Planning Council (ADDPC). Your proposal addresses *Research on Arizona's Response to Sexual Violence/Abuse of Children and Adults with I/DD* through community engagement, facilitated by programs like ours, who favor a peer approach.

The mission of Diverse Ability Incorporated is to promote access, equality, inclusion, and the intersectionality of diversity, through peer-based experiential learning, person-centered practices, and maximized collaboration efforts, designed to heighten knowledge, enhance skills, and foster individual life path planning, and growth. Our statewide efforts include, Arizona Youth Leadership Initiatives (AZYLI), a combination of peer-based mentoring, training, and support services provided by and for youth who have disabilities and other diversities. Through AZYLI youth and young adults who have disabilities increase their leadership skills, develop self-reliance, and improve self-advocacy skills.

I am very familiar with the work of Sonoran UCEDD, particularly in regard to person-centered planning and employment initiatives. More recently, I was introduced to Dr. Tomasa and her future planning workbook, in relation to the Adulthood workshop to be held soon in Tucson. We are a collaborator in the Adulthood workshop, where our AZYLI alumni are co-planners and co-presenters. This provides individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives regarding the transition to adulthood. This transition also involves developing safe and healthy relationships, as well as the prevention of abuse.

We address sexual violence and abuse during our Health and Safety in Relationships training, and we are pleased to collaborate on this project, which is a win-win for everyone. Diverse Ability Incorporated agrees to participate in 3 community forums where an alum and I will co-present a topic related to sexual health. Each event, roughly two-hours in length, will start with a 30-minute presentation, and end with a Question and Answer discussion. The forums are an important way to introduce the research project, engage the community, and recruit participants for the focus groups. We are also happy to help disseminate information about the project through our social media platforms and our community initiatives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: [mellie@diverseabilityincorporated.org](mailto:mellie@diverseabilityincorporated.org), or 602-425-5135.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Santora", written in a cursive style.

Melissa Ann Santora  
Founding Executive Director

April 27, 2020

Lynne Tomasa, PhD, MSW  
University of Arizona  
Department of Family & Community Medicine  
Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Disabilities  
655 N. Alvernon Way, Suite 228  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Re: Sexual Violence and I/DD Research Grant (ADDPC-FFY19-SARSH-001)

Dear Dr. Tomasa:

I was excited to hear about your grant application for the ADDPC *Research on Arizona's Response to Sexual Violence/Abuse of Children and Adults with I/DD*. We met at the Arizona Health Partnership Women's Health Conference in February when you came to my session on sex trafficking. You asked a very important question, "in your research findings, what percentage are women with an intellectual and developmental disability?" In my research on sex trafficked persons in our community, we have found 20% of the sex trafficked victims from populations including homeless youth, incarcerated women, and youth treatment center residents, have been in special education programming at some point in their education experience.

My research and experience with sex trafficking victims has found that sex traffickers prey on the most vulnerable. These include youth and adults who are naïve to sex trafficking, who are looking for someone to connect with (virtually or in person), those who are not continuously supervised, and those with limited skills on asking for and seeking out help. These include children and adults who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and we have seen these victims around Arizona.

Based on your research interest and mine, I am looking forward to working with you on this project. In our follow-up conversation you shared that your project's objectives are to complete a literature review, conduct six community forums and six focus groups, and to make recommendations based on your findings. Your attention to the mental health needs and well-being of participants is an important piece of this project. I can offer you my expertise in addressing the impact of abuse and trauma. In my role as a faculty member at Arizona State University's School of Social Work in Phoenix, I will identify students who can take notes during your forums and focus groups. They will receive a stipend of \$25 per hour for their help.

I offer this letter of support for your application and am eager to participate as a member of your mental health team. This team will be led by Karyn Harvey, PhD, who has spent her career working with and advocating for persons with I/DD. As a behavioral health clinician, I will

participate in four community forums and four focus groups (2 hours each) and be available to address the mental health needs of participants. As part of my role in these events, I will participate in a pre-orientation/training led by Dr. Harvey and de-brief discussions after each event. I am willing to commit 25 hours of my time which includes direct contact with participants at the events plus supervision of my student notetakers. I am looking forward to learning about your research findings.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Roe-Sepowitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Director, Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research  
Arizona State University  
602-496-0093/Dominique.roe@asu.edu



## Budget Request Form

Contractor Name: Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona, PI: Lyne Tomasa, PhD, MSW

Contractor Address: Department of Family and Community Medicine, 655 N. Alvernon Way, Suite 228, Tucson, AZ 85711-1853  
Street Address City State Zip

Project Name: Sexual Violence/Abuse & IDD Research Grant

Budget Category	Requested ADDPC Funds	Non-Federal Cash Match	Non-Federal In-Kind Match	Total Program Cost
Personnel/Salaries	\$42,949			\$42,949
Fringe Benefits	\$13,486			\$13,486
Supplies / Operating Expenses	\$2,770			\$2,770
Travel	\$2,125			\$2,125
Rent or Cost of Space				-
Contracted Services / Professional Services	\$29,424			\$29,424
Administrative / Indirect Costs	\$9,075			\$9,075
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$99,829</b>	-	-	<b>\$99,829</b>

It is understood that Non-Federal Funds identified in this budget will be used to match only ADDPC Federal Funds, and will not be used to match any other Federal Funds during the period of the ADDPC funded Project.

Additional description and background information shall be included as a budget narrative, including for match. The contractor agrees to submit additional background information to the ADDPC upon request.

**Sangita Pawar, PhD, MBA**

Name of Certifying Official

**Vice President, Operations**

Title of Certifying Official

**520-626-6000**

**sponsor@email.arizona.edu**

Phone

Email

**ADDPC Sexual Violence & IDD Research Grant  
July 2020 to June 2020 (12 months)**

**PERSONNEL (\$42,949)**

**Lynne T. Tomasa, PhD, MSW, Principal Investigator/Project Director (.30 FTE/\$28,500).** Dr. Tomasa will assume overall responsibility for the project and ensuring deliverables are met. Dr. Tomasa will be responsible for research method and design, literature searches, coordinating activities with partnering agencies, conducting focus groups and community forums, developing surveys, compiling data collected, data analysis, and preparing final reports with recommendations on best practices. She will revise the *My House My Home: Real Homes for Real People* workbook which she authored in 2013.

**Melissa Kushner, Program Coordinator (.15 FTE/\$8,160).** Program coordinator will work closely with Dr. Tomasa and be responsible for the marketing and recruitment of participants for the community forums and focus groups. She will coordinate the logistics for the events that include room reservation, refreshments, registration, and sign in. Ms. Kushner will transcribe focus group recordings, compile information, and edit the materials for the revised *My House My Home* housing workbook that includes a new chapter on sexual abuse prevention, reporting, resources, etc.

**Patricia Philbin, Graphic Designer (0.05 FTE/\$2,159).** Graphic Designer will work closely with Dr. Tomasa in the design, layout, and review of the *My House My Home* housing workbook. She was involved with the creation of the original workbook in 2013.

**Jeffrey Javier, Marketing and Technology (0.07 FTE/\$4,130).** Marketing and Technology Specialist will work closely with Dr. Tomasa in ensuring that all materials are accessible. He will add a new section on the Sonoran UCEDD website to include resources and products created from this project. Other tasks include setting up the online forums and focus groups to ensure that the site is secure, private, and accessible.

**FRINGE BENEFITS (\$13,486)**

Personnel salaries are based on university schedules and ranges for the positions. Percentages are based on a 12-month contract for the project.

University fringe benefits rates for FY20-21 are based on employee classification:  
Appointed and Faculty-Regular: 31.4% (\$13,486)

**SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS (\$2,770)**

Supplies include:

Software licenses for data analysis: SPSS (\$140); Qualitative software (\$250)

Office supplies: Notepads, folders, flip charts, pens, paper for focus groups and community forms, collaborator meetings, etc. (\$400)

Printing - Color: 10 pages @ .20/page x 200 (\$400)

Laptop: (\$1,500)

Focus group refreshments: (\$80)

Bottled water @ \$3.98/case (32 units) x 8 cases (\$32)

Granola bars @ \$12.59/box (58 units) x 3 boxes (\$38)

Napkins @ 1 pkg (260 units) @ \$9.99

**TRAVEL (\$2,125)**

Mileage for local travel, including trips from Tucson to Phoenix and Tucson to Flagstaff, to conduct focus groups, community forums, meet with collaborators and stakeholders:

1405 miles @ .445/mile = \$625

Lodging & per diem - Flagstaff: conduct focus group with persons with IDD and their caregivers (\$700) to include:

One night @ \$119/night x 4 nights

Per diem @ \$56 x 4 days

Participant travel reimbursement – facilitates travel to attend focus groups: \$20/per person x 40 = \$800

**OTHER EXPENSES (\$29,424)**

There will be 12 events: Six Community Forums (CF) and six Focus Groups (FG). Each event is approximately 2 hours in length. Sonoran UCEDD, The Arc of AZ, and Mental Health Counselors will be at each event to run session, support participants, and debrief after each event. The Special Olympics, Diverse Ability, DIRECT counselor, and Dr. Roe-Sepowitz will be at selected events.

- Notetakers at forum and focus groups (\$25 per hour for 24 hours): \$600
- Room rental for community forums: \$500
- ASL Interpreter @\$60/hour for 24 hours for 6 community forums and 6 focus groups with 2 interpreters at each event: \$2,880
- Spanish Interpreter @\$110/hour for 24 hours for 6 community forums and 6 focus groups: \$2,640
- The Arc of Arizona 6 Community Forums, 6 Focus Groups, Policy and Program Consultation: \$8,000
- Special Olympics (3 events \$500 each including travel): \$1,500
- Diverse Ability (3 events \$500 each including travel): \$1,500
- Arizona Center for Disability Law (3 events \$500 each including travel): \$1,500
- Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, PhD (\$90 per hour for 25 hours includes 2.5 hours of mandatory training): \$2,104
- Karyn Harvey, PhD (consultation and one-day training): \$1,800
- Spanish Translation of Housing Workbook: \$5,500
- DIRECT Counselor (\$90 per hour for 10 hours includes 2.5 hours of mandatory training): \$900

**INDIRECT COSTS (\$9,075)**

A 10% indirect cost rate has been applied.

