

***Self-Employment Leads to Freedom – SELF***

1. The Council previously allocated funds for programs related to the three goals – Self Advocacy, Empowerment through Information and Community Integrated Employment.
2. **SELF Project is in alignment with Goal 2 – to advocate and expand capacity for community integrated employment.**
3. We want to allocate up to \$300,000 for the **Self** Project because we view this as a significant **investment** to create a comprehensive and sustainable self-employment program to reach individuals with developmental disabilities in all areas of the state.
4. We are faced with some challenges regarding competitive employment - We do not have the total number of individuals with developmental disabilities living with their families, in group homes, or participating in day treatment centers – we want this program to reach out to them.
  - a. Many of these individuals live in areas of Arizona where employment opportunities are not readily available. The Home Baked and Confectionary Goods Program (HB2103) will serve as catalyst to encourage individuals to launch self-employment.
  - b. The vendors will be required to identify potential participants through DD/RSA and other programs, and also identify those who are no longer receiving benefits.
  - c. This is a labor intensive project:
    - i. the vendor will be required to set-up the program and provide instruction in a variety of settings (classroom, individual, group);
    - ii. There will be significant costs associated with personnel and travel.
5. We anticipate four regions – Metro Phoenix and Tucson, Northern and Southern Arizona.
6. Ideally – we want to create a comprehensive program and we anticipate multiple contracts and awards.
7. The responding vendors will identify their budget in compliance with the RFGA.
8. There is a possibility all of the funds may not be expended, some of the respondents may not meet all of the program requirements.
9. Second year funding will be determined based on the success of the program.
10. ***Self Employment Leads to Freedom*** – it’s about education, empowerment, independence, employment with a strong focus on entrepreneurship.

11. Provide comprehensive training that is customized and not off the shelf.
12. Capacity building – working with partners DHS, DES – Rehabilitation Services Administration, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, Arizona Technology Access Program, and AZ Small Business Development Centers and also identify new partners
13. Systems Change – funding a new program focused on outcomes and involve a change in thinking.

### **Program Highlights**

- Provides orientation to introduce and explain SELF Program – recruit and retain individuals to participate in program
  - Creates a technical assistance partnership – small business technical assistance and outreach center
  - Provides education and training on all aspects of Home Baked and Confectionary Goods Program including obtaining Food Handler Card
  - Encourages entrepreneurship – development of business and marketing plan, sustaining business
  - Provides education and training – classroom and group setting, on-line, live and video conferencing
  - Provides grant funds up to \$250 for operation start-up, food handler card, food production
  - Provides exceptional customer service training
  - Creates Train the Trainers program – sustainability of program
  - Monitor and tracks participant's progress
  - Develops a target plan for sustainability to leverage additional dollars to support an ongoing organizational structure
  - Allows for program expansion – assist participants in expanding into optional business enterprises
14. Evaluation – bottom line...how many individuals have started a business...but what about how many individuals and their family supports have received comprehensive entrepreneurial training to start a new business.
    - a. The number of businesses started as result of program participation;
    - b. Income earned;
    - c. Number of other types of competitive employment achieved due to participation;
    - d. What about cohorts? Individuals who have gone through training may form their own partnerships, bonds, friendships and support system.