

**RFGA: Comprehensive Education Projects to Promote Self-Advocacy and Information**

Evaluation Committee Members: Ray Morris, Melissa Van Hook, Ed Myers, & Krystal Downing. Support provided by Lani St. Cyr, & Marcella Crane.

The following grant applications **were not recommended** to the ADDPC for an award:

***Aires; 75,000***

Applicant proposed a high school program for persons with Developmental Disabilities that allows participants to create a self-advocacy club within their high school community. The *Leadership Empowering through Action and Diversity (LEAD) Clubs* are designed to teach students how to advocate for themselves by utilizing the *SPEAK Up!* curriculum. Activities teach and encourage students to become self-advocates by participating in group discussions, role playing and visual instructions.

***Best Buddies; \$100,000***

Applicant proposed to expand the *'Buddy Ambassador Program'* to include self-advocacy training. The program was targeted in Apache Junction, Laveen, San Tan Valley, Surprise and Avondale. The trainings were planned for every four-six weeks and collaborated with schools and volunteers acting as speech coaches and speakers.

***Community Options Inc; \$156,824***

Applicant proposed to implement the *'IMatter Self-Advocacy'* project statewide, a training program for persons with developmental disabilities to learn and implement support for their own individual advocacy needs and for guiding a group of individuals in addressing their collective advocacy concerns. *'IMatter'* is provided through a series of training modules and a process of surveys and interviews to determine the needed advocacy strategies, offered over two days. Community Options has implemented the program in other states (NJ, TX, KY) and is currently opening up an office in Tucson, Arizona.

***Elite; \$110,798***

Applicant is currently contracted by DES/DDD to provide HCBS services statewide for DDD members in the areas of habilitation, respite, attendant care, housekeeping ISE and ESA. Applicant proposed to hold monthly conferences, for persons with Developmental Disabilities and their families, on the types of community resources available in their community, and opportunities for involvement in civic and leadership activities.

***Special Olympics AZ; \$99,711***

Applicant proposed utilizing the existing '*Athlete Leadership Program*', an education and practical application program which increases leadership and advocacy skills for persons with developmental disabilities and provides opportunities for practice. Participants complete an application process, are paired with a mentor and participate in the program that is taught over a one or two-day conference, throughout a 3 year cycle. Courses offered at the *Athlete Leadership Program* include an Introduction to Athlete Leadership; Self-Advocacy; Global Messenger I, II (public speaking); Governance I, II; Technology I, II; and Healthy Athletes.

***Spina Bifida Association; \$53,290***

Applicant proposed the '*Independence and Community Impact Project*' to engage unserved or underserved children or adults that have Spina Bifida and are unaware of the programs or services that are available to them. Services provided through the grant would consist of early intervention, opportunities for adaptive equipment, social and educational peer groups, parent mentoring, life-skill development, membership to medical records emergency relay and access to the current research information and related procedures.

***Sonoran UCEDD; \$88,410***

Applicant proposed '*Healthy Eating/Healthy Lives Project*', a curriculum based project supporting individuals (caretakers/families/direct care workers) that support adults with Developmental Disabilities in healthy food choices and cooking, and to create a web based training module on these topics: nutrition, healthy food choices, shopping and cooking. Curriculum would be piloted to two groups of individuals supporting adults with Developmental Disabilities and then be developed for web-based training.