

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND ARIZONA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY  
CONFERENCE COLLABORATION

*Date Submitted:*

12/18/2017

*Name of Organization:*

Institute for Human Development  
PO Box 5630  
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

*Contact Name, phone number and email:*

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*Which ADDPC goal category:*

Employment and Inclusion

*Provide a brief description of the proposed project and barriers you'd like to address:*

The Institute for Human Development (IHD) the Arizona University Center on Disabilities (AzUCD) at Northern Arizona University will be moving forward with the planning and execution of our annual combined conference to be held at the Wekopa Resort, 10438 N. Fort McDowell Road, Fountain Hills/Scottsdale, AZ 85264. This will be the second year where the IHD/AzUCD will have a combined conference which will have 3 events under one venue. These events include the Assistive Technology, Evidence-Based Practice, and the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The events will take place from July 8-10, 2018. Attendees must register for a primary event, but will be able to attend any open session of interest to them. We will be providing attendees with CEUs and professional growth hours. This conference would address the council's category of **Employment and Inclusion** through the multiple presentations over the course of the two day event. The presentations will address how professionals from the public and private sector can utilize assistive technology, evidence-based practice in furthering the goals of increasing employment and inclusionary practices for the persons with disabilities they serve.

*Method of service delivery:*

These practices will be incorporated via the following events:

**Assistive Technology Event:**

- Concurrent sessions covering a broad range of assistive technology topics
- Dynamic opening and closing speakers
- AT expertise from experienced presenters
- Over 60 AT vendors who will be present in the exhibit hall

**Evidence Based Practice in Disability Disciplines**

This year the EBP event will have strands in areas of employment, literacy, community living, and inclusion. This is most important given the importance of evidence-based interventions for adults and child and youth with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The EBP conference planning committee plans to offer the attendees a robust agenda to address concerns from professionals in the fields of employment, rehabilitation, education and developmental disabilities. The EBP Planning committee consists of representatives from DDD, RSA, AzEIP, ADDPC, and DOE/ESS. The planning committee will provide valuable input into the development of the employment and inclusion track program. These representatives are hoped to provide the topics and possible speakers that can address important public and private issues.

#### **American Indian Rehabilitation Services**

This event will offer training and technical assistance to the over 88 American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services programs across the country. They will be offering selected culturally competent training topics that have been requested by these programs and will be offering one-to-one technical assistance to individual programs during the duration of the conference. These sessions will be open to all conference attendees.

#### *Anticipated Partnerships in the Project:*

DD Network; Department of Economic Security, Developmental Disability Division, Rehabilitation Services Administration, and AzEIP; Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services

#### *Anticipated contract Period:*

Multi-year (3)

#### *Anticipated Cost:*

\$7,500 (per year)

This includes 10 registrations assigned to the Council

#### *Anticipated Cost for total project if over one year:*

\$22,500

#### *Target Group and anticipated target Number:*

The target group for this activity are the professionals in private and public sectors who work with persons with developmental disabilities. It is anticipated that over 500 persons will attend the conference each year.

#### *Expected Results after one year:*

Although it would be difficult to determine, we anticipate that through these trainings, steady progress will be made in changing the behavior, expectations, and overall working of professionals to increase the number of persons with developmental disabilities in competitive employment and in inclusionary settings and practices.

#### *Evaluation:*

In addition to the overall conference survey, the IHD/AzUCD will ensure that the following ADDPC questions are addressed:

1. Number of people likely to engage in change practices as a result of information from attending this event
2. Number of people likely to engage in policy changes as a result of information from attending this event
3. The total number of people attending the conference, with a breakout of these types: self-advocates, professionals, family members, other.
4. The total number of sessions offered in the Conference.

*What are other ways to meet this need without ADDPC funding:*

State service funding agencies look at providing financial incentives for private service agencies to increase and promote more employment and inclusionary practices for persons with developmental disabilities. State agencies developing service policies that incentivize employment and inclusionary practices and outcomes. Increased receptivity of private industry to hire persons with developmental disabilities. And finally, increased expectations of parents for their child with developmental disabilities to have competitive employment opportunities and to live an integrated and inclusionary life in all facets of community living.

*Is there anyone else doing this now?*

I do not hear or see anyone that targets professionals in this way. There are national organizations that address each of the categories separately, but their conferences are usually out-of-state and are cost prohibitive.

*What are the potential means for sustaining the project?*

After three years of support from the ADDPC, we believe that the conference will gain the reputation of being an exemplary forum for gaining new knowledge and skills by professionals that they would seek to come to our conference. The registration fees would then support and sustain the conference moving into the future.

*Why is this important for the ADDPC to do?*

There are several reasons why this would be important for the ADDPC: 1) It would show our funding agency that we are working collaboratively on the Council's goals; 2) It would show the state that we can work collaboratively to address some of the state's service agencies goals (each organization support through their strengths and core functions), and 3) ultimately to improve the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families.