

Supported Decision Making - Recommended proposal:

**The Arc of the United States, dba The Arc of Arizona; Requesting \$80,000**

Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is an alternative to traditional guardianship or substitute decision-making models and is based on autonomy, self-determination, and inclusivity.

The Arc of Arizona's SDM Agreement Training proposal will focus on understanding legal capacity, communication and decision-making skills, person-centered planning, identifying and managing risks, identifying support networks, legal and ethical considerations, advocacy and empowerment, and the development of practical tools and resources for individuals with I/DD considering use of SDM.

The Arc of Arizona will partner with the Arizona Center for Disability Law. Components of the proposal and training include:

1. Curriculum development: Review current curriculum training materials and enhance the materials to reflect national principles, best practices, and legal aspects of SDM. Information on SDM will come from the National Center for Supported Decision-Making and will be tailored to the needs of the diverse populations in Arizona. Information will also be tailored to professionals in the education and judicial systems.
2. 12 in-person and virtual training sessions will be conducted for various stakeholders, including individuals with I/DD, their families and caregivers, educators, service providers, and legal professionals. Outreach efforts will also include unserved/underserved populations and communities. Training sessions will be interactive and participatory, involving discussions, case study review, role plays and other methods.
3. The applicant will collaborate with local disability organizations, advocacy groups, local chapters of The Arc and other stakeholders to promote the importance of SDM. The ACDL was part of the first four years of the previous SDM grant, and they will build upon and expand their outreach efforts.
4. The Expected Outcomes include:
  - a. Increase awareness about the importance of SDM as a person-centered approach for individuals with I/DD to retain their right to make their own choices.
  - b. Enhanced ability for participants to acquire practical skills and strategies, to include communication skills, active listening, decision-making processes, understanding the dignity of risk, and strategies for addressing challenges and barriers to allowing people to exercise their right to make choices.
  - c. Increased collaboration that fosters partnerships among stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities, families, school systems, judicial systems, service providers and legal professionals.

Other programmatic considerations:

The Arc of Arizona will afford accommodations as requested, and recorded trainings will be closed captioned.

Trainings will be done together by The Arc of Arizona and the Arizona Center for Disability Law.

As SDM legislation has been passed out of the legislature (still awaiting the Governor's signature), The Arc of Arizona will ensure that the curriculum, as well as any promotional materials that are created, will reflect the new provisions in the law.

The Arc of AZ will also have information for those families that want to rescind guardianship and implement an SDM agreement.

Evaluation data will include both output numbers and outcome measurements, following up with attendees on how the information they received is being used. This information will inform The Arc of Arizona on any changes to make in the content or its delivery.

#### RFGA Evaluation Process:

The evaluation committee reviewed this proposal and the two clarification responses to address programmatic and budget changes; each clarification was approved.

The committee also reviewed the other proposal submitted by Southwest Institute for Families and Children (SWI) and one clarification response was reviewed by the evaluation committee. In further discussion, the evaluation committee did not approve SWI's proposal and clarification response.

The Committee felt the application and responses by The Arc of Arizona were more responsive to the scope of work and this applicant is better able to carry out the work. Thus, this proposal is recommended to the Council for a one-year contract.

The committee members include Maureen Casey, Janna Murrell, and Jill Pleasant.