**GCDD Applicants Conference, Questions and Written Responses**

**November 3, 2021**

**22PR1: Manage GCDD's Communications Platforms**

Q: Are there any current benchmarks for increased readership, growth and engagements of target audience? Or would you require the awarded company to create them?

A: We have current benchmarks in place regarding our current target audience. The awarded company would work closely with me to continue to increase our readership, growth and engagement with our target audience.

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Q: How many visual assets /month are typically submitted for placement on the website?

A: The number of visual assets typically submitted varies upon the time of year. When we are busy (Legislative Session, election years, COVID-19 initiatives, IPSE back to school/graduation details) the need for photos, press releases, videos, and other information graphics to be added to the website can increase. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Q: Will the video assets be in publish-ready formats, i.e. videos & images compressed, edited, etc.?

A: Videos that are submitted from outside individuals may need editing(compressing, closed captions added) before they are website ready. It is up to the contractor to capture and edit additional content that is needed to support/enhance council programming. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Q: What is the historical hour investment for the website-related portion of the project?

A: The hours spent on the website varies per month depending on the amount of technical maintenance, website enhancements and content updates needed. The contractor should have an efficient process that allows for quality monthly work that remains in line with the budgeted dollars.
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Q: Is GCDD totally moving away from printed publications?

A: GCDD has already completely ended the printing of our magazine and newsletter. If you have thoughts or ideas on the concept of print, please include them in your application.
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Q: You mentioned in the Zoom conference about the process in which grantees are paid.  I couldn't quite hear what was said. Could you please share that information again or is it possible to obtain a copy of the Zoom conference?

A: The transcript, slide deck and recording of the presentation are available on our website at [www.gcdd.org](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gcdd.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cmaria.pinkelton%40gcdd.ga.gov%7C03f07cd1a8d54745af1d08d9a2c89a7a%7C512da10d071b4b948abc9ec4044d1516%7C0%7C0%7C637719804745585315%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yTVE9aMS691gRXQ97owUwbqid0%2FNpVepoa%2F1vMG37S4%3D&reserved=0)

**22SC1: Data and Policy Research Grants**

Q: If organizations/universities are applying, do they still need two letters of recommendations?

A: Yes, every applicant will need two letters of recommendations.

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Q: Do orgs need to apply separately for each of the 3 topics?

A: If an organization wishes to apply for multiple data and policy research grants, they would submit an application for each topic area they wish to be considered for.

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Q: Hello – I was trying to find more information on the grant Alyssa Miller just spoke about. I don’t see it on the website how can I find more information.

A: The application can now be found on the DD Suites website.

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Q: For research and policy, what does the collection of research projects refer to. It seems like a needs assessment does it also need to focus on specific research questions? For 22SC1.

* A: The term "collection of research projects" refers to the series of projects within the Data and Policy Research grant. There are three separate projects: housing, transportation, and employment, that organizations may choose to apply for within 22SC1.
* A: The projects are very similar to a needs assessment. There are approximately 7 required components of the projects; however, we view the application information as the structure and expect the potential grantee to fill in the details based on what they consider best practice within the field. There are no required research questions.

**22SA1: Advocates for Change Training by Self Advocates**

Q: Is the 5% from Council funding or total project costs? Please define internal and external evaluations, and does the grant require us to have both?

* A: Total project Cost.
* A: Internal evaluation means that people funded to do the day-to-day activities of the project are evaluating their own work and external evaluation means that the project has identified a separate resource to evaluate the impact of the project's work.
* A: Internal evaluations are comprised of some of the things you may be accustomed to if you have been previously funded by GCDD such as numbers of people served, their locations, etc. These measures of reach occur during your ongoing monitoring of your work. External evaluation will objectively engage a third party in examining the adherence of your project to its plan and its impact on the community or issues at hand.

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Q: At minimum one in-person training should be planned for each of the four quadrants of Georgia. Is there flexibility on this given that we don’t know what COVID will look like throughout the year?

A: Yes, there is flexibility regarding in-person meetings, via online platforms.

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Q: Is there a list of all intersectional identities/marginalized groups that we must target?

A: There is not a list of required targets however GCDD values the ability of partners to serve the community in equitable ways and knows the reality of the multiple identities held by people with disabilities can impact their experiences. Because of this, strong proposals will account for issues of race, ethnicity, gender identity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, language spoken. place of origin, housing status, etc.

**22SA3: Support New Leaders- Representation for All (Charlie’s response)**

Q: Is there flexibility in the frequency of check in meetings with youth self-advocates?

A: We are wanting at least a bi-weekly meeting to make sure each participant is properly supported.

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Q: Is the vison that the network of youth advocates youth network will work in tandem with Uniting for Change or that they will be separate?

A: We are open to having them work together but we are wanting to make sure we have more than one Self-advocacy group.

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Q: Is there a minimum length for the bi-weekly mentor meetings?

A: No minimum length for meetings.

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Q: Is there a minimum requirement on the number of youth advocate trainings?

A: During the contract negotiations, we will come to a minimum number that we all can agree on.

**22SC8: Family Advocates Coalition (Charlie’s response)**

Q: Would a grantee be penalized if their 30 minimum advocate coalition of families didn’t stretch completely across the state since recruitment could be more challenging in some rural areas?

A: No penalization.

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Q: Can you clarify the language “help keep educating”. Who would the grantee be helping educate families?

A: The grantee would be helping educate families of young children with Developmental Disabilities understand the disability community in Georgia and ensure they have an understanding of how to receive services in Georgia.

**22SC6: DSP Innovation Fund (Kate’s response)**

Q: I don’t believe 22SC6 specifies this project has to center around community organizing. Would a communications project be considered? We use the age-old, evidence-based practice of storytelling to sway readers beliefs and behaviors. We believe we could tell stories of long time, loyal employees who have stuck with their organization through thick and thin to highlight the many intangible and tangible benefits of working in the DSP field.

A: The DSP Innovation Fund is especially interested in innovative ideas and would be open to review a submission as described above.

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**General Questions: (Lisa’s response)**

Q: Are individuals allowed to apply for these grants or only organizations? Can in-kind services be used for the grant match?

* A: Individuals that have an LLC can apply for grants. Generally, those with an LLC apply for our consulting or research grants. For the most part GCDD grants are awarded to organizations who have compacity to complete the project’s goals objectives and activities. Eligible organizations include private for-profit, non-profit, public, schools, or government organizations
* A: Yes in-kind services can be used for match funds.

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Q: Is a non-profit able to apply for and possibly be awarded multiple grant opportunities?

A: Yes. Nonprofit organizations can apply. You will have to submit your 501C3 documents before signing a contract. You may apply to more than one grant. It’s possible, but unlikely to receive more than one grant award during the same grant period. We try to distribute the grant awards among qualified organizations. You must demonstrate that your organization has the capacity to implement more than one project simultaneously.

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Q: What if you don’t have an organization?

A: You can partner with an established organization however the partner organization would have to complete the application. You can also submit an application to establish an LLC through the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office.

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Q: Do you submit the W9 form in the attachment’s sections?

A: Yes. All requested documents must be uploaded with your application in DD Suite.

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Q: If you are an LLC, what people are required?

A: The Organization Director, The Financial Director and the Project Director are required to be listed for each grant. For an LLC or small business, one individual may be listed for all 3 roles.

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Q: Don’t understand this grant thing.

A: Our grant program funds projects which support GCDDs mission and 5-year plan. Criteria for each grant is posted on ddsuite.org.

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Q: Will there be additional NOFAs released this coming year?

A: Yes.

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Q: Is there technical assistance available to orgs or individuals who need assistance completing an application or who do not have prior experience with grantmaking? What accommodations are available for people who need assistance completing the application process?

A: We provide written materials which explain in detail the grants application process. We host an applicant’s conference whenever competitive grants are posted. During the conference, potential applicants are able to ask questions and receive answers to questions both orally and in writing. We respond to and support disability-related requests for accommodation (i.e. ASL, CART, Braille, etc.). As a funder, we do not provide assistance on grantmaking in general or help potential applicants in formulating their grant proposal. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is a competitive process.

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Q: Is it possible to do a future session on education individuals on how to become an LLC?

A: This is not within our scope of work.  Contact the GA Secretary of State’s Office. Small Business Administration (SBA.gov) may also be able to assist.

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Q: Are there any details about the January NOFA release?

A: The next round of NoFAs/ RFPs will be posted in DD Suite on February 1st, 2022. The projects are scheduled to start May 1st or June 1st, 2022

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Q: Is there any additional information you can provide on the January 2022 NOFAs?

A: The next round of NoFAs/ RFPs will be posted in DD Suite on February 1st, 2022. The projects are scheduled to start May 1st or June 1st, 2022.

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Q: Will the slides and recording be available after the presentation? Questions are due 11/8 when will written answers be available? Will there be a similar conference for the Jan NoFAs? Are submitted applications or applicants publicly available?

A: Yes, all materials will be posted to gcdd.org. The questions and answers are posted to the website within 3 business days. There will be another applicants conference in February. Applications are not available for public viewing due to the competitive nature of the RFP process.

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Q: Do the match funds need to be non-state funds? Are federal matches acceptable?

A: GCDD is funded through a Federal grant. Match may not be from other Federal funds. State funds are allowed as match for this grant.