



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Announcing the Intent to Award a Single-Source Supplement for the Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce: A Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Initiative

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Community Living (ACL) announces the intent to award a single-source supplement to the current cooperative agreement held by the National Council on Aging for the *Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce: A Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Initiative*. The administrative supplement for FY 2023 will be in the amount of \$1,974,846, bringing the total award for FY 2023 to \$3,269,466. The supplement will provide sufficient resources to enable the grantee and their partners to increase funding for technical assistance (TA) to state aging and disability partnerships to collaborate with workforce entities to strengthen the Direct Care Workforce (DCW). The funding will enable the grantee to support additional states, including at more robust levels than originally planned. The funding will also enable additional work to strengthen the self-direction workforce by identifying gaps in knowledge and highlighting best practices to support and sustain those who self-direct, for dissemination via the DCW resource hub to a national audience.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or comments regarding this program supplement, contact Caroline Ryan, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, at caroline.ryan@acl.hhs.gov or (202) 795-7429.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Through this initiative, ACL seeks to advance capacity to recruit, train and retain a high-quality, competent, and effective direct care workforce of professionals capable of meeting the growing needs that older adults and people with disabilities have for such supports. The purpose of this

program is to catalyze change at a systems level that will address the insufficient supply of trained DCWs, promote promising practices at all levels of the service system and improve data collection to enable a full understanding of the workforce issue.

The outcomes of the initiative are as follows:

1. Increase the availability and visibility of tools and resources to attract, train and retain the direct care workforce in quality jobs where they earn livable wages and have voice in their working environment, and have access to benefits and opportunities for advancement.
2. Increase the number of states that develop and sustain collaborations across state systems and workforce agencies to implement strategies that will improve the recruitment, retention, and advancement of high quality DCW jobs.

Program Name: *Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce: A Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Initiative*

Recipient: The National Council on Aging

Period of Performance: The supplement award will be issued for the second year of the five-year project period of September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2027.

Total Award Amount: \$3,269,466 in FY 2023

Award Type: Cooperative Agreement Supplement

Statutory Authority: Section 411(13) of the Older Americans Act, Section 161 (2) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and Section 21 program of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Basis for Award: The National Council on Aging is currently funded to carry out the objectives of the project entitled *Strengthening the Direct Care Workforce: A Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Initiative* the period of September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2027. This supplement will enable the grantee to carry their work even further, providing technical assistance to more state partnerships and support additional work to strengthen the self-direction

workforce. The NCOA is uniquely positioned to complete the work called for under this project. NCOA's partners on this project include the University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration (ICI), National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI), DiverseAbility, Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Paula J. Carter Center on Minority Health and Aging (PJCCMHA), Green House Project Center for Innovation (GHP), Housing Innovations (HI), National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC), the Rockingstone Group (Rockingstone), and Social Policy Research Associates (SPR). Establishing an entirely new grant project at this time would be potentially disruptive to the current work already well under way. If this supplement is not provided, the project would be unable to expand its current technical assistance and training efforts to reach more state partnerships across aging, disability and workforce stakeholders to work together to strengthen the direct care workforce.

Dated: July 8, 2023.

Alison Barkoff,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging.

[FR Doc. 2023-14828 Filed: 7/12/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/13/2023]