Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Project

Introduction

The Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council will be making $140,000 in grant funds available to community-based nonprofit organizations that serve individuals with disabilities to provide services and supports to projects focusing on emergency and disaster preparedness of individuals with paralysis.

Objectives of the project include:

-To provide individuals with paralysis access to the resources needed to prepare adequately for situations of an emergency/disaster that could impact their continued community living

-To support families and caregivers by providing them the opportunity to better understand how an emergency/disaster may impact their family member

Background

Ohio is home to over 1.6 million individuals with disabilities that are not currently residing in an institutional setting (American Community Survey, 2017) which accounts for 14% of the total population. The immense number of individuals with disabilities in the state presents a challenge when combined with the challenge of 88 counties taking different steps and measures to prepare for disasters and emergencies.

In the findings of "Nobody Left Behind:" a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control the following issues are noted:

-Most of the emergency managers are not trained to support special needs populations, which includes persons with mobility impairments

-Only 21% of the emergency managers are planning to develop guidelines for assisting persons with disabilities

-Based on the qualitative findings of the study, beneficial steps for the disability community include persons with disabilities developing individual and disability specific preparedness plans and getting involved in local level disaster planning. (Nobody Left Behind)

The issues above highlight the importance of individuals with disabilities taking steps to prepare individually in the event of an emergency/disaster.

In an article in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction titled Expanding the capabilities of people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, it is mentioned that the common approach of a resource-based approach to preparing for a disaster often overlooks factors that are vital to individuals with disabilities. The report recommends approaches that work to enhance the individual with disabilities abilities to cope and respond as a key factor to reducing disaster risk. "To achieve the equality in terms of capabilities, it is imperative to promote opportunities for meaningful participation of people at risk in development and disaster risk reduction processes" (International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 2019).

Additional factors that will impact the population of persons with paralysis are the existence of co-occurring mental health diagnosis. In a study conducted through the National Center for Biotechnology

Information, they found that 48.5% of the population with spinal cord injuries also have experienced mental health illnesses including depression, anxiety, clinical-level stress, and post-traumatic stress disorder (NCBI). Given this correlation to co-occurring serious mental health illnesses, the need to have a comprehensive plan that will account for not only the physical component of the disability, but also the mental illness component during an emergency/disaster is vital to the overall health and safety of the individual with paralysis.

After situations of an emergency/disaster, institutionalization of an individual with paralysis may occur unless proper planning is accomplished beforehand. The Federal Emergency Management Agency does provide assistance to homeowners in the aftermath of a disaster, but with homeownership rates being significantly lower in the disability community, a disaster may lead to the displacement of a person with paralysis. In a survey completed by the Ohio SILC in 2018, 34.5% of individuals responding said increased home accessibility would increase their independence. (Ohio SILC, 2018) With the already low levels of affordable, accessible housing options for individuals with paralysis, in the aftermath of an emergency/disaster they may be forced into an institutional setting.

Project Scope

Applicants are encouraged to develop a program that meets the needs of their local communities and the individuals with paralysis they serve.

Specific examples of services may include but are not limited to:

- Planning consultation – working on an individual basis with those with paralysis and their families/caregivers to establish comprehensive plans for an emergency/disaster situation.

- Emergency Service Coordination – Connecting individuals with local resources in the community including emergency management services to ensure that local response teams are familiar with specific individuals and their needs.

- Resource Workshops – Providing educational forums that increase general knowledge and understanding of emergencies/disasters, planning steps, and managing in the aftermath of the situation.

Through the services provided under this project, individuals with paralysis will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of planning and preparation for an emergency/disaster situation. With these increased skills and understanding it will lead to long-term positive outcomes including a reduction in the likelihood of forced institutionalization in the aftermath of a disaster. While we may not be able to measure that long-term impact of the program, we will be able to measure the increase in the skills and the individual's ability to respond to situations.

Funded projects will be for a 9-month timeframe, with available funding up to $25,000 per funded project.

Project Management

The Ohio SILC will provide administrative support to organizations that receive funding under this opportunity. The management and service provision will be the responsibility of each organization receiving funding. Administrative support will include routine communication with grantees to receive

updates on progress and performance, site-visits to meet with grantees and individuals served, reviewing reporting, and ensuring disbursement of funds, and technical assistance as needed.

Funds used as part of this project are federal funds under HHS-2019-ACL-AOD-PRRC-0346 Paralysis Resource Center State Pilot Program.

Application Review

Applications for this project will be reviewed by a review team consisting of at least: one individual with paralysis, one individual that is a family member or caregiver, and one individual with knowledge of emergency management. All review team members will ensure there are no conflicts of interest in reviewing applications.

Each reviewer will utilize a scoring sheet and review document that corresponds to the point system described below. Scores will be averaged to assign one score for each of the scoring areas identified.

Executive Summary (5 points available)

Grantee will effectively and concisely describe the nature of the project that they conduct to serve individuals with paralysis and identify the goals of the project. Reviewers will review for goals to align with the above mentioned objectives.

Organization Background (5 points available)

The applicant will describe the organization's history in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities. The applicant will also describe their mission and philosophy while describing how it aligns with the goals of the project. Organizations may also submit letters of support from other organizations that will assist or be included in the project. Reviewers will be asked to score based upon the applicant's history and ability to effectively serve individuals with paralysis.

Goals and Objectives (15 points available)

Applicants will describe what goals and objectives they plan to achieve and how they correspond to the stated goals and objectives of the Ohio SILC's funding opportunity. The organizations applying will ensure their project objectives will advance and assist in achieving the goals of the funding. Reviewers will be asked to score based upon how well the applicant has aligned their goals with the goals of the project, as well as if the applicant has selected clearly defined goals and objectives.

Project Plan (30 Points available)

The applicant will describe the project and identify the specific outcomes they plan to achieve. This section will be a detailed narrative that explains the services that will be made available to individuals with paralysis and their families and caregivers. Reviewers will score based on how well the applicant describes the project and the services to be provided, that the outcomes of the project are aligned with the stated goals and objectives, and that the applicant has demonstrated that the project will be effective.

Evaluation Plan (20 points available)

The applicant will describe how they will evaluate the success of the project, including use of a survey to individuals served to measure the effectiveness of the project. Successful applicants will describe the

ways in which they will be able to evaluate and monitor the progress of their stated objectives and outcomes. The reviewers will score based on how well the applicant has addressed measuring performance and success, how well the applicant incorporates the survey of individuals served, and how the applicant will monitor their performance.

Outreach Plan (15 points available)

Applicants will describe how they will conduct outreach to individuals with paralysis that are eligible to receive services under this award. Applicants will also describe the way in which they will ensure the funds are used to target services to individuals with paralysis, and their families and caregivers. Applicants will also state the geographic regions that will be included in their project. Reviewers will score based on how well the applicant describes their outreach to the targeted population and how the applicant will ensure services are provided to eligible individuals.

Budget (10 points available)

Applicants are asked to provide a simple line item budget with a descriptive justification of what each line item's purpose is. Included will be a narrative to describe how the applicant will utilize funds awarded and ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state laws governing expenditure of federal awards. Reviewers will be asked to score based on how the budget aligns with the project and how effectively the applicant is able to describe the use of the grant award.

Submission

Submission of the grant will be done electronically to grants@ohiosilc.org

Deadline to submit is **September 30th, 2019** at 5:00 PM

Questions may be directed to Jeremy Morris at jmorris@ohiosilc.org or by phone at 614-892-0390

Application materials can be found under on ohiosilc.org under Grants and Requests for Proposals

Pre-Bidding conference call will be held on **September 10th** from 1:00 – 3:00 with presentation by the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies.

To register please complete the registration form https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QY8LM8D