******Golden Opportunity Projects**

**Requirements and Application**

**Mission**

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council engages in advocacy, systems change, and capacity building with people with developmental disabilities and their families in order to:

Support people with disabilities in taking control of their own lives

Ensure access to goods, services, and supports

Support communities so that all people belong

Empower people with all disabilities

Promote the understanding of the life experiences of people with disabilities

Pursue equity for all people

**Golden Opportunity Projects**

What is a Golden Opportunity? It is when there is an unexpected event or thing that abruptly happens, and the newly revealed situation gives you the perfect chance to influence or create change to make things better for people with developmental disabilities. A Golden Opportunity Project will have the following features:

1. Something has happened that is unanticipated and sudden.
2. You have an idea for work that will take advantage of and/or respond to this unforeseen occasion or situation.
3. People with disabilities will actively participate to plan and do the work of the project.
4. Completing your project will make things better for people with developmental disabilities.
5. The project can be funded at up to $5,000, for up to 6 months.

**These Golden Opportunity Projects are intended to support organizations in bringing people together to discuss current disability issues, support advocacy and systems change, develop and provide training, or increase accessibility to information for individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members** and are made by the PA Developmental Disabilities Council through the D L Hahn Coordinating Grant. This document outlines the criteria by which an organization can access funds.

**Application Requirements**

Interested organizations should complete and submit the Golden Opportunity Project Application to ra-pwpaddc@pa.gov. Once submitted, the application will be reviewed to determine if it meets the current needs of Council. All applicants will be notified in writing if the application is accepted or denied within 15 business days. Council staff will work with you to coordinate the necessary paperwork under Commonwealth rules.

**If Your Application is Accepted**

Once all paperwork is complete, a grant start-up meeting will be scheduled with your assigned Project Officer and D L Hahn Coordinating. This meeting will provide an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another, review reporting requirements, and fiscal procedures, and to answer any questions that you may have concerning your funding. The official contract with D L Hahn Coordinating will be reviewed and signed at this time.

**If Your Application is Rejected**

Proposers who are not selected will be notified in writing and staff will be available to answer any questions. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received as a result of this request and to negotiate separately with competing grantees.

**Accessibility Requirements**

To ensure equal access all locations, products and activities used or created and provided through a PADDC funded grant must meet ADA accessibility requirements and be in formats accessible to all.

**Golden Opportunity Project Reporting Requirements**

Golden Opportunity Projects are time-sensitive, short-term projects. You must complete all activities within 6 months of the start of the grant. You will submit the first quarterly report and invoice by the end of the 4th month of the grant. A final report and final invoice shall be submitted no later than 30 days after termination of the grant.

**Fiscal Requirements**

All Council grants require a local match contribution. This is your portion of the grant and is generally based on 25% of your total budget. The local match share consists of in-kind value and/or non-federal cash contributions. For example, the local match on a $5,000 grant would be $1,667.

The PADDC will provide one half of the grant funds as soon as possible after we award the Golden Opportunity Project grant. The remainder of the grant funds will be reimbursed after you have completed all activities and proposed work, and the final quarterly report and invoice have been submitted to the PADDC. A final expenditure report shall be submitted no later than 30 days after termination of the grant. PADDC reserves the right to disapprove any expenditures which are not in accordance with the accepted conditions of the grant.

**Funding Exclusions**

PADDC funds cannot be used to purchase equipment (computers, tablets, phones, printers, video cameras, etc.) PADDC funds cannot provide direct services. PADDC funds cannot supplant current funding.

**Questions?**

If you have a question about applying for a Golden Opportunity Project Grant, please email your question to the following address: ra-paddc@pa.gov.