

Abstract for Disability Innovation Fund (DIF), Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project, Assistance Listing Number 84.421E

Title: Nevada Transitions Roadmap through Innovative Partnerships Project (Nevada TRIP)

Purpose: The Nevada State Department of Education (NDE) Office of Inclusive Education is requesting \$9,964,894.80 over 5 years for the proposed project to support development of a seamless system of transition services for our children and youth with disabilities. NDE will collaborate with nine partners for this important work: State of Nevada Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, Carson City School District, Humboldt County School District, White Pine County School District, Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council, University of Nevada, Reno, and the Nevada Parent Training and Information Center. This project directly responds to the grant competition for the DIF Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project Absolute Priority by focusing on the challenges of collaboration and partnerships, coordination of funding, and seamless transition services provided by required partners. We propose to use funding to advance a cohesive transition model to help improve transition services and outcomes for children and youth with disabilities.

Populations to be Served: Nevada has a widely dispersed geographic area with most of the population residing in two counties and the remainder living in large, rural, and rugged areas. Therefore, the Nevada TRIP Project will serve populations in three school districts in the pilot phase: Carson City School District (located in the capital, Carson City), Humboldt County School District (located in rural north-central area), and White Pine County School District (located in east-central area). Based on information compiled from the pilot, the project team will refine transition services and resources for rollout to serve the remaining 14 school districts. The project has the potential to serve more than 300,000 children and youth with disabilities within Nevada as well as thousands of service providers and other stakeholders.

Goals and Activities: NDE (the primary recipient of the grant) will provide oversight for the project and will work closely with our partner organizations and project team to accomplish the project's goals and activities.

Goal 1: Provide high-quality information systems for outreach and marketing related to transition services and disseminating information via web-based and in-person channels.

Activities:

- Develop an interactive website and mobile application.
- Create a roadmap tool to provide guidance for the transition process.
- Expand cross-agency partnerships for planning, coordinating funding use, and accomplishing project work.

Goal 2: Provide high-quality professional development to service professionals to support creation of resources and knowledge around transition planning.

Activities:

- Develop and deliver cross-agency training to build capacity.
- Create tools and resources to support systems and youth service professionals.
- Establish an advisory group to provide input on the project.

Goal 3: Increase availability and use of student resources to support transitions and preparation for competitive integrated employment.

Activities:

- Develop age-appropriate career exposure, career exploration, and work-based learning experiences.
- Create accessible student resources related to postsecondary education and employment opportunities.

Expected Outcomes: Expected outcomes related to practice are to increase use of effective transition services; promote ongoing use of the project's systems, strategies, and supports; and improve the quality of resources. Expected outcomes for students with disabilities are to increase participation in career exploration and work-based learning; enhance awareness of postsecondary opportunities; and achieve higher rates for high school graduation, college enrollment, and competitive integrated employment. Dissemination of information will promote sharing of practices, strategies, and activities that may contribute to positive outcomes. This also will allow agencies, service providers, educators, and others doing similar work to learn from and/or replicate applicable components of this project.