



Institute On Disability Offers Community Grants To Support Older Adults

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UNH Institute on Disability

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DURHAM, N.H. - A new grant program to help communities capitalize on their social capital to better provide support and services to residents who are aging was announced this week by the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire. The Community Partnership to Support Older Adults program will provide \$100,000 in funding for two New Hampshire communities to establish a community partnership based on the Seniors Count of Manchester model.

With the aging of the state's population and the emphasis on community living for all persons with disabilities, communities are exploring ways to adjust their policies and procedures to assure a high quality of life and participation for all residents. One of the primary prerequisites to making lasting improvements to the accessibility of community services is the development of strong local community partnerships. New Hampshire has experienced success in working with local communities to address the support needs of all residents. These efforts are exemplified by projects such as Seniors Count of Manchester, which is premised on the belief that communities are key partners in long term support reform and that if people are to remain at home and in the community, communities must be welcoming, accessible, and supportive for all residents.

A request for proposals has been issued, with an application deadline of August 21, 2008. Two awards will be granted in the amount of \$25,000 per year for two years. The funds available under this solicitation will be used to create and/or strengthen a community partnership to assess the availability, adequacy, and accessibility of local community, social, and health services and to develop strategies to mobilize community resources to address identified needs. Successful applicants will provide evidence of strong collaboration among various community organizations, service providers, community residents, and local government.

For more information and a copy of the RFP, please visit www.iod.unh.edu. For more information on the Seniors Count, visit www.seniorscountnh.org.

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The Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire was established in 1987 to provide a coherent university-based focus for the improvement of knowledge, policies, and practices related to the lives of persons with disabilities and their families. Its mission is to advance policies and systems changes, promising practices, education, and research that strengthen communities to ensure full access, equal opportunities, and participation for all persons.



