

WEST VIRGINIA



REAL CHOICE

Request for Proposals

West Virginia Real Choice and the West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS)

are requesting proposals that create pilot projects to...

Promote and Implement Best Practices in Youth Transition



What are we funding?

Real Choice, a systems change project, federally funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and WVATS, are providing incentive funding to parent/family based organizations. These funds will be awarded to organizations such as Parent Educator Resource Centers, WV Parent Training and Information, Family Resource Networks and other family-based organizations to implement best practices in middle and secondary education regarding youth transition that uses a person-centered approach. Applicants may choose one of the options below:

1. Develop/modify curriculum and materials to improve transition to life for students with disabilities. The curriculum should address Medicaid Waiver, career clusters, family/student responsibilities and include a plan for disseminating the curriculum at state, regional and local conferences.
2. Provide training on transition issues for teachers, counselors and other professionals that includes information on self-determination/self-direction.
3. Identify transition issues focused on assistive technology and develop recommendations/strategies to increase awareness and knowledge of assistive technology in the transition process.
4. Increase awareness among parents and students about IDEA 2004 and how best transition practices can be embedded in the IEP process.

Funding priorities will be given to grantees willing to:

- Collaborate with other parent organizations to develop/modify existing curricula that best addresses youth transition
- Increase general and special educator skills and abilities in the transition process
- Increase access to assistive technology in education planning and self-determination
- Increase and maintain student/family awareness and involvement in the transition process

Who is eligible to apply?

Funds are available for non-profit parent/family-based groups in West Virginia.

How much?

Funds will be available for up to \$5,000 per project. This is a "reimbursement" grant; expenses will be reimbursed after invoices are submitted to the Center for Excellence in Disabilities and processed through West Virginia University.

Who will review the applications?

A review committee from the Real Choice Partnership and WVATS Advisory Board will review and select programs for funding. The Review committee will make the final decisions.

What can the funds be used for?

Funds can be used for project activities, personnel time, transportation, equipment, advertising, meeting-related expenses and other project needs. A copy of the "Evaluation Process and Criteria" form that will be used by the Review Committee to evaluate applications is included in this packet.

When can we apply?

You can apply now by completing the attached application and submitting it by **September 15, 2005**.

What are the time lines?

You will be notified by **September 30, 2005** if your project has been selected for implementation. Projects can begin on **October 1, 2005** and must be completed by **June 30, 2006**.

What will applicants have to do?

- Complete the application included in this packet
- Mail or fax the completed application by September 15, 2005 to:
Carol Votta
Center for Excellence in Disabilities
959 Hartman Run Road
Morgantown, WV 26505
Fax: 304 293-7294
- Collaborate with Real Choice and WVATS project staff in the collection of data and resources for the project
- Submit all invoices for project expenses by June 10, 2006
- Document your progress in completing project activities in December, February and April
- Summarize and present your project experience at a Real Choice Partnership meeting and to the WVATS Advisory Board
- Provide project outcomes and written report to both groups when your project is completed
- Assist in providing technical assistance if your successful project is selected for replication by another organization

Questions or Clarification:

If you have any questions or need more assistance to complete the application, please call Carol Votta at 304-293-4692 ext. 1146 or e-mail cvotta@hsc.wvu.edu or Jeanne Grimm at 304-293-4692 ext. 1105

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