Request for Applications To Become A WCU UP Satellite Program

Background Information

Western Carolina University's (WCU) University Participant (UP) program was developed in 2007 as a pilot postsecondary education (PSE) program designed to provide a two-year, full-time, inclusive, on-campus living and learning experience for persons with intellectual disabilities (ID), primarily those with moderate ID[1], between the ages of 18 and 22 years. Participants' learning activities are developed through an individual, person-centered planning process resulting in an Individual Plan for College Participation (IPCP).

In October, 2010, WCU was award a five year (2010 – 2015) grant from the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, to improve, expand, and evaluate the UP Program. As part of that grant, we are able to provide sub-contracts to community colleges (at approximately $1,000- $10,000 per year) and sub-contracts to a four year college or university (at approximately $20,000-$30,000 per year) to implement the UP model on their campuses and to participate in the UP evaluation process[2]. Two year and four year colleges wishing to apply for a sub-contract to implement a UP satellite program should complete and submit this application on or before 5 pm on June 29, 2013.

Please provide the requested information within the recommended space (double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 inch font, 1 inch page margins).

Applicant information (no more than 1/2 page): Identify yourself (as the contact person for your institution), your institution, and provide relevant information, e.g. institutional mission, location, number of students, colleges, programs, etc.

Current programs for students with ID (no more than 1/2 page): If you offer any programs for students with ID, describe the program(s), e.g. how many students are currently being served, what are their primary characteristics, what are the goals of the program(s), what is the context and learning content of the program(s).

Proposed program (no more than 10 pages): Describe your proposed program and the extent to which the following components will be implemented. (Note that each component is worth a maximum number of points for our evaluation process. See below.)

1. Recruitment and selection process: How will you identify participants with moderate intellectual disabilities for your program and how many participants will you include in your program? **(5 points)**

2. Person-centered planning process: Describe the extent to which you will use a person-centered planning process to develop an Individual Plan for College Participation (IPCP) focused in five areas: personal development skills, community participation skills, vocational preparation skills, and social participation and learning, and elective course participation. **(10 points)**

3. Use of natural supports: Describe how you will recruit and use students without disabilities to facilitate inclusion in the campus community (e.g., percentage of time participants are fully included and in what specific activities or capacities? **(10 points)**

[1] The traditional sub-classification of moderate intellectual disabilities includes persons with measured intelligence between -3 and -4 standard deviations below the mean, or IQ measures of approximately 40 to 55. Approximately 0.1% of the population has moderate intellectual disabilities.
[2] Funding assumes continuation funding by the U.S. Department of Education.

4. On-campus learning and participation: Describe how you will include participants in the following activities:
    - Auditing regular courses with typically developing peers
    - Participating in social and recreational activities
    - Involvement in student organizations, and
    - Promoting the development of natural friendships and relationships

    (10 points)

5. Documentation: Describe the process you will use to document participation activities, time, and performance for all participants on a daily and weekly basis to reflect five program outcome areas. **(10 points)**

6. Inclusive housing: Describe the extent to which you will offer inclusive (non-segregated), on-campus or near campus housing for UP participants facilitated by natural supports. **(10 points)**

7. Transition planning: Explain how you will develop and implement transition plans that will result in independent or supported community living and employment as a post-UP outcome. **(10 points)**

8. Collaboration with agencies: Explain your plan and ability to collaborate with state and community agencies in order to maximize services to participants prior, during, and after program completion. **(10 points)**

9. Program completion certificates: Describe your intention to award a UP Certificate Accomplishment (or similar certificate) for successful participants at the end of two years **(5 points)**

10. Collaboration with WCU: State the degree to which you will be willing to collaborate with WCU on all aspects of program development, implementation, and evaluation. **(10 points)**

11. Institutional support and continuation: Describe the support you will have within your institution, listing specific names and positions of key persons, for implementing the proposed program and your prospect for continuing the program after the five year period. **(10 points)**

Application Evaluation

All applications will be read independently by three individuals, the UP Project Director, the UP Outreach Coordinator, and one WCU faculty or staff person who has been instrumental in the operation of the WCU UP program. Each evaluator will award between 0 and the maximum number of points for each component of the application (see above). The average number of points (of the 3 evaluators) will then be awarded to each component and these will be totaled. In addition to awarding the points, evaluators will also make a recommendation for funding independent of the scoring process. The programs that are recommended for funding by at least two of the evaluators and that received the highest evaluations will be funded up to the maximum number of awards that can be made. We reserve the right to modify funding amounts at any time. Continued funding will be awarded based on annual performance reports and program outcomes.

Application Process and Key Dates

- Applications for implementing new programs are due on _____.
- Sub-contract award notices will be made on _____. At the time sub-contracts are awarded, or as soon as possible, we will authorize a full year payment to the satellite institutions in order to allow them to initiate planning for the fall term. Subsequent payments

will be made on a monthly or quarterly basis upon submission of invoices from participating institutions. Funds may be used for the purpose of implementing the previously mentioned program components and may be spent for personnel, materials, equipment, etc. **Funds may NOT be used to financially support participants with intellectual disabilities (as required under the award from the U.S. Department of Education).**

- Program planning should begin in the Summer term, 2013 and program implementation must begin in the Fall term, 2013.

Liaison with WCU

At the time of the award notification, Seb Prohn, outreach coordinator and satellite program liaison, will work with each of the satellite programs to assist and facilitate in the development of their programs. The role of this individual will be to serve as a liaison with all satellite programs and to facilitate instructional adaptations to enhance learning.

Contacts

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