

Program Instructions  
AIDD-PI-16-1  
Issued: October 28, 2016

**TO:**

Director, Designated State Agencies  
Executive Directors, State Developmental Disabilities Councils  
Chairpersons, State Developmental Disabilities Councils  
Executive Directors, Protection & Advocacy Systems  
Executive Directors, University Centers for Excellence on Development Disabilities  
Projects of National Significance Grantees

**SUBJECT:**

Time Limited Demonstration projects as defined and authorized by Sections 125(c)(5)(K)(1) and (2) of the Developmental Disability Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-402) and 45 CFR 1326.30 (e) and (f), and other activities and projects of the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

**BACKGROUND:**

When the final regulation for the Developmental Disability Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (the Act) was released in the summer of 2015, there was new regulatory language that provided parameters for time limited demonstration projects for the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils).

Demonstrations are now limited to five years (previous guidance in 1995 had limited demonstrations to three years). However, there are procedures outlined in the regulations (45 CFR 1326.30 (e) and (f)) if a DD Council would like to seek permission to extend a demonstration project beyond five years.

**DISCUSSION:**

As outlined in the Act, demonstrations are meant to be time-limited activities that include but are not limited to new approaches to direct services, outreach, training, technical assistance, supporting and educating communities, interagency collaboration and coordination, coordination with related councils, committees and programs, barrier elimination, system design and redesign, coalition development and citizen participation, and informing policymakers.

One of the purposes of DD Councils is to participate in a demonstration as a method to promote systems change, advocacy, and capacity building using new approaches. If a Council keeps funding the same programs and activities over and over again without any changes, then the Council will not be able to promote systems change and capacity building. By providing money for demonstrations or activities it allows time to see if something is successful and to give time to find other funds and to let a program either stand on its own or with another disability organization within the State or Territory.

The Act and regulations lay out rules for demonstrations.

A demonstration is not a replication or expansion of a current demonstration or project in another geographic area of a State. A demonstration is a project that does not have a proven approach or method. Demonstrations are required to be in the State Plan.

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) has set the time limit at five years to coincide with the DD Council State Plan process as described in the Act. If a Council wishes to continue a demonstration past five years they must include in the State Plan: the estimated period of the project's duration; justification why the project cannot be funded by the State or other sources and should receive continued funding; and provide data outcome showing success. AIDD has the authority to deny the continuation of the demonstration project past five years, even if included in a new State Plan.

When possible, a DD Council is encouraged to participate in a demonstration financially or non-financially with other entities. DD Councils are encouraged to collaborate with University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Protection & Advocacy Systems, Centers for Independent Living, other Administration on Disabilities and Administration for Community Living grantees, as well as other disability organizations within their State.

DD Councils shall collect and evaluate data for the duration of the demonstration project to show sustainability. Completing a full evaluation of the demonstration should assist in planning and implementing sustainability of a new project, as well as help to locate on-going funding. A successful demonstration could result in a new approach that does not require on-going DD Council funds. If on-going funding is needed, the DD Council would need to decide if the project will become a project of the Council as part of the State Plan or if the State or another entity will take over the project. If the project is not sustainable, then a new approach should be taken.

Signed,



Aaron Bishop  
Commissioner,  
Administration on Disabilities