**Disparities Leadership Academy**

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) extends a unique opportunity to participate in a Leadership Academy designed to support the Developmental Disabilities Councils, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Protection and Advocacy Agencies to address disparities in access to, utilization of, and outcomes in services and supports experienced by a sub-population\* people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This Leadership Academy is designed in response to the requirement from AIDD that DD Councils identify a population and area of disparity to be addressed throughout the five-year plan within their respective state/territory. While the disparity requirement refers only to DD Councils, the intent, scope, and impact of such an initiative is a shared responsibility of the three-AIDD funded programs, and is consistent with the mandate in the DD Act for collaboration among these programs.

The *Disparities Leadership Academy* is a new component of the Leadership Institute for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence, conducted by the Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence. Click for additional information about the Leadership Institute and the Leadership Academy. https://nccc.georgetown.edu/leadership/index.html

The *Disparities Leadership Academy* will be conducted in Santa Fe, New Mexico from June 26 – 29, 2017. Up to eight states/territories will be selected to send three-person teams to participate in the Academy with a goal of enhancing both individual and collaborative leadership skills that will foster long-term system change that is necessary to actually reduce those disparities identified by DD Councils in their state/territorial plans. Each team will be comprised of a member from each of the three DD network partners. All meeting materials and travel-related expenses are covered by the project.

The *Disparities Leadership Academy* is an intensive course of study comprised of three months of preparatory activities and a four-day onsite learning experience. Participants will be guided through an array of learning opportunities using multiple learning styles, including but not limited to:

* webinars
* peer group discussions and structured forums,
* lecturettes,
* writing assignments,
* coaching,
* experiential exercises,
* leadership assessment/inventory, and
* a culminating practicum.

At the conclusion of the Academy, state/territorial teams will have: 1) established an effective framework for ongoing collaboration; and 2) delineated steps to take collective action toward reducing disparities that affect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

\*Sub-population of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are vulnerable to disparities that include but are not limited to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and limited English proficiency.

Please contact Allison Cruz at [**Allison.Cruz@acl.hhs.gov**](mailto:Allison.Cruz@acl.hhs.gov) **or 202-795-7334** for additional information about the Disparities Leadership Academy. See attached format for the letter of intent that must be received by ***Friday February 3, 2017***.

**LETTER OF INTENT**

Letters of intent must include the following:

* Cite the disparity goal or objective and rationale for choosing the specific area of focus
* Describe how participating in the Disparities Leadership Academy will benefit the state/territory in accomplishing the specific disparity goal or objective
* Provide commitment from the Directors or Executive Directors of the DD Council, UCEDD, and P&A to provide support for their team members and the disparities initiative of the state/territory (separate letters are acceptable)
* Provide the names and contact information for each member of the state/territorial team (DD Council, UCEDD, P&A)
* Provide assurance that the participants will commit to pre-work and on-site activities required by the Disparities Leadership Academy

letters should be addressed to:

Allison Cruz, MS Ed.

Director, Office of Innovation

Administration on Developmental Disabilities

Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Mary Switzer Building

330 C Street, S.W. Room # 1114

Washington, DC 20024

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| **Lead Entity - STATE/TERRITORY DD COUNCIL** |
| Name: |
| Title: |
| Organization: |
| Address: |
| Phone: |
| E-mail: |

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| **STATE/TERRITORY UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** |
| Name: |
| Title: |
| Organization: |
| Address: |
| Phone: |
| E-mail: |

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| **STATE/TERRITORY PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY AGENCY** |
| Name: |
| Title: |
| Organization: |
| Address: |
| Phone: |
| E-mail: |