

8-88-203. Program to assist individuals to obtain disability benefits.

(1) The committee shall invite nonprofit entities, county departments of human services, and county departments of social services to submit proposals for programs to aid individuals with disabilities in accessing disability benefits [staff note: defined in 8-88-101(6) below]. To qualify for consideration under subsection (2) of this section, a nonprofit organization must be based in Colorado and:

(a) Be governed by a board:

(I) That is composed of persons with a demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of recipients with disabilities;

(II) That includes members who understand a range of disabilities; and

(III) A majority of the members of which are individuals with disabilities, individuals with immediate family members who are individuals with disabilities, or individuals who are caregivers to a family member who is an individual with a disability; or

(b) Have a contract with an organization that meets the criteria in subsection (1)(a) of this section to assume the disability perspective approved by the committee.

(1.5) To qualify for consideration under subsection (2) of this section, a county department of human services or a county department of social services must meet the requirement of subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(2)

(a)

(I) The committee shall review the proposed programs and shall award a contract or grant to one or more of the entities that best meet the requirements of this section.

(II) The term of each contract or grant is up to three years. The committee shall include evaluation criteria in the contract with metrics that must be met at least once a year to continue funding.

(b) The committee shall not award a contract or grant unless the proposal includes:

(I) A system for evaluating whether an individual with a disability is reasonably able to navigate the application process to obtain disability benefits, health care, and employment;

(II) A system for prioritizing the need of applicants based upon the evaluations;

(III) A plan for assisting individuals with disabilities in navigating the processes of obtaining and retaining disability benefits, health care, and employment;

(IV) A plan for establishing working relationships with state agencies, county departments of human or social services, health-care providers, the United States social security administration, and the business community;

(V) A policy of preferential hiring of individuals with disabilities;

(VI) Reasonable standards for accounting control of expenditures; and

(VII) Metrics to evaluate the program's quality and cost-effectiveness.

(c) The committee shall not discriminate against an applicant based on the applicant's advocacy concerning individuals with disabilities.

(d) To the greatest extent possible, the committee shall ensure, through one or more contracts or grants pursuant to this section, that individuals with disabilities are served statewide.

(3) An entity awarded a contract or grant under this section shall make quarterly reports of expenditures to the committee. The committee shall include in the contract or grant a method and format for making the reports.

8-88-101. Definitions.

As used in this article 88:

(1) "CDOO" means the Colorado disability opportunity office created in section 8-88-102.

(2) "Committee" means the Colorado disability funding committee created in section 8-88-202.

(3) "Contract entity" means an entity the committee contracts with pursuant to section 8-88-206 (5) to implement section 8-88-206.

(4) "Department" means the department of labor and employment created in section 24-1-121.

(5) "Disability" has the same meaning as set forth in section 24-34-301 (7).

(6) "Disability benefits" means the following services provided to an individual with a disability:

(a) Cash payments from social security disability insurance under Title II of the federal "Social Security Act", 42 U.S.C. sec. 401 et seq., as amended;

(b) Cash payments made by the federal government to persons who are aged, blind, or disabled under Title XVI of the federal "Social Security Act", 42 U.S.C. sec. 401 et seq., as amended;

(c) Aid to the needy disabled pursuant to section 26-2-119;

(d) Medical care, including long-term care under the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act", articles 4 to 6 of title 25.5, and the home care allowance program administered pursuant to section 26-2-122.3;

(e) Tax filing assistance;

(f) Rebates for property tax, rent, and heat;

(g) Earned income tax credits and state tax credits applicable to individuals with disabilities; and

(h) Any other federal, state, or local benefits that improve the quality of life and independence of individuals with disabilities as determined by the committee.

(7) "Full societal integration" means inclusive living in the community of an individual's choosing, with options to work, live, recreate, learn, travel, and receive services.

(8) "Fund" means the disability support fund created in section 8-88-205.

(9) "Nonprofit entity" means an entity incorporated under the "Colorado Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act", articles 121 to 137 of title 7, or a tax-exempt entity under 26 U.S.C. sec. 501 (c)(3) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986".

(10) "Recipient" means a person who receives disability benefits.

(11) "Registration number" means the unique combination of letters and numbers assigned to a vehicle by the department of revenue under section 42-3-201 and required to be displayed on a license plate by section 42-3-202.

(12) "Vehicle" means a vehicle required to be registered pursuant to part 1 of article 3 of title 42.