MILITARY/VETERAN RESOURCE NETWORK
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PART I – ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Date: April 11, 2013

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization Name: Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

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ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

What sector is your organization part of? ☐ Military ☒ Government ☐ Community

Please select one or more category for your type of organization:

- ☐ Military
  - ☐ Active Duty (branch: _____)
  - ☐ Reserves (branch: _____)
  - ☐ National Guard (branch: _____)
- ☐ Government
  - ☐ Federal ☒ State
  - ☐ Tribal ☐ Local
- ☒ Child & Family Services /Prevention
- ☐ Healthcare Provider/Community Health
- ☐ Veteran Service Organization
- ☐ Crisis/First Responder
- ☐ Legal
- ☐ Law Enforcement
- ☐ Faith-based Organization
- ☐ Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- ☐ Business (industry: _____)
- ☐ Employer
- ☐ Education (primary/secondary)
- ☐ Higher Education
- ☐ Community-based Partner/Civic Group
- ☒ Other: Advocacy

Organization Mission and/or Charter:

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) is established by Public Law 106-402, also known as the The Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act of 2000. The ADDPC seeks to develop and support capacity building and systemic change that increases involvement of persons with developmental disabilities and their families in their communities through the promotion of self-determination, independence, and dignity in all aspects of life.

Brief background of organization (year established, etc.):

The ADDPC was previously known as the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and had existed since the 1970's. In 2009, changes were made to the structure of the Council and approved by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the federal agency that funds and regulates the Council. Council membership is dictated by federal law with members appointed by the Governor. In accordance with the law, 60% of members are either persons with developmental disabilities or family members. The remaining 40 of membership is comprised of professionals, stakeholders and community members.

What area of the state do you serve? ☒ Statewide (including multi-state/national) **OR** ☐ Regional within AZ

If regional within AZ, choose the most appropriate description of your service area):

☐ Northern ☐ Central ☐ Southern

☐ One or more Counties (please identify): _____

☐ City or local area (please identify): _____

☒ Tribal Nation (please identify): All Tribes

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Please list the programs, resources, services, etc. you provide:

The ADDPC serves in many functions including acting as a funding source for grantees who initiate innovative projects to support persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Federal guidelines mandate that these projects either expand capacity or bring about systems change and are capable of sustainability when ADDPC funding ends. Currently, the ADDPC is funding approximately 30 projects falling under the categories of employment, self-advocacy and empowerment through information. The ADDPC continually assesses needs across the state in varying geographic locations and among multiple groups. A focus is placed on unserved and underserved populations which includes emerging needs. For on projects administered by the ADDPC please visit our website at: additionalhttps://www.azdes.gov/ADDPC/Grants/ information.

Are there eligibility guidelines for your programs, resources and/or services? If so, please describe:

The ADDPC uses the federal guidelines to define developmental disabilities which recognizes any physical, behavioral or cognitive disability that occurs by age 22, is lifelong, and affects functioning in key areas including self-care, receptive/expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Activities supported by the ADDPC include this group but may also extend into other types of disabilities outside of the federal definition.

How would you describe your target audience?

Our targets include all persons with developmental disabilities and their families from infancy through the end of life.

Is there a cost for your programs or services to service members, veterans and/or family members? If so, please describe. If there is no cost, please indicate the types of funding source(s) that support your organization (e.g. grants, donations, etc).

No costs are associated with programs that are funded by the ADDPC and provided to persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Funding is provided at 100% to the ADDPC by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Is there a regulatory body that has oversight over your organization and/or industry? If so, please identify the body and indicate your organization's current status as of the date of this application:

The ADDPC is managed at the federal level by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The ADDPC was created by Executive Order in September, 2009, and works closely with the Governor's Office. As required by federal law, the Council has established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) which functions as the Designated State Agency. Under the MOU, DES provides specific services to the ADDPC, including finance/accounting support, payroll, procurement, human resources and IT resources.

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PART II – GUIDING PRINCIPLES & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following are the guiding principles and ethical considerations for the Military/Veteran Resource Network, developed with the input of service members, veterans, family members and key stakeholders. Please indicate your organization's understanding and agreement by checking each box below:

Guiding Principles

☑ 1. **Military service often fosters resilience and strength in service members, veterans and family members.**

☑ 2. **Military service impacts the individual and the family**. A "military family" can include a service member or veteran, their spouse/significant other and children, as well as parents, siblings, extended family and friends.

☑ 3. **The military is a distinct culture**. While service members, veterans and their families experience the same life circumstances and events as civilians, both positive and negative, they also have a unique set of life experiences relating to service, deployment and reintegration that are distinct from civilian life.

☑ 4. As a community, **we are committed to providing the best care and support to all those who serve**. Since changes in military status affect eligibility for programs, resources and benefits, we seek to build a continuum of care that addresses the needs of the entire military, veteran and family population.

☑ 5. **No one organization can meet all needs for the entire military and veteran population**. Stronger collaboration between military, government and community partners supports service members, veterans and their families in connecting to the right program, resource and/or benefit at the right time. Organizations should also focus on collaboration to maximize available resources and minimize duplication of effort.

☑ 6. **There should be no wrong door to which a service member, veteran or family member goes to for help**. Each individual and organization should have at least the basic knowledge on the military/veteran systems of care to assist in connecting that individual or family to a more appropriate resource so that no one is turned away.

☑ 7. As a network of individuals and organizations who provide care and support to the military and veteran population, **our goal is to assist service members, veterans and family members in being informed consumers** who are empowered to make decisions to access those programs, resources & benefits that will meet their needs.

☑ 8. **Every service member, veteran and family member has an individual experience** and perspective which should be acknowledged and incorporated into the provision of care and support.

Ethical Considerations

☑ 1. **The interest of the service member, veteran and family member should come first**, above the interest of the provider or organization, financial or otherwise.

☑ 2. Any **potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed** up front.

☑ 3. **Respect the service member, veteran and/or family member** by providing accurate information that will assist them in making informed decisions about the care and support they access.

☑ 4. **Organizations should only offer programs, services and resources that they are equipped or trained to deliver**. Outreach and engagement of the military and veteran population should be within the scope of the role and function of the individual (training & experience) and the organization (policies, practices, procedures).

☑ 5. **Organizations that outreach to the military/veteran population have an obligation to equip their personnel and organizations** with the training necessary to understand: a) the unique aspects of the military experience b) the issues affecting these individuals and their families and c) the specific military/government programs and benefits available to this population. Organizations should consult with subject matter experts when necessary.

☑ 6. **Outreach and messaging to the military and veteran population should be truthful**, not misleading nor designed to incite fear, should always accurately and appropriately cite sources and present information in context.

☑ 7. **Organizations should be cautious about promising outcomes**. Information should clearly state if a program or service is evidence-based or independently documented to be effective. Statements about the effectiveness of programs or services should include information on success rates and the documented source of this information.

☑ 8. **Coordination of care and follow up is essential** when service members, veterans and family members are accessing multiple systems of care. Partners need to be actively engaging with other providers and systems as appropriate, while still respecting the confidentiality of the individual or family.

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HOW DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION CONNECT TO THE CULTURE?

Recognize the unique culture • Communicate your commitment • Increase awareness • Build your expertise

Please describe how your organization connects to the culture:

The ADDPC sets as a mission, outreach and involvement of persons with developmental disabilities and their families in all segments of geographical, cultural, gender, age and employment areas within Arizona, which includes those actively serving in the military or veterans of military service.

The ADDPC has participated in intermittent collaboration with military-based activities over the past year. For example in August 2012, the ADDPC was an exhibitor at the 2nd Annual Army Community Service Disability Employment Awareness Month and Special Needs Information Fair at Fort Huachuca. From that event the ADDPC established several contacts in working with persons with developmental disabilities, one who was assisted in attempting to find competitive employment. In ongoing efforts to develop relationships with the military groups the ADDPC has actively communicated with other organizations in Arizona including the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, the Arizona Employers Advisory Council, and the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. It is anticipated that membership in the Military/Veteran Resource Network will allow for greater ADDPC outreach to the military community in providing information, provision of supports and resources and development of innovation that can increase the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

"Sometimes it's nice to talk to someone who has been in the military – but if they weren't, it's fine. Just don't pretend. You can still provide perfectly fine services by finding common ground." –Service Member

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HOW DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS AT THE RIGHT TIME?

Ask questions • Build rapport • Connect people to resources.

Please describe how your organization asks the right questions at the right time:

The ADDPC is required by federal mandate to continually assess ongoing and developing issues in Arizona based on emerging trends and changing population needs. To accomplish this, the ADDPC works to expand its network of partnerships to obtain new sources of information that result in collated data that can be provided to consumers and used to make informed decisions. For example, the ADDPC is currently involved with the Morrison Institute of Public Policy at Arizona State University in holding public forums across Arizona to learn about the most critical issues facing persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Asking questions is intrinsic to this process, and developing personal relationships is the most important component to understand general issues and specific needs. The ADDPC has no formal method to ask the right questions, other than to be constantly present, interested, and committed to activate the appropriate processes to bring about necessary change.

"Keep in mind that often a veteran won't think about saying 'I'm a veteran'." –Veteran

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HOW DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION RESPOND EFFECTIVELY?

Tailor your approach • Interact effectively • Encourage accountability • Coordinate care

Please describe how your organization responds effectively:

The ADDPC utilizes several methods of response:

1. The ADDPC receives inquiries (telephone, e-mail) from persons with developmental disabilities, family members, professionals and community members on multiple topics related to developmental disabilities. The ADDPC responds by providing information, linking persons to resources and advocating on critical issues.
2. The ADDPC facilitates public forums and focus groups to receive current information on immediate and emerging needs. This process includes the involvement of constituents in developing ideas and proposals that can be used in addressing issues.
3. The ADDPC holds public meetings approximately every 6 weeks to discuss projects and funding options. The public is encouraged to attend and share their insights during designated times of the meeting.
4. The ADDPC utilizes suggestions, ideas and proposals to develop funded projects targeting persons with developmental disabilities and their families to increase community inclusion and expand capacity.

"This is a journey, not an event. They will need different services and help at different times. We have the opportunity to walk alongside them." –Military/Veteran Partner

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HOW DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION ENGAGE?

Continuously improve • Actively participate • Build capacity

Please describe how your organization engages:

The ADDPC is continually searching for new partnering and collaborative partners representing persons with developmental disabilities and their families in Arizona. This activity is a mandate of the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 which requires that State Councils develop and enhance networks among all relevant participants in the community. We encourage 2 way communication from all interested parties by using tools such as social networking (Facebook) the ADDPC website (www.azdes.gov/ADDPC), physical presence at conferences, workshops, seminars, board meetings and other community events, and personal speaking events featuring ADDPC staff. Our network involves a wide variety of state agencies (DES, Governor's Council on Aging, Arizona Department of Administration, Arizona Department of Corrections, Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University), and community based organizations (Special Olympics, Best Buddies, Arizona Center for Disability Law, Native American Disability Law Center, Pima Prevention Partnership, Raising Special Kids, Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona, Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center, Southwest Institute for Families and Children, Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center.

"If a person is told there is help but then the help doesn't happen or they are shuffled around – they may not come back for help…it's fine if a person or organization can't help, as long as they guide you to what can help." –Service Member

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