Goal: Overall support under various objectives for 5-core programs within the Down Syndrome Organization of Southern Nevada (DSOSN).

Council has collected information from town halls that has identified several emerging needs including the need to address recreational activities, early intervention support, support for information, respite care, public speaking, and computer skills. This funding is anticipated to provide support until September 30, 2025, for a total of $12,800.

**DSOSN Early Intervention Program, Total: $5,000**

This program is designed to provides services and/or referrals to the following:

* Expected mothers of a pre-born child diagnosed with IDD (we are listed as a service provider with several local hospitals/maternity units). This goes beyond Down Syndrome and expands into all intellectual and developmental disabilities.
* Music Therapy (ages 0-6 yrs)
* Playgroup Activities (0-6 yrs).
* Other age-appropriate activities/programs for families with young children with a diagnosed IDD.

The plan would be to establish an early intervention program to provide these services with the end goal receiving support through other avenues such as Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), Nevada Department of Education, available respite funding through other sources, and grant funding.

Professional support for grant writing to assist in obtaining ongoing support to sustain early intervention program long-term. Overall, the State of Nevada has very few respite opportunities particularly for those in the early intervention age range. This program will provide services to new families and families that have little to no support elsewhere. This was identified as an urgent emerging need through our town halls that the Council can assist in addressing before our next 5-Year State Plan. Respite will likely be a part of the next 5-Year State Plan, and it is important that we make an impact on the need now.

Expected Outcomes – Sustained support for ongoing respite care program for early intervention through the DSOSN office. Grant writer will provide support to find sustained funding for the program and their services. The Council’s funding will provide an initial start up to cover the costs of the equipment for the program. Many respite funding providers require there to be an established program in order for additional funding to be provided. This Council’s funding is limited to this fiscal year only.

**Recreational Support under Emerging Needs, 1.4, Total: $5,000**

**Dance Classes**

2 classes per week (Saturdays and Mondays), $75 per student total (DSOSN cost is $45/student, Student Cost is $30/month). NGCDD proposed support $50/month, $25/student cost. The design of requiring a portion of the support to be covered by the student is to build a commitment to the class. When students are required to pay a portion, they’ve been consistently showing up.

Justification: Recreation has become an emerging need. Not only will it need to be included in our next 5-Year State Plan, but we have a dire need to address this essential service that is currently lacking in our state. We have little to no recreational opportunities for children or adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This program is designed to provide this service. Long term, the program will be seeking additional support to continue beyond Council funding.

Expected Outcomes – By 2026 individuals with I/DD and their family members will report having no current emerging needs or that all emerging needs are currently being addressed.

**Art Classes**

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. $500 per month for two classes. This includes time for teacher and all materials. Open to ages 8+ for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Justification: Recreation has become an emerging need. Not only will it need to be included in our next 5-Year State Plan, but we have a dire need to address this essential service that is currently lacking in our state. We have little to no recreational opportunities for children or adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This program is designed to provide this service. Long term, the program will be seeking additional support to continue beyond Council funding.

Expected Outcomes – By 2026 individuals with I/DD and their family members will report having no current emerging needs or that all emerging needs are currently being addressed.

**Performing Arts Programs**

Open to ages 16+ of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Justification: Recreation has become an emerging need. Not only will it need to be included in our next 5-Year State Plan, but we have a dire need to address this essential service that is currently lacking in our state. We have little to no recreational opportunities for children or adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This program is designed to provide this service. Long term, the program will be seeking additional support to continue beyond Council funding.

Expected Outcomes – By 2026 individuals with I/DD and their family members will report having no current emerging needs or that all emerging needs are currently being addressed.

**Public Speaking and Computer Courses for Public Speaking – 2.1 Leadership Training, Total $2,800**

**Computer Labs**

Some individuals with little to no computer skills or desire to learn them are now sufficiently using computers, learning, researching information. They’re learning to write letters, saving files, retrieving to send to someone. All skills that can assist in writing and delivering testimony at the Legislature. Independence growth. Each class is 10-week class, 2 days per week, from 4-5:30 PM (3 hours per week). Open to ages 16+ of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Expected Outcomes – Individuals with I/DD will identify common barriers, increase advocacy, knowledge, policy activities and connections to create a stronger unified voice and educate policymakers on key issues.

Increase strength and leadership of self-advocacy groups led by individuals with I/DD in Nevada.

Increased advocacy, skills for writing testimony, delivery of testimony at the Legislature during 2025 session and/or during 2026 interim session.

Cost: $900/instructor, per total course. Participant support $500 per course. Total Support for Activity: $1,400

**Public Speaking Classes**

Verbal communication, confidence, communication outside of their known circle, improved social skills, and knowledge. High interest list, with at least one of each per year. Each class is 10-week class, 2 days per week, from 4-5:30 PM (3 hours per week). Open to ages 16+ of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Expected Outcomes – Individuals with I/DD will identify common barriers, increase advocacy, knowledge, policy activities and connections to create a stronger unified voice and educate policymakers on key issues.

Increase strength and leadership of self-advocacy groups led by individuals with I/DD in Nevada.

Increased advocacy, skills for writing testimony, delivery of testimony at the Legislature during 2025 session and/or during 2026 interim session.

Cost: $900/instructor, per total course. Participant support $500 per course. Total Support for Activity: $1,400