Testing, testing.

Applicants Conference.

>> Lisa: Good morning. I think we all made it in. Welcome to the Applicants Conference for GCDD's Competitive NoFA's process. I'm Lisa Eaves and I'm the contractors director at GCDD. I want to welcome you. It is going to be a day, hopefully, full of information to help you be successful in applying for one of GCDD's grants.

So, first, I'm going to review the agenda, which is basically welcoming you today. We're also going to do a good overview of D.D. suite and the technical portion of NoFA and then we will pause for questions and then move on to a programmatic overview of each NoFA on your screen. We have 10 NoFA's to cover, so we hope it will be speedy, but thorough.

One question that is usually asked, is this being recorded, yes, it is being recorded. We will get to as many questions as we can during this session, but if we do not get to your question either/or, you can put all of your questions in the chat. Once you put your question in the chat, we will record those questions down and give a written answer as well, which will be posted on our website by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. And our website, of course, is GCDD.org.

I think that is pretty much all of the housekeeping things we have to cover, so we're going to go ahead and get started.

So, first, we wanted to tell you -- can we see my screen? Let me double check on that first. >> Yes. >> Lisa: Thank you. I'm going to move all of these faces out of my way. Y'all are beautiful, but I can't see my work. We wanted to tell you a little bit about the purpose of our grants. First off, the George Council on Developmental Disabilities makes funds available to fulfill its mission in accordance with the D.D. act and its five-year plan. This plan is important to us. We spend time going over what is required to

get our federal funding to plan out our five-year activities and we all that our strategic plan.

But the purpose of our grants are to expand best practices and to contribute to system wide changes that supports the rights of people with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion as community member. Recipients of GCDD's grants are expected to be ongoing partners bringing about this change. So, I would like to say that this graphic gives you an idea of how we operate, so on the right and in the middle, you have our mission. Our mission is central to everything that we do. It is our core of what we try to accomplish and then in our five-year plan, we have established three primary goals and five strategies or objectives, so our goal number one is system change. Let's get to the root cause and change the systems.

Goal number two is self-advocacy. We are here to help self-advocates promote themselves and have a voice for themselves. Our third goal is diversity. With these three goal, we have strategies, one strategy is capacity building. Building capacity of nonprofit organizations to serve people with developmental disabilities. Advocacy is one of our main strategies. We have advocacy days going on right now. This is where we engage our state legislature, representatives to advocate on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. Our public information, obviously is letting the public know what we do, how we do it and why we do it, and that is done through our website. It is done through our newsletter. It is done through press releases, it is done through any way we can communicate with people what our purpose is, so we want you to check out everything that GCDD has to offer, at our website at GCDD.org.

Our other strategy is equity. As we look at how we're serving or assisting people with disabilities, is there equity in our services, in our grants, in our policies and in our procedures? And last, but certainly not least is our grant-making strategy. So, through grant making is one of the main ways that we accomplish our strategic plan. You may be familiar with applying for grants with other organizations, and basically, you have an idea and your organization needs help, and so you seek out the community foundation or corporate foundation to help you accomplish your goal.

Oftentimes, the grant or the money is given to you upfront and you go about doing your work, helping to strengthen your organization. Well, GCDD grants are just a little bit different. As I mentioned, we are trying to accomplish our goals and our five-year plan. And as we built this five-year plan, we have identified certain goals and objectives that we want to achieve, and now we are looking for partners to help us implement our, GCDD's goals and and objectives. So when applying for grants, you should see how your plan fits into GCDD's goals and objectives. We have laid out our goals and objectives in

each grant, but we will talk about that as we go along.

I wanted to let you know that first of all, we are what is called the reimbursable grant. You don't receive all of the money in a lump sum upfront. As an organization, you need to be prepared to lay out the funds to implement the projects that you receive funding for ahead of time. So, we are reimbursable grant, which means after you do the work and you show that you have done the work through reporting and through your expense reports, then we will reimburse you for any money that you spent towards the grant.

This, again, is a clear distinction how GCDD's grant-making program may work differently than other groups or foundations. So, we also spend a lot of time as staff overseeing the project, looking at project performance, looking at the administration and compliance. I say compliance, because we are part of the state of Georgia as well as, we receive federal funds, so there is always stipulations and requirements that each of our grantees must comply with.

So, hopefully, that is a good overview that our purpose here today. I also wanted to mention that we generally, it is not the type of grant where we generally fund individuals. We at GCDD fund organizations, and those organizations in turn generally serve the individuals. We do not do any direct service work at GCDD. So, I hope that answers some of the questions about how we differ from other grant-making organizations.

So, moving along and a little more detail about the process. It is a continuum as a process, so the council sets the strategic goals. Then we, as staff, develop and post NoFA's, NoFAs means, Notice of Funds Available. We have set aside funds for various projects. Then we evaluate the application, both the staff and the grants committee participate in the evaluation and then we take recommendations to our full council and the council is the one that actually approves the grant for funding. That is, believe it or not, just the first half.

Once you have been approved for funding then we set up a contract, or grant stipulation we monitor grant performance and that is done through monthly grantee reporting, so we're look at your project and seeing how it is progressing each month. And then, we make payments and that is done between our fiscal staff and the department of behavioral health and developmental disabilities who is our fiscal agent and cuts all of our checks and things of that nature.

Finally, at the end of your grant, we have the grant closeout process where we ask you to submit a report of what you accomplished for the year. We close out on our end by closing your financial accounts as well. And so, you will learn this, if you get a grant, but I will say, if you don't apply for all of your money for reimbursement within a certain period of time, your grant may be closed out, so we encourage monthly reporting and we encourage three months after your grant has closed for all of your expenses to be submitted.

So, in some ways to be part of the GCDD's grantmaking process, is a lot of work, but we would love to have you onboard. So, the next thing we do our grant making through our grant-make software called D.D. Suite. What is D.D. Suite? It is a web-based program. You can use it on your phone. You can use it on your laptop. You can use it anywhere, any time. It is simply a website that hosts this information.

It allows all of the grant processes to be electronic and paperless. It is a great thing. We're in COVID times now, but we started this long before COVID started and this way I don't lose everyone's paper, because everything is contained in D.D. Suite and we can't say "it lot lost in the mail."

It helps with communication internally and externally. Among the staff, anyone can look on D.D. Suite and see which stage the application is in or the application or the grant is in. It also, we communicate with you through D.D. Suite by sending, so in the case of the application, you will get a notice that it was submitted. You will get a notice if it is approved. You will get a notice if it was denied. Once you become a grantee, you will get a notice for reports that are due. You will get a notice for reports that are overdue. You will get notice of reports that have been accepted. It streamlines communication.

D.D. Suites helps the council monitor outcome data in grants. As we get further in this process and we look at D.D. Suite, you will be asked for your performance measures and through the performance measures, we collect all of the data within one system. Also, offers fiscal reporting information, so we do not accept separate invoices or an invoice on a piece of participate. All of your invoicing is done through D.D. Suite.

So, again, we first have to get through the grant application process before you are then awarded a grant. And I have attached to each NoFA or it has been attached to each NoFA something called the "grant application process: A guide D.D. Suite" and I encourage you to review that document, because it will cover most of the questions yous that you have in D.D. Suite. It includes, how to create an

account in D.D. Suite, how to create or join an organization, user levels, how to apply for a grant in D.D. Suite, which people, which is the "people" tab will be working on your grant, the outline, which is a detail about your project, the budget, obviously is the budget for your project, and the project work plan. It tells you how to submit the application and how to print your application. I just got a note here, remember to submit attachments that the grant asks for in the "attachments" tab and it will always with a W9 and in some cases, it will be letters of recommendations and samples of your work.

So, again, going into a little more detail, you have to go to www.ddsuite.org to apply. If you don't have an account, you will have to create one, which is a sign-up button. If you do have an account, you have to join an organization. Tip, tip, tip of the day, do not join GCDD. I denied two requests to join GCDD. Sorry, I could not accept, we get an option to accept or deny. You are joining your own organization and you may be your organization's administrator or someone else within the organization who can have access to your application or grant.

When you request to join GCDD, you're asking to have access to our grant-making organization and we can't have that, so that's why I had to respectfully decline your requests to join GCDD. Again, most of this is explained in the handout, but if you need further help, you can call for technical assistance on D.D. Suite.

As I mentioned before, and I will skip a few things, the application is made up of eight different parts and identified by a tab within D.D. Suite. The first tab is the applicant information, people, outline tab, the outline tab has six questions and then budget, objectives, activitities, performance measures, and attachments and all of this makes up a complete application. I'm stressing this, because there are times when people will submit an application, but left out significant parts of the application.

So, the evaluation process, we look at -- these are some of the things we look at when evaluating your application. Does the outline clearly state the goals and major activities? Is the applicant qualified or experienced to complete the goals and activities? Does the application satisfactory describe the impact of activities of the project, is each required goal and outcome addressed? Are the goals and outcomes satisfactory? Does the application adequately describe who will be responsible for each activity and a timeframe for completion? I will pause here. Our outline in D.D. Suite will be equivalent for a timeline for your project. We do some prompting to include who is working on this activity, what the timeframe for this activity? So, all of these questions need to be answered.

Is the budget consistent with the goals and activities identified in the project? And so, we need a good budget for the project. is it reasonable? How are the amounts determined? So, if we have a clerical, data entry position listed at $200 per hour, we may have a question. That budget may not be justified while as if you're seeking an attorney or legal fees or whatever in your application and you have the same $200 an hour that might be reasonable and customary. So, when we look at your budget, it is not just the bottom line how much you're going to spend, we look at each line item and the justification to make sure it is a good and solid budget.

And then we talked about project evaluation, and outcomes. Are you going to be able to measure if You have been effective in completing this project? So, before I go any further, I can't -- let me stop share for just a second. If we could have you tell me in the chat, how many of you, if you're familiar with D.D. Suite put yes, if you're not familiar with D.D. Suite put a no in the chat.

I think of the responses so far, I have seen three noes and the majority are a yes, so we're getting some more noes. So, it is a, no ma'am, so it is looking sort of split right now. So, I am going to go on to the next portion, which is just to show you very briefly some tips of D.D. Suite, but again, I encourage you to read the document that I prepared and attached to each NoFA.

So, let me see if I can share again and get into D.D. D.D. Suite.

Give me just a second. I'm switching over to D.D. Suite. I will try it again.

OK, here we go. So, can you see this? It now says "empowering those empowering change."
>> Kate: Yes, we see it.
>> Lisa: Great, thank you, Kate. You're going to log into d dsuite.org. I suggest that you click on the logo and I call the double D.'s, so click on the logo. You have two column, grant seekers and grant makers. And so, this is for D.D. Suites -- I'm sorry, D.D. councils all over the country. You see two councils have listed grant opportunities, of course, our council is Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, you will click on that.

And you will be able to see a list of all to know fas we are advertise -- all the NoFAs that we have advertising this round. You have the opportunity to log in or sign up. Log in, if you already have an account in D.D. Suite, sign up if you do not. So, first I'm going to go to -- just to ust to show you. This is where you will find all of the information in one place. The first thing that is important is the grant number and the grant title. It tells you the date we posted it. It tells you the date the application is due. It is tells you the proposed start date of the actual project. It tells you the end date of the project, so this is a one-year project. It tells you the amount of grant funds for the project, which is $25,000 and tells you the match amount for the project and I'm going to show another one, but this required match amount is $6,250. So, that means the council will give a $25,000 grant and organization ABC will add $6,250 will add match funds to the project for a total of $31,250 for the whole project. You will see that later in the budget.

There are two match types. It is either going to be -- if it is under match that means it is 25% in the amount column. If it's 10%, it is going to show up in this poverty match, so the regular match is 25%, the poverty match is 10%. It will tell you the council's staff who you will be working with and who will monitor this particular grant. It gives you, of course, the purpose of the grant, the schedule of event, what is going to happen between now and June the 1st, so I want to point out it is due March 1.

Very important, restrictions on communications, so until you become a grantee, because it is a competitive NoFA process, all questions must be in writing, and submitted only to me, Lisa Eaves, L isa.eaves@GCDD.gov. I don't know anybody, so you can't shmooz me. Basically, to keep the staff out of giving either insider information or an edge in a competitive process. All questions are put in writing and all questions are publicly posted, so everyone has the same advantage.

I do not take questions on the phone. All questions must be in writing and you will receive a response. Of course, it gives a little information about the council. We're one of 56 councils in the United States, but we also are governed by a Council Member, a 27-member board, per se. So, that gives you a little bit about our structure.

Now, the main thing, of course, that you want to know and you should focus on is the scope of work or the request for proposal. So, as I told you, the council figured out what issues we have and what we want to address and we're looking for the best proposal to meet our needs. I often get the question as to why didn't I get the grant? I gave my organization is a good organization. We have no doubt that you that you are great organizations, but we're choosing the best grantee that will meet our needs to

accomplish our goals.

So, as you look at this, you will read possibly background about the grant. You will read, when we look for minimum qualifications, so in this particular grant, we need someone or an organization with five years experience working in the area of federal policy. We need three years experience in federal disability policy. So, if you don't have those, we're going to look to see if you meet those qualifications and you may not move on. These are the suggested performance measures, which you will see in a drop-down that we have and you can add others, as well as all demographic measures and we will talk about that in just a second.

It tells you how to submit. You can only submit through D.D. Suite. We don't take anything that is late. It is time stamped in the system. The date changes, so you have up to 11:59 on March 1. At 12:00 a.m. on March 2, you can still submit your application, but we won't look at anything dated after March 1.

We talked a little bit about the evaluation process already, so in order to keep us moving, I just want to remind you of -- sorry about this scrolling. There was some additional requirements, upload the W9, which is attached to ed to the NoFA. Please provide references that can attest to your type of work. All of this must be uploaded before the application is considered complete. All right, now I'm going to go to the nitty gritty.

I started an application this morning just to show you.
>> Kate: You have a question in the chat. Is it helpful for me to read it to you or would you like to wait a bit?
>> Lisa: I would like to wait. Which one did I apply to this morning? Storytelling. So, normally, when you open this application, you would see "apply here." I started it this morning, so it says "continue application," so that is a good point. In D.D. Suite, you don't have to do it all at one time. You can do it a section at a time, save your work, and keep coming back to it. It will continue with "continue application."

Then, OK, what -- I'm going to go to "continue application," but yours will say "apply here." So, we have all of the tabs up top. You have the "summary" tab that allows you to look at, once you complete all of the other sections will allow you to see your application in total. You start with the "set up" tab and that is where you type your applicant name or it will come over from your account that you sign in

on.

This is the GCDD test organization, L.F.E. is me. I am a nonprofit, fictitious. My goal is to demonstrate D.D. Suite, but you have to fill all of this information in. It will prompt you to fill in this information.

So, that's the only tab I did so far was the setup. Now, we go to the people. Oh, I did do myself. I am the project director of the project, but you will notice that if you want to add other people, they have to have an account in D.D. Suite as well. But you hit "tap here" for add organizational personnel and you add whoever it is. I'm the only person in my organization, but in your organization, you would have a finance director. So, do you want them to get all of the e-mails about this grant, yes or no and then you "save." Oh, I did not put their role. See, D.D. Suite helps you.

Now, I'm the financial officer. First, I was the Program Director and now I'm the financial officer and we're going to save that. Again, I'm going to go quickly to the outline. Question one, executive summary. You start to put in your responses. You hit the "edit" button and you type. You have up to 5,000 characters. Anything you say beyond 5,000 characters will not be included in the application. So, tip number two, might be three by now, type your response to this question in Word, do a word or character count and copy and paste and drop it in here when you're done. Use Word first, clearly state your project goal, impact, you can copy and paste this on a sheet of paper. Fill it out, see what the word or character count the, paste it in here. If you answer that question, then you hit save.

I'm going to hit "save." So, answer one -- I'm sorry, question one, the answer is thank you, but of course yours would be more detailed. Qualification, detail narrative, everything is accessed over here. You type it in. Again, I would copy all of the questions, put them in Word, and respond and then do that section. Then we have the budget. The budget and I need to be finished in two minutes. I am going to give myself three.

The budget has several categories. When you want to add someone to a category, so if you want to do travel, hit add, tell me where you're going to travel, what you're going to do, why is this justified, how much you're going to spend on the travel, how much is council funds and how much in match funds. If you're using your match fund, you put it on this line, if you're using the $25,000 or this is $85,000. You go through each budget line item. Again, you have the option of creating a separate

budget. You can attach it to your grant for those who prefer Excel, et cetera, but copy that information into the categories that we have listed.

You don't have to have something in every category, but if you have nothing in your budget, we obviously can't tell how you're going to spend it. The work plan. For every work plan, my goal -- I'm sorry, my first objective, I put this in today, to increase the number of D.D. Suite users. Usually an objective is you increase or decrease something. Then add an activity, so my activity is to host a D.D. Suite training. Who is the staff going to host the staff? She doesn't know it yet, I'm kidding, T' Airia Samuel. To increase the number of D.D. Suite users, I'm going to add another activity and that is going to be 1.2, no, I went with B.'s.

What I also want to be done is collect demographic data that is another activity. So, that's another activity. I'm going to put when I'm going to start that activity, so that is going to be after I have the training then I'm going to collect the activity, so you put the dates in here. Who is going to do my data collection? Well, Lisa Eavs is going to do the data collection and I'm going to save that.

And so, what you have here is, we have an objective to increase the number of D.D. Suite users. Our first activity is to host a training. Our second activity is to collect demographic data, and so on and do that for an entire work plan. We recommend three to five objectives, and two to three activities under each objective.

And last is the supporting documents. This is how you attach your documents. You shouldn't have to make any notes unless you don't have something that we're asking for. I'm not sure. Mostly, you use this to attach the documents that we have asked to be uploaded. You put what it is, so you are attaching your W9. I would go in my files and get the W9. I do have one, but I don't want to take that time, you save it and then it is attached to the grant. So, that is a very, very quick, brief, and dirty, remember all tabs, setup, people, outline, budget, work plan, supporting documents. Once it is completed, you will be able to look at the summary tab and see what you're submitting to us.

Then there will be a "validate and submit" button. Validate will tell you if there is anything missing or wrong, not your attachments, but things that are absolutely required. You will validate and submit. If you don't hit submit, we don't have it, so that is a very important thing. If you changed your mind and said this is too much work, you can delete. So, now without further ado, I will take questions from the chat, they can be read and I'm going to wait until later to take additional questions.

>> Someone wanted to know when this record willing be posted.

>> Lisa: It will be posted Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

>> Can you say more about match versus poverty match, is it the organization is located in a poverty area, they use the poverty match percentage or the work will be done in a poverty area? Also, should we use the American community survey to get this information or another source?

>> Lisa: OK, we have made it easy for you. GCDD determines the match. We put the match in the grant. As I showed you before, where you would find what your required match is, you don't have to worry about calculating anything or doing anything. We have done all of the work for you. We matched those poverty areas and matched those at 10%. We require 25% for a regular standard. We have stated in few cases, if no match at all is required, and match will say $0. So, it is all at the top of the grant.

>> Those were the only two questions in the chat so far.

>> Lisa: I will take any other questions over the next minute before going on to the program staff.

You can un-mute and ask a question.

Going once. Going twice. Gone.

Was the brief, I know it was very brief overview of D.D. Suite helpful in how you input the information?

All right, hopefully, between that and the guide itself, if you need to see it in writing and reviewing the transcript that we will provide early next week should be helpful. Pam has a hand raised. I think.

>> Pam: Only to say thank you, this is helpful. >> Lisa: Thank you, Pam. >> Pam: I like the emojis.

>> Lisa: OK, we're going to rock and roll with the specific grants. Starr, if you will un-mute yourself and talk about your project and we will have questions after Starr and move on to the next one. One down and nine to go.

>> Starr: Great, thank you, Lisa. My name is Starr Bruner and I'm the transition director here at the George Council on Developmental Guilts. Most of my job is around inclusive post-secondary education. I see one of our ipsi folks on the call, I think, Nathan, hello if you're still on the call. This

grant, the purpose of this grant is to assess the school to prison pipeline in Georgia. The school to prison pipeline disproportionately affects students of color, particularly students with disabilities who are as people of color.

So, this project should assess the state of affairs in Georgia on the school to prison pipeline. We have listed in the grant description other activities that you may want to include to help you get started on your work plan, such as developing a statewide questionnaire. We also want to make sure that any data that you collect from across the state represents urban, suburban and rural areas, as well as paying attention to racial, ethnic and gender identity diversity. Let's see, what else?

So, we would like you to collect your data, compile it, review it, maybe do a lit review, think about best practices from other states and how we might implement those in our state. We have been doing, in the past, in our last five years, we have been doing some school to prison pipeline work, mainly with one contractor, from what I can remember, so we will give you access to at least what we know has been going on, what work we have granted in the last five years.

So, you would be giving us tips about where Georgia needs to go in term of the school to prison pipeline, what GCDD can do to help and, you know, obviously the current state of data. Does anyone have questions? I'm happy or Lisa, am I allowed to take questions right now?
>> Lisa: Oh, yes, yes.
>> Starr: OK, if anybody has any questions.
>> There are no questions in the chat at this time. >> Starr: Thank you.
>> Lisa: I will insert here, if you have specific questions or questions about a specific NoFA, please list the number, so in this case, it would be 22DIV1, and if you -- then I know who to assign it to, everyone if you have a question later. Also, we will take questions up through tomorrow for, you know, anything that you thought of later, specifically, we will take those questions through tomorrow, write the answers on Monday, post them to our website on Tuesday.

That's the goal.
>> Starr: So, you can contact Lisa after for questions for 22DIV1 and that is the school to prison pipeline grant. Thanks. >> Lisa: Thank you. Next up is Kate I believe with the Technology White Paper. >> Kate: Thank you, Lisa. Good to see everyone here today. I'm Kate Brady. I'm the Deputy Director at the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. I handle some of our contracts in the areas of employment-supported decision making, technology, and advocacy. I'm trying to add a pin here. Lisa, can you say again, which of the many NoFAs I get to talk about. >> Lisa: I'm sorry.

Technology, DIV3.

>> Kate: So, people will see Technology White Paper, 22DIV3 is funded at $20,000 with no match requirement. This is our interest in exploring in Georgia the trends, needs, and national and possible solutions how GCDD can increase access to new, emerging and current assistive and adaptive technology for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. There are areas that we inform for future projects that we will fund within this strategic plan. We expect this white paper to include, but not be limited to gathering public input from people with developmental disabilities and families, getting a general analysis of existing technology and assistive tech resources, the support services that are available, and as Starr mentioned, always with an eye towards the differences that we find in urban, suburban and rural communities. Representation is really important to GCDD, as is diversity and equity in all of our work, so it will be critical to analyze any trends in disparity by race, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status, and any barriers that might exist for Georgia and people with developmental disabilities, accessing technology, specifically the way technology impacts daily life and access to support. We hope this project will culminate in a series of clear and action-oriented recommendations regarding policy and programmatic proposals that the council can act on during the current five-year plan. And this project, this submission is due March 1 and the anticipated start date is May 1. I can take any questions. I don't see any in the chat, but I'm happy to take them any which way.

>> Lisa: We will give them a chance to think about it. They can add in the chat through tomorrow and we're going to go on to the next one, which is Storytelling Project, 22PR2. Maria. >> Maria: Good afternoon. I'm Maria Pinkelton. The Storytelling Project is a project that I managed for, I guess we have had it for five years or four years. I am sure you have heard about it in some form of fashion and we are currently accepting proposals for our next funding for project -P the purpose of the storytelling project is to collect stories from geographically, socioeconomically and culturally diverse advocates across the state of Georgia who are championing the goals of our five-year strategic plan. It should showcase work being done by individuals in which all people are included in all facetted of community life, accessing control over their alives and exercising the potential to achieve their full potential. To touch on points like civic engagement capacity building, increasing the number of non-comp waivers, addressing the D.I.P. shortage. We look for whoever will be leading this grant to deliver us story packages, short and long story formats, along with photographs.

As many of you have seen the interpretation, the project has taken on many forms and creativity and innovation is always welcome, but at the base root, we use the long and short story forms and photographs to impact legislators' awareness, that is how the project started. So, as you may know,

the original stories were used in local newspapers around the state that we consider advantageous to boost awareness in the state. At that time, now what comp waivers meant for so many Georgians with and without those waivers. And we are looking for more diversity to continue in the story, so we can really get a good snapshot of who in Georgia the living with and thriving in the space of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I think there is a lot of opportunity to expand awareness to communities as well as our lawmakers in those areas with this project. And as others have spoke before, this project is set to begin on May 1. If you have any questions, ask them now or ask them of Lisa.

>> Lisa: Great. I want to put a plug in two quick announcements. I know some people may not have been able to make this applicants conference, so again, reminder that everything will be posted, a transcript, as well as a recording, as well as all questions and answers next Tuesday. I want to encourage you to spread the word to your friends, who have never heard of GCDD, never heard of D.D. Suite, so they wouldn't know how to access the application if you can think of another group, because we're trying to diversify the applicant pool. The benefits and the outcomes of making changes for individuals with developmental disabilities in our state are priceless, so that is my commercial for today and we will -- Kate, are you back available or do you need me to skip around?
>> Kate: I'm right here.
>> Lisa: Great, your next one is Supported Decision Making.
>> Kate: Wonderful. So, Supported Decision Making work to date is a carry over from GCDD's prior strategic plan and aims to interrupt and provide alternatives to guardianship. This project will have an tis painted start date of May 1. It is funded at $60,000. And we are requesting proposals to launch the next phase of this Supported Decision Making work. So, we would like to continue attempts to end or prevent guardianship and replace these practices with supported decision making, and other supported staff function as less restrictive pathways to supported decision making.

And to provide protective measures that don't strip folks of their civic rights. We hope to see an even more diverse set of people currently under guardianship provided support. We would love to see an archive of evidence of why guardianship has been used too liberally in the past, and an appraisal of the relative impacts, specifically around educational outreach. We know that school systems tend to be a source of young people getting on the path to guardianship, so particularly interested in interrupting that. This project might also include dissemination activities to bring in new and existing stakeholders to formalize and develop supported decision making arrangements through citizen advocacy, as previously mentioned support to overturn guardianship.

Any questions?

We would love to see samples of your work, references who can attest to your abilities and experience and any certifications that you think are relevant, you can upload.

>> Lisa: OK, Supported Decision Making is 22SA2. So, again, if you need to follow-up on that one, feel free to do that. I'm going to skip to Community Development Training. Eric, 22SC2.
>> Kate: Eric had to leave. He left about 30 minutes ago. I'm going to cover that for him. 22SC2 is funded at $40,000. It has an tis updatehas an anticipated start date of June 1 and it has for staff, partners, people with disabilities and their families, some of the lessons learned through communities and welcoming community dialogue initiatives funded up until 2021. There are key concepts that reexpect are critical to continue the growth of connecting people with and without disabilities to one another. Those are asset-based development and community back, so we are requesting a proposal to execute a training initiative that will grow the statewide capacity in these approaches.

As always, we would love to see innovation -- innovated consideration of diversity. We anticipate our other funded projects, of which are upwards of 40 to be part of the audience for this training. As well our 27-member Governor-appointed Council Members and individuals with disabilities, which brings to the next point, which is we would like to see proposals that anticipate fully accessible Universal Design for learning approach to training, so all people can participate regardless of their prior knowledge. And there's tremendous information in the NoFA about these various philosophies, but we are specifically hoping that applicants will be able to share with us training curriculum that they previously executed, and to share with us two references who can attest to your knowledge and expertise and asset-based development and change and the collective impact model. You might have three years experience working in action-oriented advocacy with a social justice orientation or in community organizing and advocacy on issues critical to marginalized people. So, we're flexible about, that but we would like you to articulate that in an attachment and we look forward to all of your submissions on this funding opportunity. >> Lisa: All right, we're going to go to different voices. Let's hear about the HCBS, stronger together. >> Alyssa: I will give a brief overview of the Stronger Together HCBS Coalition and I am happy to answer any questions. The purpose of the work to develop an active and engaged coalition of organizations, people with developmental disabilities, their family members and community members who are invested in expanding, strengthening and enhancing home and community-based services in Georgia. Some of y'all might remember a similar project that we had a few years ago that

was called unlock the waiting list.

We certainly want to have some of those elements involved in this work, but we are looking at a broader focus instead of just the waitlist. We're looking at HCBS services overall in Georgia, that s that does not mean just folks trying to get into services, but we want to focus on what the services look like once people are in those services. We know things change, whether it be at the legislature level at the state, the federal level, as well as implementation of phases in state agencies, so this coalition will be actively engaged and ready to respond. There is a list of activities in the application, I'm not going to go over all of those word for word, but if there are any question, I would be happy to answer them.

>> Lisa: Alyssa, do you want to state the amount and the match?

>> Alyssa: Sure, the council funds would be $100,000, which is one of the higher ones that we're speaking on today, so I think that points to the lift and amount of work we expect out of this HCBS coalition. It is going to be one of our bigger projects and we recognize it will be pretty time consuming based on the work that needs to be done, so we want to make sure it would be appropriately funded and it would include the 25% match, which would be $25,000.

>> Lisa: That is math that we can all do.

>> Alyssa: This is different in terms of timeline. We expect applications to be submitted by March 1, but instead of a May 1 start date, this has a June 1 start date.

>> Lisa: Questions on HCBS coalition, 22SC9.

>> Alyssa: SC7.

>> Lisa: You are correct. There is no nine on my paper. 22SC7. All right, let's go, I will stick with Alyssa and finish up with Federal Legislative Advocacy. >> Alyssa: Perfect. This work we had in the past and have been without a contractor in this area for the last few months, but the purpose of the work is for GCDD staff and its members to have the knowledge and strategies to engage in education, outreach to stakeholders and provide key information to state officials and legislators related to significant state and federal policies and their impacts on people with developmental disabilities. Basically, in a nutshell, we're looking for someone who is particularly in tune with what is happening at the federal level. Ideally, someone based in D.C. or connected to an organization based in D.C., if they are not, they have really strong ties to what is going on in D.C. and at the federal level and what the impacts look like for Georgia. We expect this person to be someone who would be in continuous communication with us for anything that might come up that is not on our radar. They also submit quarterly magazine articles and they do, as well a federal policy update for our Council Members, which takes place quarterly as well.

Really looking for someone who in to know, has their eye on all of the intricacies in D.C., this is funded at $25,000 with a match of $6,250 and again, it will start on June 1, but the application is due March 1.

>> Lisa: All right, remember to tell others. If you can't do it, somebody can. As Alyssa said, we have been without a contractor in this area since last October, so we're anxious to find someone to help us. Kate, the rest are on you. I can tell you one at a time or you can -- however you want to present it at this time.

>> Kate: Well, thank you. I will just go down the line if that is all right.

>> Lisa: Sure. >> Kate: I have them ordered on the page I'm referring to. So, now you're going to hear about a bundle of projects related to employment. The first being our Employment Technical Assistance Center, which is funded at $150,000 with an anticipated start date of May 1. The reason why council funds project 22SC5 is that we recognize in states where employment practices are advanced across both patient rehabilitation, developmental disabilities and Medicaid waiver systems, usually there is a strong and engaged state level technical assistance center that provides training to providers, provide support to job seekers, and provides technical assistance guidance on best practices, such as supported self-employment, micro enterprise, self-employment, customized employment, supported employment, needed policy changes, and so forth.

And so, we are funding a technical assistance center to identify, organize and streamline communication services and training resources with a particular focus of supporting organizations to phase out their use of minimum wage certificates, which is the very archaic practice of having what is called a 14C certificate authorized by the U.S. Department of Labor to pay people with disabilities less than the minimum wage. There are some tremendous resources out there if you're interested in that issue. I hope you are. Some of the key components to success. Submission will include a strategy to increase opportunities for people with I.D.D. to seek employment, ongoing technical assistance resources, providing a comprehensive model for engagementage strategies, supporting a learning community of practitioners who are those people who provide employment services, and addressing the sustainability of the technical assistance center beyond the availability of GCDD's funding.

We are excited to see your submissions and are requesting, again, references, any relative certificates, sample work you are willing to share in that scope of work. I'm happy to take questions on this 22SC5 before we move forward.

OK, don't see any. Did I hear someone?

OK, next opportunity is 22SC4, which is the Initiative for Equity in Tech Jobs. This is a new area of work for GCDD. Identified in our current strategic plan. It's fund it at $20,000 with an anticipated start date of May 1. This project aims to recognize amongst the same population that we know is funneled from the schools to prison in a pipeline who are students with disabilities, who are as students of color specifically, male students, there is simultaneously a tremendous demand for tech jobs. So, we are exploring the possibility of interrupting that pipeline through the dedicated effort to prepare black male students with disabilities for jobs in the tech industry.

So, this is a fairly unique project in that we are asking for an initiative to be launched to support the training for at least 10 young black neurodivergent males per year, so they can be prepared for and placed in technology jobs. You'll notice that councils sometimes seed new practices and this is our effort to explore dedicated work in this area and to create and create an employment pathway.

So, we are open to applications from people working in the tech space to people who are accustomed to providing preparatory training, to people who have experienced with disabilities, but aren't requiring that applicants are versed in disabilities space. And I would love to take questions and hope that on this front, you will take Lisa's plea to disseminate this opportunity far and wide. We know in disability, the work and the outcomes that people experience is always made better when we partner with organizations and experts outside of our field, particularly when we aim to impact issues of intersectionality, which this is absolutely one. So, I will pause there and see if there are questions.

And then we will keep going.
>> Lisa: This is a quite group. What is the amount? We got a question, Kate. >> Kate: Thank you, Jonette James. The amount is $20,000.
>> Lisa: Is there is a match?
>> Kate: Yeah, there is. Let me pull up the match. It is a $20,000 with a $5,000 match. What a relief to have a question. I think there is only one more.
>> Lisa: Yeah, Cross-Disability White Paper. >> Kate: Deviating from our employment, you heard Lisa mention our interest in coalition building and councils have historically invested and coalitions are cross-disability focused, so to contrast that, not disability focused and interesting to convene investors who are interested in cross-disability labels. In Georgia, we haven't had a robust cross-disability coalition in quite some time. We are would be interested in a white paper with $10,000 with no match requirement and anticipated start date of March 1. The aim is it will generate research and policy briefs that illustrate trends, needs, national comparisons and possible solutions for how GCDD can best increase the number of advocates with I .D.D. who either conducts and/or meaningful participates in

cross-disability entities and non disability specific advocacy efforts. We recognize it is powerful for members of our community to be allies in other work and having a meaningful life, it is important to have roles outside of the disability community, so we are funding this effort for research in that area and want to tell you a few of the key components.

So, our aim, broadly speaking is to increase the number of people with I. D.D. on training on issues that impact their lives -- sorry, I lost my place far minute. So, the white paper is kind of a foundational step. we anticipate there will be recommendations that come out of that white paper that we can act upon in future funding endeavors. We request that the white paper be taken into account issues of intersectionality, consider the differences in urban, suburban, rural settings, as well as race, gender, ethnicity and social and ecostatus. Recruiting people with disabilities, their families, and so forth to give input, as well as consideration of relevant state level or community organizations to identify any current cross-disability efforts that are in place. Ultimately then to compile review and analyze the information shared and deliver us a final report that will include a summary of findings.

So, happy to take questions on that one. If there are any, otherwise, I will turn it back to you, Lisa.
>> Lisa: We know that was a lot, but we have four minutes to spare and we started late, so we did good, I think. We just, again, want to encourage you to ask your questions. We want to encourage you to apply. We want to encourage you to I disseminate the information, especially to nonprofits and other organizations who are not used to working with GCDD.

We want you to pay close attention to the attachments already in the grant that we have provided to guide you through the process. There's a wonderful document on performance measures attached to every NoFA and there is a document, as we have spoken about D.D. Suite and how to apply. With those two things in hand, you can't go wrong.

Is there anything else?

That we can help you all with?
>> I have a question.
>> Lisa: Please.
>> Will there be a recording of the session available?
>> Lisa: Yes, the recording will be posted no later than Tuesday on our website, GCDD.org. >> OK, thank you.

>> Lisa: What else? All right, well, we thank you for your participation and interest and look forward to working with you in the future. Have a great afternoon.

Bye-bye.