



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma



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Brett Cunningham, Okla. City
Janie Fugitt, Okla. City
Shelly Greenhaw, Edmond
Heather Hancock, Okla. City
Laura Haney, Tulsa
Gina Richardson, Okla. City
Susan Rutledge, Broken Arrow
Beth Scrutchins, Okla. City
Melissa Sublett, Tulsa
Kodey Toney, Panama
Lori Wieder, Stillwater
Cynthia Wilkett, Tulsa
Valerie Williams, Okla. City
Bryce Wooten, Edmond

DDCO Staff

Planning & Grants Director
Jennifer Robinson

Advocacy Training Director
Dr. Bradley Mays

Self-Advocacy Training Director
Morgan Davis

Executive Director
Jenifer Randle

State Plan Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, August 28, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

OK Center for Nonprofits, 701 N. Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City, OK, 73104

Join Meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603375568?pwd=NuayxwyuHrrdfz3CuZRJdmbUIC8nC6.1>

Meeting ID: 160 337 5568

Passcode: 8675309

Members attending online:

Bryce Wooten, 16905 Bedford Circle Edmond, OK 73012

Kodey Toney, 1507 S. McKenna, Poteau, OK 74953

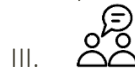


I. __ **Welcome, Call to Order, & Roll Call** – Bryce Wooten, State Plan Chair

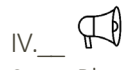


II. __ **Discussion and Possible Voting** – Bryce Wooten, State Plan Chair

- 1) Review Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2026, p.3
- 2) Review Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2026, p.6
- 3) Final Reporting from the SE Youth Expedition Summit, p.9
- 4) Q4 and Final Project Reports, p.21
- 5) FY 28 Funding Application Review, p.71
- 6) Review Updated Rubric for evaluating proposals, p.95
- 7) Har-Ber Village Gazette Newsletter, p. 101



III. __ **Other Business and Possible Voting**



IV. __ **Announcements**

State Plan and FY27 Work Plan were successfully submitted prior to the 8/15/26 deadline!

Next State Plan Committee Meeting is Fri, Sept 25, 2026, 10:00 am.

Next Council Meeting is Fri., October 30, 2026, noon.



V. __ **Adjournment**

State Plan Committee Members: Bryce Wooten Committee Chair, Maggie Bond Committee Vice Chair, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, Gina Richardson

The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma is to advance communities where everyone has the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play where they choose. The Council builds partnerships to change systems to improve services, resources, and supports for Oklahomans with developmental disabilities and their families.



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma



State Plan Committee Minutes

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

DATE: Thursday, March 26, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Center for NonProfits, 701 N Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., the State Plan Committee met at Center for NonProfits, 701 N Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104 per the Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO State Plan Committee for the calendar year 2026 has been given in writing to the Oklahoma Secretary of State and public notice and agenda having been posted on the Council's website at or before 12:00 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, per the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S. Section 311.

- I.   **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Mr. Wooten called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
Present: Maggie Bond (10:08 a.m.), RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, Gina Richardson, Bryce Wooten
Online:
Absent:
Guests:
Staff: Jennifer Robinson online, Jenifer Randle, Morgan Davis, Bradley Mays, Alissa Patterson online

By roll call, having determined there were sufficient committee members in person for quorum, business was conducted.

- II.  **ACTION:** Ms. Fugitt moved to approve the minutes from the State Plan meeting on March 13, 2026 as corrected. Ms. Felty seconded the motion.
 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelley Greenhaw, Bryce Wooten
 **NAYS:**
 **ABSTAIN:** Gina Richardson
 **Motion to approve the minutes for March 13, 2026 were approved.**

III. **FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR FY27 ***

 **DISCUSSION:** The State Plan Committee discussed funding request totals, understanding the Council typically receives \$912,000 each year. The committee continued discussing funding requests for projects they'd heard.

1. AUTISMOKLAHOMA FUNDING REQUEST

 **ACTION:** Ms. Duplan moved to approve the LookOut project request for \$15,000 from AutismOklahoma with the caveat (condition) that future reporting includes those with developmental disabilities (as defined by the Developmental Disabilities Act). Ms. Greenhaw seconded the motion.

 **DISCUSSION:** The committee discussed identifying participants of the LookOut program, to understand those who are identified with developmental disabilities and autism. The committee suggested making sure the definition of developmental disabilities as defined by the Developmental Disabilities Act within the Council funding proposal.

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelley Greenhaw, Gina Richardson, Bryce Wooten

 **NAYS:**

 **ABSTAIN:**

 **MOTION was approved.** 

2. AUTISM FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA FUNDING REQUEST

 **ACTION:** Ms. Duplan moved to approve the project request for \$25,000 from the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma.

 **DISCUSSION:** The committee is concerned this could be supplanting funding as this work is within another agency's purview (responsibility).

 **AYES:**

 **NAYS:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelley Greenhaw, Gina Richardson, Bryce Wooten

 **ABSTAIN:**

 **MOTION was not approved.** 

3. BEST BUDDIES

 **ACTION:** Ms. Duplan moved to approve the funding request of \$25,000 from Best Buddies to continue Best Buddies Chapter expansion in Oklahoma. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion.

 **DISCUSSION:** Ms. Bond shared concerns about expansion numbers. Ms. Robinson shared that there are issues with getting into school districts. Ms. Bond explained the process she had gone through when working with Best Buddies.

 **ACTION:** Ms. Duplan rescinded the motion to approve the project request for \$25,000 from Best Buddies to continue Best Buddies Chapter expansion. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion.

Mr. Wooten, Chair of the State Plan Committee, tabled the Best Buddies discussion.

4. SOONER SUCCESS

 **ACTION:** Ms. Duplan moved to approve the Sooner SUCCESS's funding request at a lower amount of \$87,971.50, funding only the caregiver respite retreats (removing sibling camp from the work). Ms. Bond seconded the motion.

 **DISCUSSION:** The committee discussed concerns about sibling retreats supplanting funding for Sibshops.

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelley Greenhaw, Gina Richardson, Bryce Wooten

 **NAYS:** none

 **ABSTAIN:**

 **MOTION was approved.** 

5. AUTISM CENTER OF OKLAHOMA

 **ACTION:** Ms. Felty moved to approve the Autism Center of Oklahoma Early Access's project funding request at the lower amount of \$70,000 with the requirement of impact data of children served in Oklahoma. Ms. Bond seconded the motion.

 **DISCUSSION:** The committee shared concerns about data the Council receives from the Autism Center of Oklahoma (how many children screened, families, etc.).

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelley Greenhaw, Gina Richardson, Bryce Wooten

 **NAYS:** none

 **ABSTAIN:**

 **MOTION was approved.** 

6. BEST BUDDIES

 **ACTION:** Ms. Bond moved to approve the Best Buddies project request at the amount of \$4,000. Ms. Felty seconded the motion.

 **DISCUSSION:** The committee have concerns about the expansion project.

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Shelley Greenhaw, Gina Richardson, Bryce Wooten

 **NAYS:** none

 **ABSTAIN:**

 **MOTION was approved.** 

IV.  **Announcements:**

V.  **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma



State Plan Committee Minutes

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

DATE: Monday, July 6, 2026

TIME: 1:08 p.m.

PLACE: Center for NonProfits, 701 N Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., the State Plan Committee met at Center for NonProfits, 701 N Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104 per the Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO State Plan Committee for the calendar year 2026 has been given in writing to the Oklahoma Secretary of State and public notice and agenda having been posted on the Council's website at or before 12:00 pm on Friday, July 3, 2026, per the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S. Section 311.

I.   **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Ms. Bond called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Present: Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Gina Richardson

Online:

Absent: Shelly Greenhaw, Bryce Wooten

Guests:

Staff: Jennifer Robinson, Jenifer Randle, Bradley Mays, Alissa Patterson

By roll call, having determined there were sufficient committee members in person for quorum, business was conducted.

II.  **ACTION:** There were no minutes to approve. The minutes from March 13, 2026, will be presented to the committee at the next State Plan Committee meeting.

III. **DRAFTED RUBRIC FOR EVALUATING PROPOSALS ***



DISCUSSION: The committee reviewed a project funding rubric and evaluation to help the Council and Committees evaluate projects. The rubric can also be shared online with those who want to request funding.

The committee suggested 3 threshold questions at the top of the rubric / evaluation.

- Is it consistent with funding requirements,
- Does it serve people with developmental disabilities and/or their families, and
- Does the proposal connect to the Council's State Plan Goals

The committee suggested having a place for committee members to make comments and suggestions as they are evaluating the project requests.

IV. 💰 FY27 STATE FAIR FUNDING REQUESTS

1. OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR FUNDING REQUEST

 **ACTION:** Ms. Duplan moved to approve the Oklahoma State Fair project request for \$25,000, on condition that interpreters for the Accessibility Expo are included and a line-item budget for expenses. Ms. Felty seconded the motion.

 **DISCUSSION:** The committee discussed the possibility of permanent signage that could bring more awareness to the new, permanent universal changing rooms at the Oklahoma State Fair. There was discussion about interpreters for the Accessibility Expo.

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Gina Richardson

 **NAYS:**

 **ABSTAIN:**

 **MOTION was approved.** 

2. TULSA STATE FAIR FUNDING REQUEST

 **ACTION:** Ms. Duplan moved to approve the Tulsa State Fair project request for \$25,000 on the condition of a line-item budget to the Council. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion.

 **DISCUSSION:** The Tulsa State Fair is adding a calming space at the fair, working with Square Holes, and making sure they have better signage (Council logo).

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, RoseAnn Duplan, Wanda Felty, Janie Fugitt, Gina Richardson

 **NAYS:**

 **ABSTAIN:**

 **MOTION was approved.** 

V.  **DISCUSSION FINAL REPORTS AND PROJECT REPORTS:** The committee reviewed reports from the Joining Forces Conference, OK-APSE Conference, and quarter 3 project report summaries.

VI.  **DISCUSSION: FY 28 FUNDING APPLICATION:** The committee reviewed the application for fiscal year 2028.

VII.  **DISCUSSION: BYLAWS:** Council bylaw possible additions and changes that will be discussed at the July Council meeting were presented to the committee.

VIII.  **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Ms. Robinson reminded committee members that the next Council meeting will be July 24. Next State Plan meeting will be August 28.

IX.  **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

State Plan Project Quarterly Progress FY26 July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

Project Summaries & Final Reports for One Time Events

Oklahoma Family Network
Southeast Region Youth Expedition
June 2026



SE Region Youth Expedition

Type of Attendee	Attended
# of individuals with DD who participated in council activity	33
# of Family Member/Caregiver who participated in council activity	24
# served as peer counselors, staff, nursing support, and volunteers	29

The Southeast Region Youth Expedition 2026 was a four-day transition and leadership camp for youth and young adults with disabilities, ages 14–24, from across Southeast Oklahoma. Funded through a \$20,000 grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma and implemented through a partnership between Oklahoma Family Network and Pervasive Parenting Center, the program served 33 participants representing 13 school districts in four counties. Hosted at Carl Albert State College, the overnight camp provided hands-on learning in self-advocacy, independent living, financial literacy, leadership, communication, goal setting, and transition planning. The initiative also included parent training for 15 parents and a sibling camp serving nine children, creating a comprehensive family-centered experience.

The project successfully met all contract goals and timeline milestones through strong collaboration with Carl Albert State College, Sooner Success, the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation, and other community partners. The implementation of the event was supported by 29 additional individuals, including a registered nurse, staff, volunteers, and peer counselors who received leadership training and served as mentors throughout the event. Participant evaluations demonstrated outstanding outcomes, with 98% reporting increased knowledge, 96% finding the experience useful, and 98% indicating they planned to apply the skills they learned. Campers highlighted self-advocacy, practical life skills, confidence, and new friendships as the most meaningful benefits, while peer counselors also reported growth in leadership, communication, and disability awareness.

The Youth Expedition produced lasting impacts beyond the four-day event by strengthening regional collaboration and establishing a sustainable model for transition programming in rural Oklahoma. The partnership created a repeatable peer counselor leadership model, expanded family engagement, and developed accessible transition materials that will continue to be used through camps, youth groups, schools, and community programs. Although coordinating individualized supports, transportation, and overnight accommodations required significant planning, the experience reinforced the



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

importance of early preparation, flexible accommodations, and ongoing family communication. Grant expenditures totaled \$19,984.08 of the \$20,000 award, and we are actively pursuing additional funding and community partnerships to sustain and expand this successful transition initiative.

What support do you need in the future?

- Oklahoma Family Network would benefit from continued collaboration and resource connection from the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma to strengthen future Youth Expedition planning and expand access for youth and families.
- Technical assistance related to sustainable funding, supported employment, transition programming, and inclusive community partnerships would be helpful as the program continues to grow. Guidance on identifying additional funding opportunities or potential partners could help support participant scholarships, transportation, overnight accommodations, peer counselor training, and staffing needs.
- Connections to DDCO members, state agencies, self-advocates, family leaders, and organizations with expertise in employment, transportation, independent living, mental health, and disability services would also be valuable. These connections could help strengthen the resource network available to participating youth and families before, during, and after the Youth Expedition.
- Training or resources related to supporting youth with varied communication, sensory, behavioral, medical, and independence needs in an overnight setting would be beneficial for staff and peer counselors. Additional tools related to accessible communication, crisis prevention, positive behavior supports, and transition planning could further strengthen implementation.
- DDCO staff time to help share program information, highlight Youth Expedition outcomes, and connect the project with broader statewide transition and employment initiatives would also support continued success. Increased awareness of the Youth Expedition may help reach additional families, recruit peer counselors, and build future community partnerships.
- Continued partnership and feedback from the Council will help Oklahoma Family Network and Pervasive Parenting Center build on the success of this year's Youth Expedition while responding to the needs of youth and families across rural Oklahoma.

SOUTHEAST REGION YOUTH EXPEDITION 2026

Final Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Project Partners: Oklahoma Family Network, Pervasive Parenting Center, Carl Albert State College

Event Dates: June 3-6, 2026

Location: Carl Albert State College, Poteau, Oklahoma

Theme: Design a Better Tomorrow

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southeast Region Youth Expedition 2026 provided a four-day transition and leadership experience for youth and young adults with disabilities ages 14-24 throughout Southeast Oklahoma. The event was funded through a \$20,000 grant awarded by the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, to Oklahoma Family Network and hosted by Pervasive Parenting Center in partnership with Carl Albert State College.

The camp focused on self-advocacy, independent living, financial literacy, life planning, leadership development, disability acceptance, social connection, and transition to adulthood. Campers participated in educational breakout sessions, recreational activities, leadership opportunities, peer mentoring, and residential living experiences while staying in college dormitories.

A total of 33 campers participated, including 30 overnight campers and 3 commuters. Participants represented 13 school districts across four counties in Southeast Oklahoma. Eight campers attended for the first time, while returning participants continued building leadership and self-advocacy skills. Five Spanish-speaking participants were supported through interpretation services to ensure full participation.

In addition to the youth camp, Oklahoma Family Network hosted parent training opportunities while Sooner Success facilitated a sibling camp serving children ages 6-12,

creating a comprehensive family-centered experience.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Campers: 33

Overnight Campers: 30

Commuters: 3

Gender Breakdown:

18 Male

14 Female

1 Non-Reported

Peer Counselors: 10

Staff: 7

Registered Nurse: 1

Volunteers: 11

Counties Represented: 4

School Districts Represented: 13

First-Time Attendees: 8

The camp also included an Alumni Track for former participants who had aged out of the traditional camp program, allowing continued engagement and leadership development.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Camp activities were held at the Hoffman/Wilson Center on the campus of Carl Albert State College. Overnight participants lived in campus dormitories, providing an authentic residential experience that encouraged independence, responsibility, and peer interaction. Campers were responsible for maintaining their dorm rooms and personal belongings throughout the week. Peer counselors provided support as needed while encouraging

participants to build independent living skills and confidence.

TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Throughout the week, participants engaged in a variety of educational and interactive learning experiences including:

- Self-Advocacy
- Goal Setting and Life Planning
- Financial Literacy
- Team Building
- Disability Acceptance
- Improv and Communication Skills
- The Game of Life (Life Skills Simulation)
- Telling Your Story
- Driving Under the Influence Awareness Program
- Leadership Development
- Social Skills Development

Featured Presenters Included:

Choctaw Nation

Karen Lyons presented a Driving Under the Influence awareness program utilizing impairment simulation goggles that allowed participants to experience firsthand the dangers of impaired driving.

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma

Carley Dummitt facilitated an improv workshop designed to improve communication skills, confidence, problem-solving, and social interaction.

Sooner Success

Samantha Basave assisted with improv activities and facilitated the sibling camp.

Oklahoma Family Network

Representatives presented Telling Your Story and facilitated additional family engagement opportunities.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Duane and Danielle Howell served as keynote presenters during the closing day of camp. Their interactive presentation focused on transition challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and their families while providing practical information regarding available supports and services. They encouraged participants to embrace their individuality, advocate for themselves and recognize that differences should be viewed as strengths.

PEER COUNSELOR DEVELOPMENT

Peer counselors completed two days of leadership and training activities prior to camper arrival.

Training topics included:

- Disability Acceptance
- Autism and Behavior Supports
- Team Building
- Camp Expectations
- Breakout Session Facilitation
- Leadership Development

Peer counselors served as mentors, group leaders, role models, and support persons throughout the week.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Participant evaluations demonstrated significant program success.

98% of participants reported increased knowledge as a result of camp participation.

96% reported the information presented was useful and relevant.

98% reported they planned to use the information learned to become more successful in their daily lives.

Participants consistently identified the social opportunities provided through camp as their favorite aspect of the experience. Campers reported enjoying opportunities to reconnect with friends, build new relationships, and spend time with peers who share similar experiences.

During the alumni panel discussion, former participants shared how Youth Expedition helped strengthen their self-advocacy skills and prepared them for greater success in adulthood.

Peer counselors also reported that participation had significantly impacted their lives by increasing their understanding of disability and helping them recognize the challenges many individuals with disabilities face daily.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The camp concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing participant growth and achievement.

Each camper received an individualized award presented by their peer counselor highlighting personal strengths, accomplishments, and contributions made throughout the week.

Additional recognitions included:

- Best Camper Award
- Peer Counselor of the Year (voted on by campers)

SIBLING CAMP

Sooner Success facilitated a sibling camp serving nine siblings ages 6-12.

Activities included therapeutic games, peer discussion, and educational opportunities designed to help siblings better understand disability while providing a safe environment to discuss their own experiences and challenges.

The sibling camp provided a unique opportunity for siblings to receive focused attention while connecting with others who share similar experiences.

OKLAHOMA FAMILY NETWORK PARENT COMPONENT

Number of Parents Participating: 19 total

Parent Trainings Provided:

- Support Parent Training: 7 parents
- Resources Distributed:
 - 7 support parent binders
 - 7 OFN Rack Cards
 - 7 Pervasive Parenting handouts

Health Transition Training & Community Resource Training:

- Resources Distributed 12 OFN Rack Cards
 - 12 Pervasive Parenting handouts
 - The slides from the Community Resource & Health Transition slides

FAMILY IMPACT

In rural Oklahoma, families often face significant barriers when supporting a loved one with a disability. The Southeast Region Youth Expedition addresses these challenges through a comprehensive approach that serves the entire family.

The camp provides youth with training focused on life goals, self-advocacy, leadership, and independent living while helping them envision a better future in their communities. At the

same time, parents gain access to training, resources, and networking opportunities that strengthen their ability to support their children.

When combined with the sibling camp component, the result is a full-family experience made possible through strong partnerships across Oklahoma.

CONCLUSION

The Southeast Region Youth Expedition 2026 successfully provided meaningful transition education, leadership development, social connection, and independent living experiences for youth and young adults with disabilities throughout Southeast Oklahoma. Through collaboration among Oklahoma Family Network, Pervasive Parenting Center, Carl Albert State College, Sooner Success, Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation, and numerous volunteers, participants gained valuable skills, increased confidence, expanded social networks, and strengthened their ability to advocate for themselves and pursue their goals.

The support of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma made this opportunity possible and continues to have a lasting impact on youth, families, and communities across Southeast Oklahoma.



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

State Plan Project Quarterly Progress FY26
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026
**Quarter Four Summaries
and Final Reports**



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

AutismOklahoma, LookOut Art Programming

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	60	50	75	46	231
# of family members who participated in council activity	20	20	30	30	100
# of others who participated in council activity	200	300	200	300	1,000

The LookOut program completed its eighth quarter with a strong focus on expanding opportunities for artists with developmental disabilities to showcase their talents and engage in the community. The fifth annual Duets Art Show in the Paseo featured artwork from 19 artist teams and five new LookOut artists. More than 300 people attended the First Friday reception and visited the exhibit throughout April. LookOut artists also participated in outreach at the Tulsa Autism Walk, which drew more than 1,000 attendees, and the Oklahoma City Autism Walk, which drew more than 3,000 attendees. LookOut cards were distributed at both events to increase awareness of the program and its artists.

The program provided approximately 75 hours of training during the quarter through art and video programming. In June, four art classes were offered for elementary-aged students and teens at the AutismOklahoma studio, along with art activities for youth participating in Youth & Family Services summer programs. Video/filming classes continued weekly through the Independent Living Program, with participants preparing for a commissioned Delta Dental video and gaining hands-on experience with newly acquired lighting equipment. Participants also received opportunities for community engagement through two movie nights and a commissioned Corvette painting project for an upcoming Ardmore car show. The program recruited one new art instructor and continues to seek additional contract instructors.

LookOut strengthened partnerships this quarter with Youth & Family Services, Life.Church, the Heart of OK Corvette Club, and the Oklahoma Arts Council, which provided a mini-grant supporting the Duets Art Show. The Duets exhibit generated approximately \$3,000 in art sales and provided a meaningful opportunity for artists to showcase their talents in the community. AutismOklahoma plans to sustain the art programming through donations, volunteers, fundraising, and art sales through its online market. The continued participation of artists initially recruited through LookOut demonstrates the program's lasting impact and the importance of inclusive opportunities for creative expression, skill development, and community connection.

LookOut Program Annual Report Summary

Year 2

Annual Program Summary and Outcomes

During Year 2, the LookOut program continued to successfully identify, engage, and elevate individuals with autism and developmental disabilities through creative programming, community connections, and skill-building opportunities. Throughout the year, the program expanded access to visual arts and media programming while creating meaningful opportunities for participants to develop artistic skills, gain confidence, showcase their talents publicly, and explore pathways toward employment and greater independence.

The LookOut program experienced significant growth in participant engagement, community visibility, and collaborative partnerships during this reporting period. Through art exhibitions, commissioned projects, filmmaking opportunities, community events, and educational programming, participants were provided with experiences that moved beyond traditional instruction and into real-world creative environments.

Over the course of the year, LookOut provided approximately **515 hours of direct training** to participants through visual arts classes, mentorship opportunities, filmmaking instruction, and hands-on creative experiences.

Visual Arts Programming and Community Exhibitions

A major focus of Year 2 was expanding opportunities for artists to create, exhibit, and share their work with the community. Participants completed commissioned artwork, developed original pieces for exhibitions, participated in pop-up markets, and gained experience presenting their work in professional settings.

Early in the year, LookOut artists completed commissioned artwork for a Corvette car show in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Artist David and partner Amy were invited to attend the event, share their artwork, and speak with attendees about the LookOut program. Due to the success of this partnership, the artists were commissioned again later in the year to create another Corvette painting, demonstrating continued community recognition of their artistic abilities.

Participants also created seasonal artwork and products for two ongoing pop-up displays at 7725 Connect, providing opportunities to practice creative production, display their work publicly, and develop entrepreneurial skills.

A significant accomplishment during Year 2 was the development and presentation of the **DUETS** exhibition at the Paseo Creativity Center in Oklahoma City's arts district. Throughout the year, artists participated in mentorship meetups and collaborated with artistic partners to prepare pieces for the exhibition. The exhibit featured **19 collaborative artist teams**, as well as a special display highlighting **five new LookOut artists**.

Several featured artists—including Anna, CJ, and Spencer—were initially connected to AutismOklahoma through LookOut outreach efforts, demonstrating the program's success in identifying emerging artists and creating pathways for continued involvement. The exhibition was promoted through gallery guides, storyboard signage, and sponsor recognition highlighting the support of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council.

The DUETS opening reception attracted approximately **300 community members**, despite challenging weather conditions, and the artwork remained on display throughout April. The exhibition provided participants with valuable experience exhibiting in a professional gallery environment while increasing public awareness of the talents of artists with developmental disabilities.

Community Outreach and Engagement

Community outreach remained an important component of LookOut throughout the year. The program participated in numerous events designed to increase awareness, provide hands-on creative experiences, and connect new participants with opportunities.

LookOut hosted art activities at community events, including pumpkin painting during a Tulsa community event, seasonal art exhibits, and interactive activities at AutismOklahoma outreach events. A cartooning workshop attracted new teenage artists while continuing to engage returning participants. The program also incorporated creative activities into the Tulsa Mix and Mingle event and other community gatherings.

In September, AutismOklahoma participated in the Disability Expo at the Oklahoma State Fair. Executive Director Kelly Fry and Art Programs Coordinator Dee Blose presented information about AutismOklahoma's programs, while participant Michael provided live cartooning demonstrations for attendees. The event also resulted in expanded outreach materials, including an updated LookOut postcard welcoming artists with any developmental disability to participate in future exhibits and opportunities.

LookOut continued outreach efforts through Autism Walk events in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The Tulsa Autism Walk welcomed more than **1,000 attendees**, while the Oklahoma City Autism Walk attracted more than **3,000 attendees**. LookOut provided interactive art experiences and distributed program information at both events, significantly increasing awareness of available opportunities.

Additional outreach included an AutismOklahoma Open House held at the organization's new facility, which welcomed approximately **80 visitors**, as well as presentations and information sharing with community partners.

Invisible Layers Productions (ILP) Media and Filmmaking Growth

The LookOut program continued to support the growth of Invisible Layers Productions (ILP), providing participants with opportunities to develop filmmaking skills and gain professional production experience.

During the year, the ILP media group completed an original video production, **"5 Lessons Every Filmmaker on the Spectrum Needs to Know,"** highlighting creativity, confidence, and the importance of believing in one's abilities. The project also recognized Developmental Disabilities Council funding support.

A major milestone was the four-day intensive filmmaking workshop held in partnership with Oklahoma City Community College. Supported primarily through a Kirschner Trust grant, the workshop provided participants with access to professional production facilities, classroom instruction, professional actors, filmmakers, and real-world production experiences. LookOut funding supported ILP instructors Sarah Lauffenburger and Dillion Griffins. The workshop received highly positive feedback from both participants and instructors and welcomed several new students.

ILP continued weekly filmmaking classes throughout the year, including preparation for a commissioned Delta Dental video project. Participants gained experience through interviews, on-site filming at a dental office, and collaboration with professionals in the dental field. Students also participated in a film festival, expanding their exposure to professional media environments.

A Kirschner Foundation grant provided new professional lighting equipment, allowing students to develop additional technical skills and strengthen production capabilities. ILP also hosted community movie nights featuring *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* to support outreach and build connections with potential participants.

Partnerships and Community Support

Partnership development was a key contributor to LookOut's success during Year 2. The program strengthened relationships with organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and community partners.

Highlights included:

- Partnership with Oklahoma City Community College for professional filmmaking education.
- Collaboration with Delta Dental on a professional video project highlighting employment and workplace opportunities.
- Support from the Kirschner Foundation through Oklahoma City Community Foundation for filmmaking education, production resources, and equipment.
- Partnership with Vantage Point at 7725, where artists created 85 handmade Christmas cards for employees.
- Collaboration with Francis Tuttle nursing students through a Valentine's Day card-making activity.
- Support from a local Corvette car show, which provided approximately **\$4,500** through sponsorship and donation funding for the LookOut Art Commission.
- Partnership with Youth & Family Services, in El Reno, to support their new art therapy program for at-risk youth, many of which have developmental challenges.

These partnerships expanded opportunities for participants while demonstrating the value of inclusive arts programming within the broader community.

Participant Growth and Future Opportunities

Throughout Year 2, LookOut continued to demonstrate success in identifying new artists, building participant confidence, and creating pathways for future opportunities. Participants gained experience in public exhibitions, commissioned artwork, filmmaking, community engagement, and collaborative projects.

The program also began exploring additional opportunities related to entrepreneurship and employment pathways, including plans to interview an artist on the spectrum who successfully developed a business selling original artwork and art products. This project will highlight ways creative interests can become meaningful vocational opportunities.

Annual Impact Summary

Year 2 represented significant growth and achievement for the LookOut program. Through approximately **515 hours of direct training**, the program supported artists and filmmakers in developing skills, building confidence, and engaging with their communities.

Key annual accomplishments included:

- Expanded access to inclusive visual arts and filmmaking opportunities.
- Increased public awareness through exhibitions, outreach events, and community partnerships.
- Professional exhibition opportunities through the DUETS gallery show.
- Continued development of commissioned artwork opportunities.
- Growth of the Invisible Layers Productions filmmaking program.

- Recruitment of new artists who progressed into major program opportunities.
- Strengthened partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, foundations, and community organizations.

The LookOut program continues to demonstrate that individuals with autism and developmental disabilities can thrive when provided with opportunities to create, collaborate, and share their talents with the broader community.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Best Buddies, Expansion

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	1	0	0	0	1
# of family members who participated in council activity	0	0	0	0	0
# of others who participated in council activity	25	0	256	0	281

Best Buddies Oklahoma made meaningful progress this quarter in expanding inclusive opportunities for students across the state. Staff strengthened relationships with educators and school administrators in Glenpool, Bartlesville, Kellyville, and Kiefer. Bartlesville is moving forward with plans to launch a high school chapter in fall 2026, while conversations in Glenpool have advanced from the teacher level to school administration. Kellyville and Kiefer educators have also expressed interest and are helping facilitate connections with school leadership. These efforts demonstrate growing interest in Best Buddies programming and the importance of consistent relationship-building and follow-up in developing new chapters.

The quarter also included an important staff transition designed to support long-term growth. Program Manager Melanie Pleasant was promoted to Director of Mission Advancement, where she will focus on community partnerships, fundraising, and strategic growth. Recruitment is underway for a new Program Manager who will concentrate on school-based programming, chapter development, and supporting existing school partnerships. Although the staffing transition created a temporary capacity gap, coverage remained consistent and the organization views the transition as an opportunity to strengthen its structure for future expansion. Best Buddies also demonstrated progress toward sustainability beyond Council funding, reaching its \$40,000 fundraising goal through the April Friendship Walk and preparing for its fall Champion of the Year gala.

While no chapters were started, overall, continued educator engagement, school outreach, fundraising, and organizational development are positioning Best Buddies Oklahoma for sustained growth and increased opportunities for inclusive programming in communities across the state.

FY 2026 Best Buddies in Oklahoma Developmental Disability Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) Annual Report

Section I - Project Summary Information

Agency/Organization: Best Buddies International, Inc.

Agency Contact: Milli Protheroe

Email: milliprotheroe@bestbuddies.org

Staff working on project:

Melanie Pleasant- Director, Mission Advancement

Milli Protheroe- Senior Director, Expansion

Ellie Townsend- Director, Programs

Contract Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

II. Project Final Results

Project Summary

The Best Buddies Inclusion Project set out to create social opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by expanding Best Buddies chapters in Oklahoma schools and enhancing both student and community involvement. Staff sought collaboration with educators and local organizations to launch new chapters, engage students and families, and provide volunteers with training and educational resources to create welcoming school environments for students with IDD.

Key Activities by Quarter

Quarter	Highlights
Q1 (July 2025-September 2025)	Best Buddies staff met with staff administrators at five Oklahoma City area schools to propose the launch of Best Buddies programs. A new partnership was established with Terra Verde Discovery School to serve as a host site for the University of Oklahoma chapter.
Q2 (October 2025–December 2025)	Additional outreach was conducted to school administrators throughout Osage, Rogers, Wagner and Washington counties to present program opportunities within their school districts. Best Buddies staff met with officials at Bartlesville Public Schools and established contact with Anderson Public Schools, Newman Middle School, and Skiatook Public Schools to share the benefits of the Best Buddies mission. While no new chapters were established, response was positive and showed strong potential for future commitment.
Q3 (January 2026–March 2026)	Conversations continued with Bartlesville School District with officials expressing interest in launching high school chapters in the fall of the 2026 school year. Staff continued outreach within

	Oklahoma City, meeting with Adelaide Lee and Buchanan Elementary schools and Capitol Hill High School, and hosted a Best Buddies information table at the state capitol building which raised awareness about program opportunities and yielded dozens of signups interested in further information.
Q4 (April 2026– June 2026)	Best Buddies recruited and prepared five leaders from Oklahoma to attend Best Buddies Leadership Conference and facilitated an BBLC information session to prepare them for the experience. Five leaders were generously supported by Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council to attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in July 2026, which will help students strengthen their chapters in the school year ahead. Expansion outreach continued to Glenpool, Kellyville and Kiefer schools, while Bartlesville is on track to open in the fall 2026.

Key Outcomes

Deliverables/Goals:

- Establish five new school-based chapters- Did not achieve
- Recruit and engage 100 student volunteer members- Did not achieve
- Deliver 20 group activities- Did not achieve
- Train five students and five faculty leaders - Did achieve
- Engage a minimum of 25 students with IDD, at least five of whom will serve in a leadership role in their chapter- Did not achieve

Outcome	Number
Total Individuals with IDD	0
Number of 'other individuals'	0
Student Leaders Trained	5
Total Participants	0
Schools Impacted	0

Project Overview

Throughout the course of the 2025-2026 funding period, Best Buddies staff conducted outreach to schools across the Oklahoma City region to introduce Best Buddies' mission and bring new school friendship programs to the community. Despite our best efforts to engage this audience and create more inclusive opportunities, we were unsuccessful in launching any new chapters this year.

That said, the work done to bring awareness about our program opportunities has laid a strong foundation for future program development and garnered considerable interest from school administrators in doing so once their circumstances allow. Significant progress was made at the Bartlesville Public School District with a commitment to launch chapters in the fall of 2026.

Among the schools engaged in negotiation for chapter development were:

- Adelaide Lee Elementary
- Arthur Elementary School
- Buchanan Elementary
- Skiatook Middle School
- Capitol Hill High School
- Andersen Public Schools
- Bartlesville Public Schools
- Deer Creek School District
- Glenpool Public Schools
- Kellyville Public Schools
- Kiefer Public Schools
- Midwest City Schools
- Oklahoma Connections Academy
- Yukon Public Schools

In addition to these outreach efforts, staff maintained support for our existing 17 chapters across the state by providing training, resources, and guidance to student leaders and faculty advisors through a fall and spring leadership training day and recruiting chapter leaders for Best Buddies Leadership Conference in July.

These efforts helped Best Buddies strengthen the mission in Oklahoma and fostered meaningful educational, social, and leadership opportunities among students with and without IDD.

Collaboration

Collaboration continues to play a crucial role in our attempts to expand Best Buddies' mission across Oklahoma. Best Buddies staff actively worked alongside local organizations, school districts, and internal program teams to ensure a unified approach to supporting individuals with IDD. Through shared communications, program engagements, tabling opportunities and recruitment support, the following organizations helped Best Buddies make a meaningful impact in the community this year:

- A New Leaf
- Bridges Foundation
- Dale Rogers Training Center
- Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa
- MPower
- Oklahoma City Community College
- Stillwater Group Homes
- Terra Verde Discovery School

These collaborative strategies ensured that Best Buddies in Oklahoma was seen not just as a school program, but as a long-term support system for individuals with IDD and their families.

Successes

While we did not see our outreach efforts yield the development of new chapters during this funding period, we made great strides in bringing awareness to our mission across a larger geographic region in Oklahoma and have formed connections with schools and community members who show great potential to further engage in our programs. We were also able to engage the largest number of attendees in the Best Buddies Oklahoma delegation at Best Buddies Leadership Conference this year, showcasing the dedication of our leaders and their commitment to making Oklahoma a more inclusive state.

Challenges

During the reporting period, we encountered several challenges that impacted our ability to achieve our deliverables. While schools expressed interest in Best Buddies programming, their limited staff capacity for launching new projects proved to be a major roadblock. With increased security measures taking effect in many districts, it also proved difficult to obtain contact information or be allowed entry on site in order to meet

with administrators and faculty members. As our programs grow across the state, our own lack of staff capacity can often hinder our ability to maintain a presence in multiple communities.

Sustainability

With those challenges in mind, we have a promising strategy in place to ensure sustainable improvement for the future of Best Buddies in Oklahoma. The recent promotion of our Program Manager, Melanie Pleasant, to Director of Mission Advancement will foster a mission focused approach to future development efforts and allows us to bring on a new Program Manager who will work in partnership with Melanie to continue to steward existing program contacts while making new connections and focusing on program expansion in a broader geographic region. The continued success of key fundraising events, such as the Champion of the Year Gala and the Friendship Walk will remain vital in ensuring both the financial and programmatic sustainability of Best Buddies in Oklahoma. These events generate essential funding to support chapter operations and expansion while increasing community engagement and long-term investment in the mission of inclusion.

Testimonials

Our Best Buddies chapter has had a meaningful and lasting impact on our students. The program fosters authentic friendships and leadership opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. I have personally witnessed students, both with and without disabilities, grow in confidence, compassion, communication skills, and a true understanding of inclusion through their participation in Best Buddies.

- Rose Fletcher Transitions Director, Terra Verde Discovery School

Best Buddies provides students with opportunities to form genuine friendships and learn the value of inclusion in a meaningful way. These experiences help students grow as leaders while creating welcoming environments where everyone feels valued and supported.

- Aimee Mares, Resource Teacher Union High School

Project Visibility and Outreach

Best Buddies staff promoted the project through targeted email communication, social media promotion, sharing marketing materials and flyers at tabling events, and updates on our organizational website. They also collaborated with local partners and shared information through community newsletters and online networks. These efforts ensured broad outreach to individuals with IDD, families, and community stakeholders across Oklahoma.

Lessons Learned

This year reinforced the importance of having strong connections and advocates within school districts who can vouch for the benefits and integrity of our programs. As we introduced our mission to a new audience in Oklahoma City, we found that, for some, it would take more time and continued conversations to gain trust and present a strong case for their return on investment of time and dedication to the program. Without the availability and bandwidth of faculty members to serve as advisors, some school administrators were hesitant to take on something new, particularly as the school year progressed. Seizing the moments at the start of the school year to launch new opportunities will be crucial to our success in expanding to new districts. Continuing to build public awareness about our mission and program opportunities throughout Oklahoma and leaning into partnerships will help turn cold calls into warm leads and improve future outcomes.

III. Final Budget Report

Best Buddies Oklahoma New Friendship Chapter Project - OK DD Council

Summary of Expenses		OKDDC Request	OKDDC Actual Expense	Other funding	Total Project costs
Staff/Volunteer Time					
Director, Mission Advancement	(12% time on project)	\$ 8,034	\$ 8,837.09	\$ -	\$ 8,837.09
Program Manager	(20% time on project)	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,623.21	\$ -	\$ 9,623.21
Benefits @ 15%		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,555	\$ 2,555
Subtotal		\$ 17,034	\$ 18,460.30	\$ 2,555	\$ 21,015.30
Program Operations					
Site Visits/Travel		\$ 1,152	\$ 569.85		\$ 569.85
Volunteer Training & Management		\$ 3,494	\$ 2,869.96	\$ 2,944	\$ 5,813.96
Community Engagement		\$ 250	\$ 112.17		\$ 112.17
Office Operations		\$ 320	\$ 85.30		\$ 85.30
Chapter Grants		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,417.91		\$ 2,417.91
Supplies & Materials		\$ 250	\$ 273.83		\$ 273.83
Subtotal		\$ 7,966	\$ 6,329.02	\$ 2,944	\$ 9,273.02
Indirect Costs		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9243	\$ 9243
Total Expenses		\$ 25,000	\$ 24,789.32	\$ 14,742	\$ 39,531.32



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Autism Center, Early Access Screenings & ADOS2 Qualified Examiner

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	0	0	0	1	1
# of families who received screening referrals/screening appts.		19	13	20	52
# of families who received direct screenings	13	16	13	11	53
# of families who received resources and referrals	95	37	59	44	235
# of others who received resources and referrals	9	7	5	7	28
# of people trained in Autism/Early Identification	14	80	176	52	322
# of people trained in more in-depth training	8		26	8	42
# of CASAs trained	10				10
# of people trained in Pilot Training	34				34

This quarter, the project continued to make strong progress in early identification of developmental delays and autism spectrum disorder. Three trainings were conducted in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, reaching a total of 52 participants. Training topics included autism identification, developmental monitoring, and behavioral classroom strategies that promote inclusion of children with developmental differences. The project also provided eight screening practicum experiences for Interprofessional Practice and Education in Screening Initiative (IPSI) participants and conducted 11 developmental and/or autism screenings. Feedback through Qualtrics surveys has been positive, with participants reporting increased knowledge and confidence in recognizing developmental differences and implementing effective classroom strategies.

The project provided significant direct support to families and community members. Staff responded to 21 screening-related calls that resulted in referrals or screening appointments and assisted 44 families with accessing resources, primarily through assessment provider lists and other service information. Seven providers also received assistance related to early identification and assessment. Staff continued weekly screenings and bi-weekly team meetings focused on Early Access activities. The project also distributed Spanish-language CDC “Let’s Play” developmental monitoring guides and continued to connect families and providers with consultation, resources, and assessment opportunities.

Collaboration and outreach remained important components of the project. Partnerships were strengthened with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and Acts 2 United Methodist Church through trainings for early care professionals. The team also presented on developmental monitoring and classroom strategies at the OKAEYC conference and continued its partnership with IPSI, providing hands-on screening experiences for students in multiple health professions. During this period, we participated in the Autism Advocacy Day at the Capitol. We set up a booth and distributed books about developmental monitoring and milestones, along with



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

information about our DD Council funded work. We talked directly with parents, providers, and self-advocates, connecting them to resources and information about autism. These conversations included discussions about developmental monitoring, best practice models when searching for services, and available supports for families and self-advocates in the community. Accordingly, we took a systems-level approach through our participation in the Autism Advocacy Day, combining many of our DD Council activities and goals involving resources, referrals, and developmental monitoring into informal discussions and consultations that directly impacted a multitude of individuals and family members.

The project is progressing as expected, with no additional DDCO support needed at this time. The team identified data collection and participant registration as areas needing greater consistency, particularly because multiple systems, including REDCap and Qualtrics, are currently being used. Internal steps are underway to streamline these processes and improve consistency across the team. The project is also pursuing funding diversification and additional community partnerships, including the potential for an ongoing paid partnership with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. Overall, the project continues to expand awareness, strengthen community partnerships, and connect families and providers to early identification and support resources.



Annual Report for the
Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Annual Report for the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

I. Project Summary Information

Project Name: Early Access Oklahoma

Organization Name: Oklahoma Autism Center

Organization Contacts: Seth Kastner and Juliana Vanderburg

Email: seth-kastner@ou.edu; juliana-vanderburg@ou.edu

Early Access Team Members

PI/Project Director and Psychologist - Kathryn Moore, PhD
Psychologist and Autism Specialist -Juliana Vanderburg, PhD
CDC Act Early Ambassador-Bonnie McBride, PhD, BCBA
Outreach and Research/Project Evaluation Coordinator – Seth Kastner
Financial and Contract Support Coordinator - Gina Bryan
Project Facilitator - Margaret Bergant

II. Project Final Results

Executive Summary

During this contract period, we continued our efforts to increase awareness and identification of autism spectrum disorder. Project activities included trainings focused on developmental monitoring, screening, and early identification, as well as direct family support, building of community partnerships, and direct screening services. We expanded our reach to new audiences, including childcare providers, tribal communities, military-connected childcare staff, and Spanish-speaking providers and families. We also continued to strengthen our network of community screening partners and disseminated developmental monitoring resources throughout the state.

BY THE NUMBERS...

During this contract year, our project provided:

- Training on autism, developmental monitoring, and screening for **366 professionals and community members**.
- **50 developmental screenings** for children with developmental concerns.
- **53 screening-related referrals or consultations** for families.
- **195 instances of resource assistance and referrals** for families.
- **28 consultations and resource contacts** with community professionals.
- Distribution of developmental monitoring materials, including **246 CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early books**, as well as ongoing dissemination of English and Spanish developmental monitoring resources.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS...

Collaboration with other stakeholders and professionals in early childhood, healthcare, and related fields continued to be the heart of our project.

Partners and Collaborators

- Oklahoma State Department of Health Child Guidance
- SoonerSUCCESS
- Chickasaw Nation Pediatric Collaborative

- YMCA of Greater Oklahoma
- Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness
- Preschool Development Grant
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Tinker Air Force Base Child Care and After School Programs
- Interprofessional Pediatric Screening Initiative (IPSI)
- Metropolitan Library System
- Acts 2 United Methodist Church
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- OU Health Child Study Center
- OU Health Allied Health Programs

Challenges

- a.** Personnel transitions required additional planning, coordination, and redistribution of responsibilities among remaining team members. Despite these shifts, project activities and timelines continued as planned.
- b.** Communicating with and maintaining momentum with potential community partners sometimes proved challenging. In some cases, planned collaborations were delayed due to difficulties establishing or maintaining communication with partner organizations.
- c.** We continued to encounter barriers related to participant attendance for screenings and worked to address these challenges through reminder calls, flexible scheduling practices, and ongoing communication with families.
- d.** As our project activities expanded, we recognized the need to further streamline data collection and participant registration processes across multiple platforms to maximize efficiency and consistency.

Lessons Learned

- a.** We learned additional strategies for coordinating multiple projects with related goals while ensuring accurate tracking, reporting, and accountability across funding sources and partnerships.
- b.** We learned the value of flexible scheduling practices and reminder contacts in helping families successfully participate in developmental screenings and related services.
- c.** We learned the importance of cultivating multiple partnerships simultaneously to ensure continued progress when communication challenges arise with individual organizations.

d. We identified opportunities to improve consistency in data collection, participant registration, and project tracking systems to better support future growth and sustainability.

Sustainability Plans

a. We continued to follow our sustainability model of leveraging existing partnerships, diversifying funding sources, and utilizing DDCO-supported activities as a foundation for expanded services. Throughout the year, we integrated developmental monitoring activities into ongoing Oklahoma Autism Center initiatives and supplemented our work through partnerships with organizations including the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Chickasaw Nation, and the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. We worked to diversify funding sources through the acquisition of supplemental grants (e.g., the Preschool Development Grant). **b.** We continued to explore opportunities for ongoing fee-for-service and contract-supported training partnerships. Discussions regarding continued collaborations with organizations such as Tinker Air Force Base and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe demonstrated promising opportunities for sustained impact beyond the current contract period.

c. We continued widespread dissemination of CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early materials and developmental monitoring resources in both English and Spanish to encourage long-term adoption of developmental monitoring practices across community settings.

Project Visibility and Outreach

a. We conducted outreach through social media activities, including developmental milestone awareness messaging and developmental monitoring education.

b. We engaged community members through booths and networking opportunities at events including the Oklahoma Autism Conference, Groovin' for Autism, and the Autism Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

c. We conducted outreach through presentations, trainings, conferences, and partnerships with organizations including the Metropolitan Library System, childcare providers, tribal organizations, and health and education professionals throughout Oklahoma.

d. We expanded accessibility efforts through distribution of Spanish-language developmental monitoring resources, including our Spanish-language "Let's Play" guide and CDC developmental monitoring materials.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Sooner SUCCESS, Family Respite Retreats & Sibling Retreat

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
# individuals with DD who participated in Respite Retreat	0	0	0	0	0
# of family members who participated in Respite Retreat	0	0	25	77	102
# of others who participated in Respite Retreat	0	0	0	0	0
# of retreats held	0	0	1	3	4
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling overnight camp				12	12
# of siblings who participated in sibling overnight camp				14	14
# of caregivers who received respite due to sibling overnight camp				23	23
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling day camp				23	23
# of siblings who participated in sibling day camp				33	33
# of families who received respite due to sibling day camp				30	30
# of others who participated in sibling day camp				38	38
# of sibling day camps held				4	4

Quarter 4 Activities

Region 1- Roman Nose State Lodge Watonga, April 17-19, 2026

Region 2- Stoney Creek Hotel Broken Arrow, April 26-27, 2026

Region 3- Embassy Suites NW Exp OKC, May 1-2, 2026

Overnight Sibling Camp (Camp Trivera) – April 24-26, 2026

Enid Sibling Day Camp – May 22, 2026

Weatherford Sibling Day Camp – May 29-30, 2026

Lincoln County Sibling Day Camp – May 30, 2026

Poteau Sibling Day Camp – June 6, 2026

During the fourth quarter, Sooner SUCCESS provided meaningful respite and support to caregivers through regional Caregiver Retreats. Retreats were held in Regions 1, 2, and 3, with strong participation across all three locations. The Region 1 retreat at Roman Nose State Park served 22 caregivers, Region 2 welcomed 32 caregivers representing 18 family parties, and approximately 23 caregivers attended the Region 3 retreat in Oklahoma City. Despite severe weather in Region 1, all retreats were successfully held as scheduled. Caregivers participated in massages, crafts, meditation, therapeutic activities, professional photography, games, and educational sessions focused on self-care and available resources.

The retreats provided caregivers with valuable opportunities to step away from their daily responsibilities, recharge, and connect with others who understand the challenges of caregiving. Participants were able to share experiences, exchange information about resources and services, and build supportive relationships that can help reduce isolation. The continued demand for these retreats demonstrates the significant need for caregiver respite, with 915 caregivers statewide having expressed interest since the interest form opened in December



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

2024. Limited capacity, rising lodging and meal costs, and barriers to reliable respite care continue to make expanding access challenging. Sooner SUCCESS remains committed to increasing awareness of respite and identifying sustainable ways to serve more families.

Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps provided siblings with opportunities for peer connection, emotional support, disability education, and fun while also providing caregivers with valuable respite. Overnight Sibling Camp was held at Camp Trivera and day camps were held in Lincoln County, Weatherford, Poteau, and Enid, with the Tulsa Day Camp postponed until August. Programming intentionally included siblings both with and without developmental disabilities and incorporated inclusive activities, parent education, self-care opportunities, and conversations about the sibling experience. Community partnerships were essential to the success of the camps, with organizations providing volunteers, facilities, accessibility resources, equipment, and family enrichment opportunities. The program also developed comprehensive safety and behavior training for volunteers to ensure a safe and inclusive camp experience.

The impact of Sibling Camp was reflected in strong family and volunteer engagement. Parent feedback indicated that the program provided needed respite and helped families reduce stress, while volunteers reported increased understanding of the unique experiences of siblings of individuals with disabilities. One particularly meaningful experience involved a family navigating the recent loss of a parent; camp provided the children with connection and understanding while giving their mother an opportunity to rest during an extremely difficult time. Another camper with autism and Down syndrome was able to participate more fully through a sensory room and adaptive technology provided through ABLE Tech. These experiences demonstrated how individualized supports and inclusive programming can help children overcome barriers and meaningfully participate.

The project also strengthened long-term community capacity and sustainability. Partnerships with organizations such as CREOKS Mental Health, the Mental Health Association, Great Plains YMCA, Guthrie Job Corps, Able Tech, Carney Public Schools, and Zoe Life Church expanded volunteer and community support. Several communities have committed to continuing a Respite/Sibshop model, helping sustain sibling-focused programming and peer support beyond the initial project period.

Additional funding included a \$5,000 grant from the Theresa Foundation for camp supplies and volunteer stipends and a \$10,000 Avedis Foundation grant to launch a Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative in Pottawatomie County. This grant opportunity was made possible in large part through the invaluable partnership and support of DDCO in advancing SibCamp and Sibling Day Camp opportunities. DDCO's commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in making these programs successful, accessible, and responsive to the needs of



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

local families. This strong partnership not only expanded opportunities for siblings but also helped establish the foundation for the Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative.

Overall, Sooner SUCCESS continued to demonstrate the importance of family-centered respite, caregiver wellness, and sibling support. Evidence-informed strategies such as self-care activities, parent education, peer support, stress-management exercises, and connections to long-term respite resources strengthened caregiver resilience and family well-being. The project not only provided immediate respite and meaningful experiences for families but also built stronger community partnerships and increased awareness of the needs of siblings and caregivers. Continued funding, outreach, volunteer engagement, and collaboration will be essential to expanding these services and reaching the many Oklahoma families who continue to seek support.

I. Project Summary Information

Grant Information

Project Name	Caregiver Retreats and Sibling Camps
Organization Name	Sooner SUCCESS
Name of Person writing report	Lori Wathen
Email	Lori-wathen@ou.edu

People who did the work

Please include the first and last name and title for everyone who worked on this project for your organization (not including volunteers).

Deana Wilson, **Region 1** Coordinator, Garfield/Kay County Coordinator
Jona Arthur, Blaine/Kingfisher/Major County Coordinator
Heather Collins, Woods/Woodward County Coordinator

Lisa Debolt, **Region 2** Coordinator
Rona Tracy, Creek/Payne County Coordinator
Beth Soderfelt, Delaware/Mayes/Rogers County Coordinator
Andee Cooper, Tulsa County Coordinator
Yesenia Cook, Tulsa County Bilingual Coordinator

Lori Wathen, **Region 3** Coordinator
Michelle Rico, OK County Bilingual Family Support Coordinator
Janet Wilson, Canadian/Grady County Coordinator
Brandy Parks, Logan/Lincoln County Coordinator

Eva Smith, **Region 4** Coordinator, McClain County Coordinator
Sara Pensoneau, Cleveland County Coordinator
Stephanie Redelk, Lifespan Respite Voucher Coordinator, Stephens/Comanche County Coordinator

Aietah Stephens, Executive Director
Mayra Castaneda, Lead Grant/Contract Coordinator, Bilingual Respite Coordinator
Samantha Basave, **Statewide Sibling Support Coordinator**
Teairra Jackson, TEFRA Family Support Coordinator, Jumpstart Family Partner
Tammy Rayos, Intern

II. Project Final Results (no more than 3 pages)

Executive Summary

The Sooner SUCCESS Caregiver Retreats provided critical respite and support to 102 family caregivers of individuals with disabilities through accessible, wellness-focused retreat experiences. The program offered caregivers an opportunity to step away from their daily responsibilities while building skills, connections, and resilience.

Key outcomes included:

- **Respite:** Caregivers used respite vouchers to arrange substitute care, allowing uninterrupted time for rest and renewal.
- **Wellness:** Self-care activities, including massage, meditation, art, and nature-based recreation, promoted stress reduction and improved well-being.
- **Peer Support:** Social activities fostered meaningful connections among caregivers, reducing isolation and strengthening informal support networks.
- **Education:** Participants received self-care resources, learned about services offered by the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO), and gained a better understanding of the effects of chronic stress and strategies for managing caregiver fatigue.
- **Service Navigation:** All retreat participants and individuals on the waitlist received individualized assistance connecting to community resources and appropriate respite services.

The retreats achieved their goal of providing meaningful respite while equipping caregivers with practical resources, expanded support networks, and strategies to sustain their well-being. By combining respite, education, and peer connection, the program strengthened caregivers' capacity to continue supporting their loved ones and contributed to more resilient families across Oklahoma.

The Fourth Annual Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps provided inclusive, supportive experiences for 82 children and young adults (35 with disabilities and 47 neurotypical siblings), ages 8–25, at Camp Trivera and locations across Oklahoma. The program strengthened sibling relationships while fostering connection, confidence, and inclusion.

Key outcomes included:

- **Stronger Family Connections:** Shared experiences strengthened sibling relationships and promoted mutual understanding and support.
- **Peer Support:** Participants connected with others who shared similar family experiences, reducing isolation and building lasting friendships.
- **Personal Development:** Workshops, discussions, and creative activities encouraged self-expression, confidence, and resilience.
- **Inclusive Participation:** Activities such as a dance party and talent show celebrated each participant's unique abilities in a welcoming environment.
- **Family Engagement:** A closing reflection session provided families with resources and opportunities to celebrate their children's growth, while post-program surveys helped evaluate outcomes and guide future program improvements.

The camps created a safe, inclusive environment where siblings could build meaningful relationships, develop new skills, and feel understood, while providing families with resources to strengthen those connections beyond the camp experience.

Challenges and How We Addressed Them

1. Limited Retreat Capacity

- *Challenge:* High caregiver interest far exceeds the number of families we can accommodate (915 submissions vs. 53 available spots).
- *Impact:* Many families remain on waitlists or miss out entirely.
- *Response:* Staff continue to track interest to support future planning and funding efforts, and provide 1:1 service navigation to ensure families still receive some level of support even if they cannot attend.

2. Last-Minute Caregiver Cancellations

- *Challenge:* Life events such as medical emergencies or weather issues (e.g., severe weather, missing child, unexpected visitation) caused some families to cancel retreat attendance at the last minute.
- *Response:* Staff remain flexible and supportive, offering resources and future opportunities to those affected.

3. Rising Costs

- *Challenge:* Increasing **hotel and food costs** have limited how many caregivers we can serve.
- *Response:* The team continues to seek **cost-effective venues and partnerships**, and uses data from interest forms to advocate for increased funding.

4. Respite Provider Availability

- *Challenge:* Some caregivers, especially single parents, struggle to find reliable respite care to attend retreats.
- *Response:* Staff are working to strengthen **respite provider networks** and assist families in accessing existing voucher programs.

5. Obtaining Complete Surveys during Sibling Camps

- *Challenge:* Due to limited time at the end of day camp activities and occasional miscommunication about survey requirements.
- *Response:* Follow-up reminders were sent to encourage survey completion. While this created a minor barrier to collecting evaluation data, it did not significantly affect program implementation or the achievement of project goals.

Lessons Learned:

Retreats:

Rising costs for food, program supplies, and lodging increased overall program expenses, although some state lodging rates remained stable. To maximize participation and efficiently manage limited capacity, an interest form and waiting list were implemented, allowing the team to quickly fill cancellations while connecting additional caregivers with available services and respite voucher opportunities.

Camp Support & Accessibility:

Recruiting volunteers for overnight and sibling day camps remained an ongoing challenge; however, volunteer participation reached its highest level to date across all camp sites, helping to support successful program implementation. Several day camps, including the Lincoln County site, also incorporated a parent component that provided caregivers with opportunities for self-care, peer support, and meaningful conversation. Programming remained consistent across all camp locations, ensuring a high-quality experience for participants.

Event Logistics & Adjustments:

Scheduling constraints affected planning for future retreats, as the preferred fall timeframe offers more favorable weather for Region 1; however, the desired venue was fully booked for Fall 2026, requiring the next retreat to be scheduled for Spring 2027. Additional challenges included the hotel's \$50 incidental hold on caregivers' personal credit cards, which created inconvenience for some participants. To enhance future retreats, a dedicated social hour before dinner is considered to provide caregivers with additional opportunities to connect, network, and build supportive relationships.

Testimonials:

The Tulsa Caregiver Retreat created meaningful opportunities to identify and respond to family needs beyond the event itself. During the retreat, the Tulsa County Coordinator connected with a parent seeking support to establish an adaptive Little League program. Through technical assistance and ongoing collaboration, the league was successfully launched and now serves 13 players, expanding inclusive recreational opportunities for children with disabilities in the community.

A young couple shared that the Region 4 Retreat provided their first real opportunity for relief and respite from the demands of caring for their children. They deeply appreciated the chance to step away, recharge, and reconnect as a couple. The experience also reminded them that it is okay to take time for themselves—and that asking for help is an important part of caring for their family.

A single mom shared how much she appreciated Region 3 Retreat and the opportunity to connect with like-minded parents who truly understood what she was going through. Being surrounded by others who shared similar experiences was comforting and reassuring, reminding her that she was not alone in her journey.

Following the recent loss of their dad, a mother and her two children arrived at Overnight Sibling Camp carrying grief and uncertainty. As a newly single parent, Mom struggled to leave her children at camp but hoped the experience would provide them with connection and a chance to heal while giving her much-needed respite. During Sibshop activities, the sibling shared his sadness over losing his father and his worries about his mom and sister, who has Level 3 autism. Connecting with other siblings helped him feel understood and gave him space to express both his love for his sister and the pressures of being a sibling supporter. For his sister, camp was a major challenge, as she had never spent extended time away from home and struggled with transitions. With patience and support, she persevered and accomplished something her family once thought impossible. By the end of camp, the family was deeply grateful. The experience offered connection, respite, and hope during an incredibly difficult time.

A 14-year-old camper with autism and Down syndrome faced challenges participating in traditional camp activities. Through a partnership with ABLE Tech, he gained access to a sensory room with adaptive equipment and support tailored to his needs. The space helped him communicate, self-regulate, and engage more independently, giving him greater confidence and comfort. With this individualized support, he was able to move beyond simply attending camp to meaningfully participating and thriving. His experience demonstrated the powerful impact of accessibility, collaboration, and inclusion.

Sustainability Plans:

Sooner SUCCESS remains deeply committed to caregiver well-being, self-care, and access to respite. To ensure the long-term availability of these vital programs, we continue to advocate for respite awareness and collaborate with state agencies for support.

For Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camp, sustainability remains a key concern. Ongoing challenges include securing reliable funding and maintaining strong partnerships and volunteer involvement to uphold safety, meaningful engagement, and program quality. While the need for these camps is clear, expanding and sustaining them will require increased support and investment.

A \$5,000 grant from the Theresa Foundation supported camp supplies and provided stipends for Sibling Camp volunteers, helping to strengthen and sustain meaningful camp experiences for siblings.

Children's Health Foundation (CHF), on behalf of Sooner SUCCESS, also received a \$10,000 grant from the Avedis Foundation to launch the Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative, a new program designed to strengthen support and resources for families of children with disabilities in Pottawatomie County.

This grant opportunity was made possible in large part through the invaluable partnership and support of DDCO in advancing SibCamp and Sibling Day Camp opportunities. DDCO's commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in making these programs successful, accessible, and responsive to the needs of local families. This strong partnership not only expanded opportunities for siblings but also helped establish the foundation for the Family Wellness Retreat and Respite Sibshops Initiative.

Project Visibility and Outreach:

The DDCO logo is prominently featured on several retreat materials, including the Oklahoma Family Caregiver Respite Retreat Interest Form, the final registration form, the event flyer, and the Sibling Camp flyer and banner. During the retreat, DDCO will be recognized as the event funder multiple times, with either a live representative speaking or a video presentation created by Jen Randle. Additionally, the retreat has been promoted through the Sooner SUCCESS Facebook page, newsletter, and website, further acknowledging DDCO's sponsorship and support. Information about the retreats and sibling camps was widely distributed to various partners through email and social media platforms. Aietah Stephens and Samantha Basave were interviewed on Channel 9 (Front Porch) to discuss the sibling camp opportunities.

III. Final Budget Report

Budget Summary

Please provide a final project budget, showing all costs of the project, including all match funding. Remember, match funding includes volunteers. If volunteers were used, please explain. Documentation is needed for volunteer time to count towards match. Please ask us what is needed. If there were significant changes to the proposed project budget, please explain.

\$77,906.61 (this is through end of May, University still working on closing out final project)

*will send final numbers when we receive from University

\$39,103.48 in match for volunteer hours for Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps:

- 30 volunteers (Sibling Camp) for 30hrs= 900hrs
- 26 volunteers (Sibling Day Camps) for 7hrs= 182hrs
- Oklahoma Volunteer Time Rate = \$36.14 per hour per Independent Sector [Value of Volunteer Time - Independent Sector](#)

\$5314.03 in donations/in-kind to Caregiver Retreats



Sibling Camps

732 Hours of Respite Provided
82 Kids Served
35 Siblings with Disabilities Served
42 Families Served



Sibling Day Camps



Overnight Camp

Lincoln County Sibling Day Camp 9-3
May 30, 2026
Facilitators: 4
Volunteers: 13
Ages: Kids 5-14: 5
Ages: Kids 15+: 10
Respite: 5
Total Kids Served: 20
Total Families Served: 9
Respite Hours Provided: 54

Weatherford Sibling Day Camp (9-3)
May 29-30 2026
Facilitators: 2
Volunteers: 6
Ages: Kids 5-14: 4
Ages: Kids 15+: 1
Respite: 4
Total Kids Served: 9
Total Families Served: 5
Respite Hours Provided: 30

Enid Sibling Day Camp (9-3)
May 22, 2026
Facilitators: 4
Volunteers: 4
Ages: Kids 5-14: 5
Ages: Kids 15+: 0
Respite: 6
Total Kids Served: 11
Total Families Served: 8
Respite Hours Provided: 48

Tulsa Sibling Day Camp
Postponed to August 7

Poteau Sibling Day Camp
June 6 , 2026
Facilitators: 2
Volunteers: 3
Ages: Kids 5-14: 5
Ages: Kids 15+: 3
Respite: 8
Total Kids Served: 16
Total Families Served: 8
Respite Hours Provided: 48

Sibling Camp
April 24-26 (46 hours)
Facilitators: 2
Staff: 14
Volunteers: 30
Ages: Kids 5-14: 12
Ages: Kids 15+: 2
Respite: 12
Total Kids Served: 26
Total Families Served: 12
Respite Hours Provided: 552




SOONER SUCCESS
 Serving, Supporting, Building *Inclusive* Communities


Sibshops


OKLAHOMA
 Human Services


DDCO
 Developmental Disabilities
 Council of Oklahoma


OKLAHOMA
 State Department
 of Health

SIBLING CAMP






INTEREST FORM

APRIL 24-26

Requirements: For siblings with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities ages 8-25 & siblings without special needs ages 8-16

Fun and Creative Indoor Activities
 Application Does NOT Guarantee Acceptance

QUESTIONS?
 405-271-2710
SOONER-SUCCESS@OUHSC.EDU
SOONERSUCCESS.OUHSC.EDU




Sibling Camp (Overnight)

1,058 Hours of Respite Provided

Kids Served

Sibling Camp successfully provided meaningful respite and support to families of children with disabilities while creating a positive and enriching experience for siblings. Parent survey results demonstrated overwhelmingly positive outcomes, with 100% of caregivers reporting that the program allowed them to take a break from caregiving responsibilities, reduced overall family stress, and benefitted their family unit. Additionally, 100% of caregivers indicated they would not have been able to access respite if Sibling Camp had not been available, highlighting the program's critical role in addressing an unmet community need.

The camp also successfully reached new families, with all participating children attending a sibling camp for the first time. During their respite time, nearly 79% of caregivers reported feeling not at all stressed, indicating that the camp provided a valuable opportunity for rest and rejuvenation—many explaining that their stress came from worry for how their camper would do rather than fear. Overall satisfaction was exceptionally high, with 100% of caregivers reporting they were either very satisfied or extremely satisfied with the program.

Qualitative feedback further reinforced these findings. Families expressed gratitude for the opportunity, described feeling refreshed and supported, and noted the value of sibling bonding, family connection, and meaningful respite. Several parents shared that the camp provided their first opportunity in years to spend uninterrupted time with a spouse or other children, emphasizing the significant impact of the program on family well-being.

Overall, Sibling Camp successfully strengthened families, reduced caregiver stress, expanded access to sibling support services, and provided essential respite opportunities that would not otherwise have been available to participating families.

Sibling Camp Surveys

Caregivers

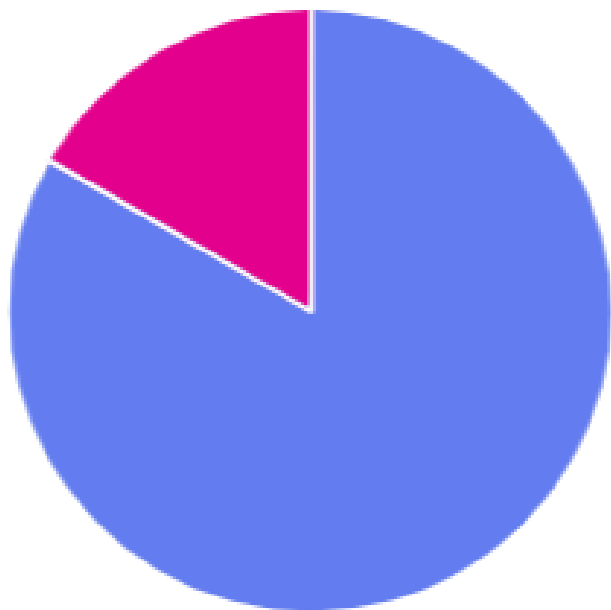
What County do You live in



Summary (12 responses total):

- Oklahoma County: 5 responses (42%)
- Cleveland: 1 (8%)
- Tulsa: 1 (8%)
- Comanche: 1 (8%)
- Blaine: 1 (8%)
- McClain: 1 (8%)
- Canadian: 1 (8%)
- Garfield: 1 (8%)

Do you believe that your children's participation in the Sibling Camp allowed you to have a break from your caregiver duties?



Quick Summary:

- Strongly Agree: 10 (83%)
- Agree: 2 (17%)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Caregivers

Do you believe that Sibling Camp benefitted your overall family unit?



Summary (11 responses):

- Strongly Agree: 8 responses (73%)
- Agree: 3 responses (27%)

How did this extra time help your loved one?



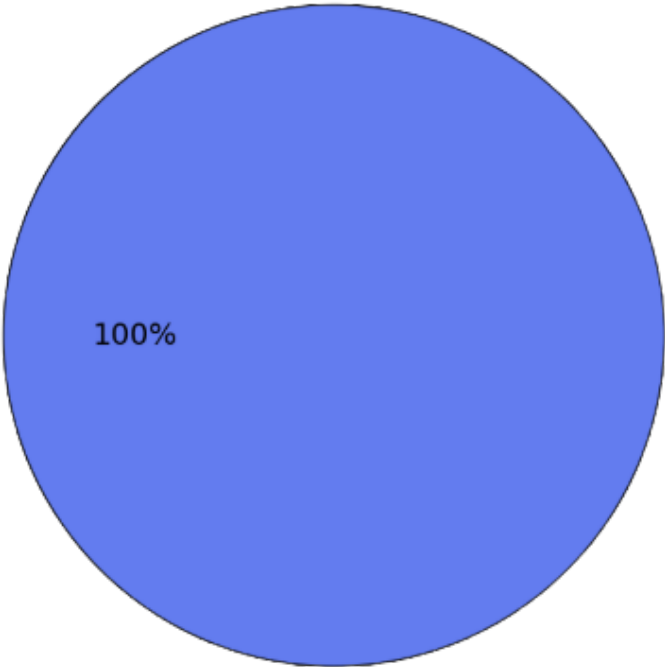
Summary (12 responses):

- Social Interaction: 8 responses (67%)
- Independence: 4 responses (33%)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Caregivers

Do you feel your children's participation in this sibling camp helped reduce the overall stress in your family?



Summary (12 responses):

- Yes: 12 responses (100%)

During your actual respite time (from caregiving duties), how would you describe your stress level as a result of Sibling Camp?



Summary (12 responses):

- Not at all stressed: 9 responses (75%)
- Moderately stressed: 2 responses (17%)
- Somewhat stressed: 1 response (8%)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Caregivers

Have your children ever participated in a sibling camp before?



Summary:

- No: 100% (9 responses)

Would you be able to have respite if this sibling camp was unavailable?



Summary:

- No: 100% (15 responses)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Caregivers

Caregivers Quotes:

“We are so thankful for this opportunity. The girls had a great time and had their first camp experience.”

“Nothing, this has been amazing ! God bless you all”

“Thank you so much for this opportunity!
It was incredible! Everything ran so smoothly and it was our first time to be home alone since (he) was born
I think it’s a great idea and bonding time for siblings.

Thank you SO much for this weekend. They had so much fun! My husband and I got to rest and spend some intentional time with our oldest. Did I mention we got to sleep?! 🙏👏

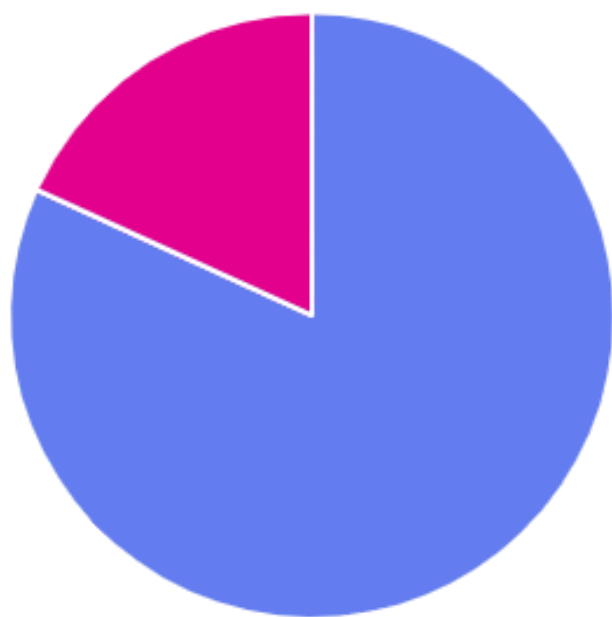
Great camp! Very happy with it and we feel so refreshed

This was great!

Sibling Camp Surveys

Siblings

Overall Experience



- Quick breakdown:
- Highly Satisfied: 82%
 - Satisfied: 18%

Activities During Sibling Camp

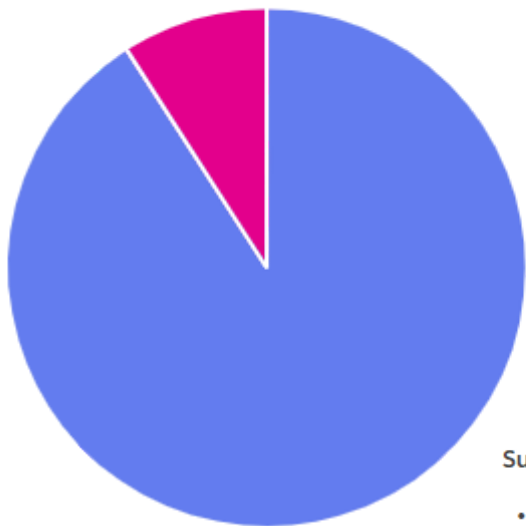


- Summary:
- Highly Satisfied: 100% (11 out of 11 responses)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Siblings

Have you ever attended camp with your brother or sister?



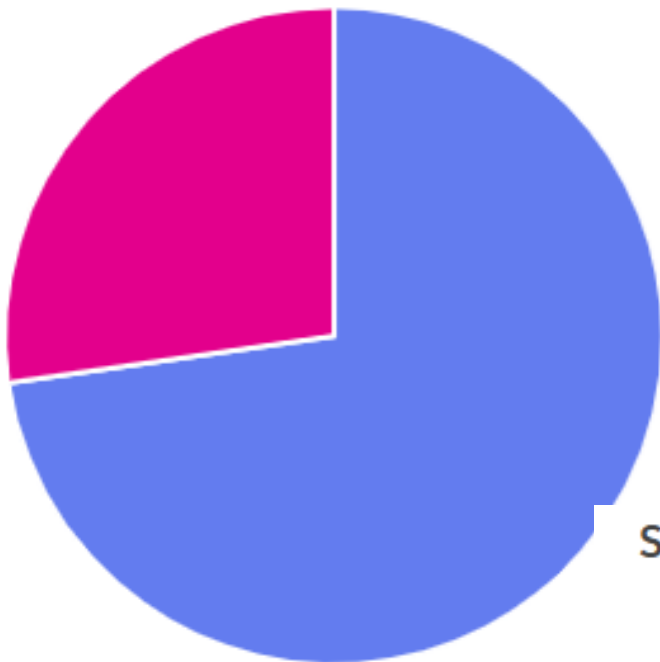
Summary:

- No: 10 responses (91%)
- Yes: 1 response (9%)

Tell Something You Liked

The community, like the volunteers and siblings, were really nice and cool!
Meeting people
All the animals, they were so cool. And the people
The Bed
Canoeing
The Activities
Have friends and experiences
Connecting with other Siblings
N/A
Zip Lines
Everything

How you Feel About Connecting with Other Siblings That Have Brothers/Sisters with Disabilities



Summary:

- 😊: 8 responses (73%)
- 😬: 3 responses (27%)

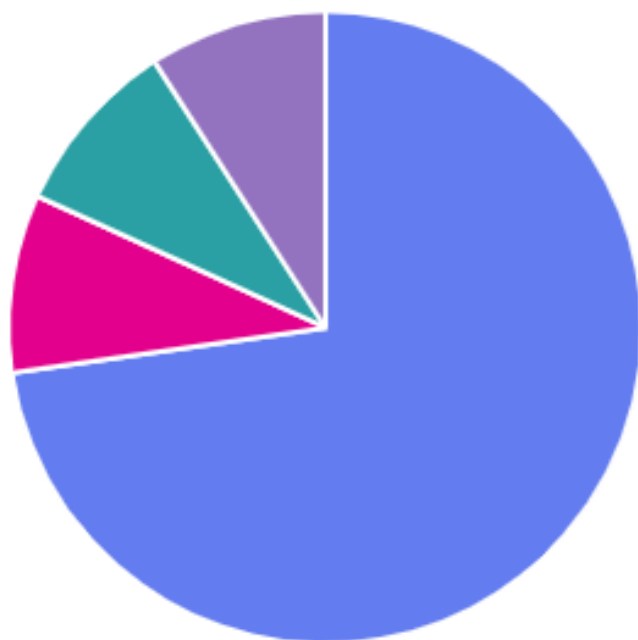
Give A Suggestion

None, I'd lowkey keep it the same
N/A
I think it would be cool to have more activities like nature walks and painting
Make a dog theme
Bigger boats on the water
N/A
Keep it the same, really great!
N/A
N/A
Swimming
Come Here!

Sibling Camp Surveys

Campers with Disabilities

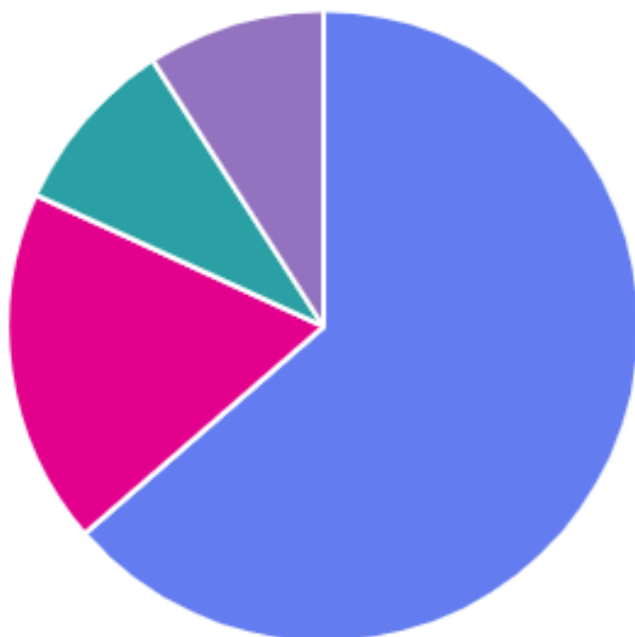
Overall Experience



Summary:

- **Highly Satisfied:** 8 responses (73%)
- **Satisfied:** 1 response (9%)
- **Neutral:** 1 response (9%)
- **Highly Dissatisfied:** 1 response (9%)

Activities During Sibling Camp



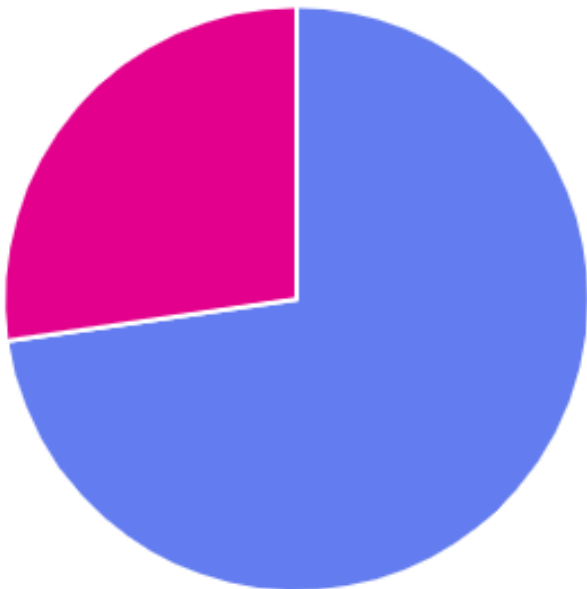
Summary:

- **Highly Satisfied:** 7 responses (64%)
- **Satisfied:** 2 responses (18%)
- **Neutral:** 1 response (9%)
- **Highly Dissatisfied:** 1 response (9%)

Sibling Camp Surveys

Campers with Disabilities

Have you ever attended camp with your brother or sister?



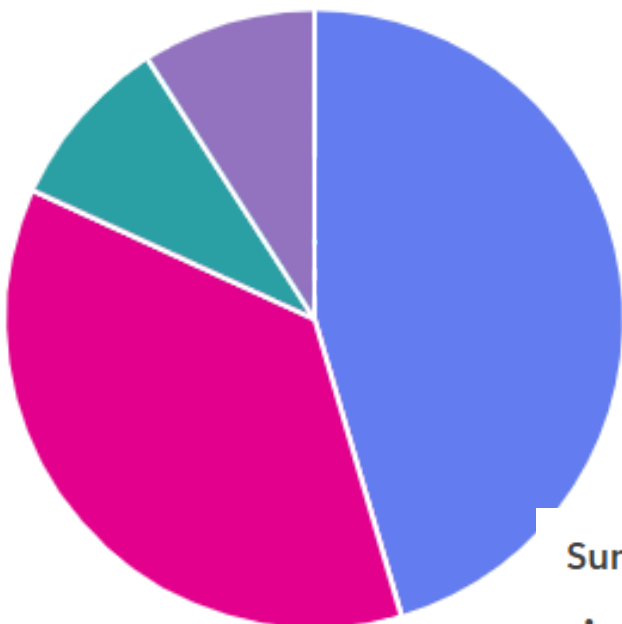
Summary:

- No: 8 responses (73%)
- Yes: 3 responses (27%)

Tell Something You Liked

Rock, Paper, Scissors, scoot
Pickleball
Anson and his sister Lily, Zip line
I loved the fan.
Canoes, hammock, dogs, music, music therapy, lady Brian+Tyler
He liked the music and dance party
Dogs
Eating lots of food
All of it
Sensory room
making bracelets
3D printed name tags
Watching Toy Story on MS.
Sam's iPad and taking strolls outside

How you Feel About Connecting with Other Siblings That Have Brothers/Sisters with Disabilities



Summary:

- 😄: 5 responses (45%)
- 😊: 4 responses (36%)
- 😞: 1 response (9%)
- 😟: 1 response (9%)

Give A Suggestion

N/A
Target practice (archery)
loss of time away from sibs
More fruit
More Ramps! Shower chair!
More music, maybe Rap?
(clean) of course
Good time step stool to get on the bed
Basketball, bouncy house
More conuing

None
May have a quiet room for overstimulated friends like me to consider games for friends and me who are easily overstimulated. I liked the overnight camp, but missed my mom and grandma. Maybe 1 overnight me

Sibling Day Camp

180 Hours of Respite Provided

56 Kids Served

23 Siblings with Disabilities Served

30 Families Served

Beyond the immediate benefits to participating families, the Sibling Day Camps have helped establish a strong framework for sustainable, community-based respite services across Oklahoma. By successfully bringing together schools, faith-based organizations, local businesses, disability service providers, volunteers, and family support networks, the project demonstrated how communities can collaborate to create meaningful respite opportunities that are both accessible and cost-effective.

These efforts have helped set a standard of practice for local respite programming by emphasizing family-centered supports, inclusive participation, community partnerships, volunteer engagement, and accessibility accommodations. Through the development of these partnerships and the training of volunteers, communities have gained the knowledge, resources, and confidence needed to continue supporting siblings and families beyond the scope of this grant.

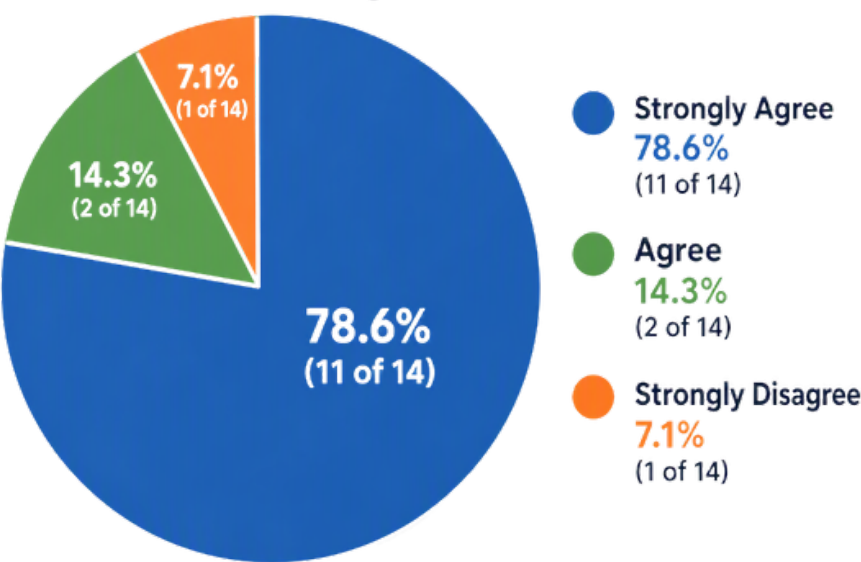
The project also increased awareness of the critical role respite plays in strengthening family well-being. As a result, community organizations and volunteers expressed interest in continuing their involvement with future Sibshops, sibling camps, and related disability-support initiatives. This growing network of engaged partners creates a foundation for ongoing respite opportunities and strengthens local capacity to meet the needs of families of individuals with disabilities.

By providing 180 hours of respite, serving 56 children, including 23 siblings with disabilities, and supporting 30 families, the program not only delivered immediate benefits but also fostered lasting community connections and a replicable model that can continue to improve access to respite services throughout Oklahoma.

Sibling Day Camp Surveys

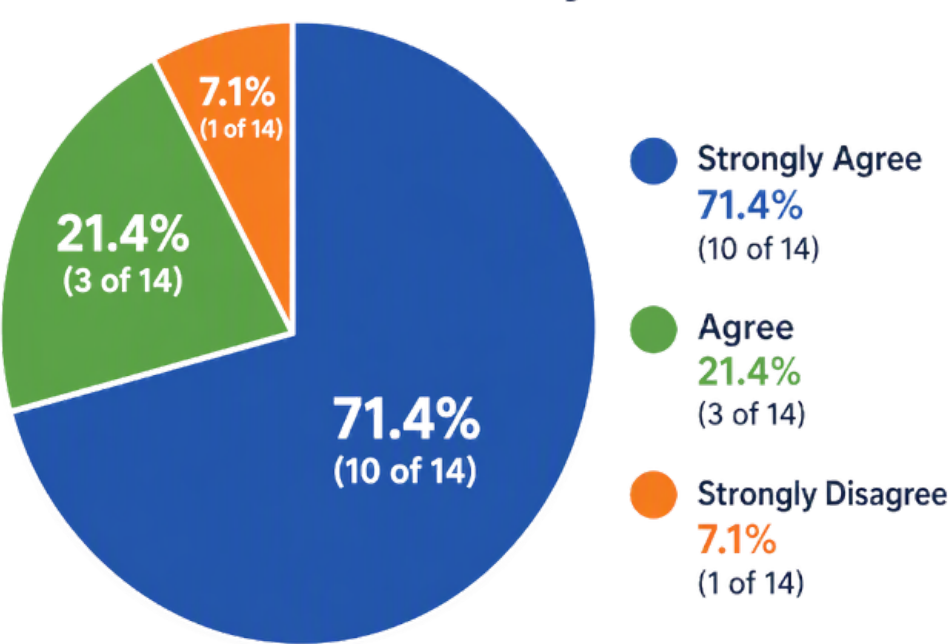
Caregivers

Did your children's participation in the Sibling Camp allow you to have a break from your caregiver duties?



n = 14 respondents

Do you believe that Sibling Camp benefitted your overall family unit?

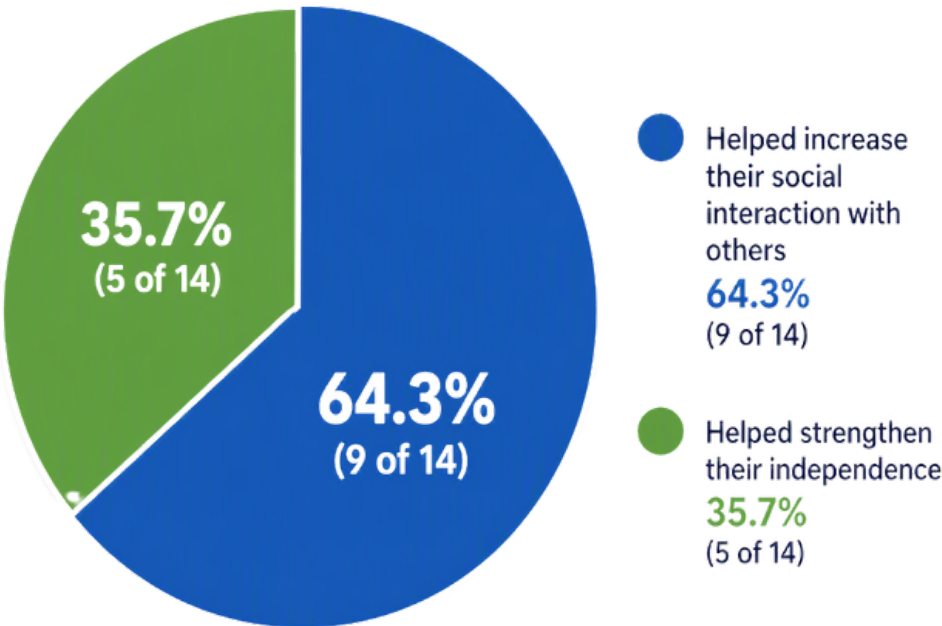


n = 14 respondents

Sibling Day Camp Surveys

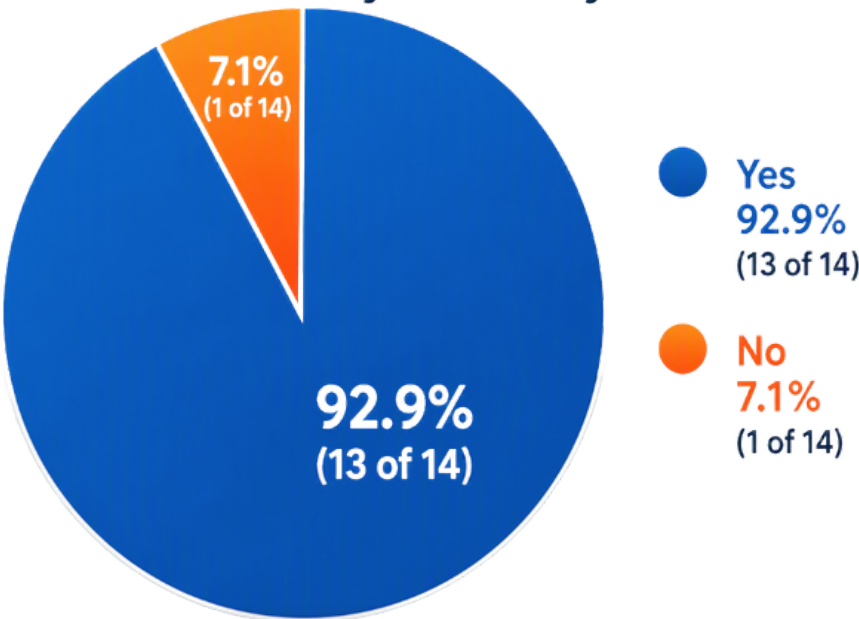
Caregivers

How did this extra time help your loved one?



n = 14 respondents

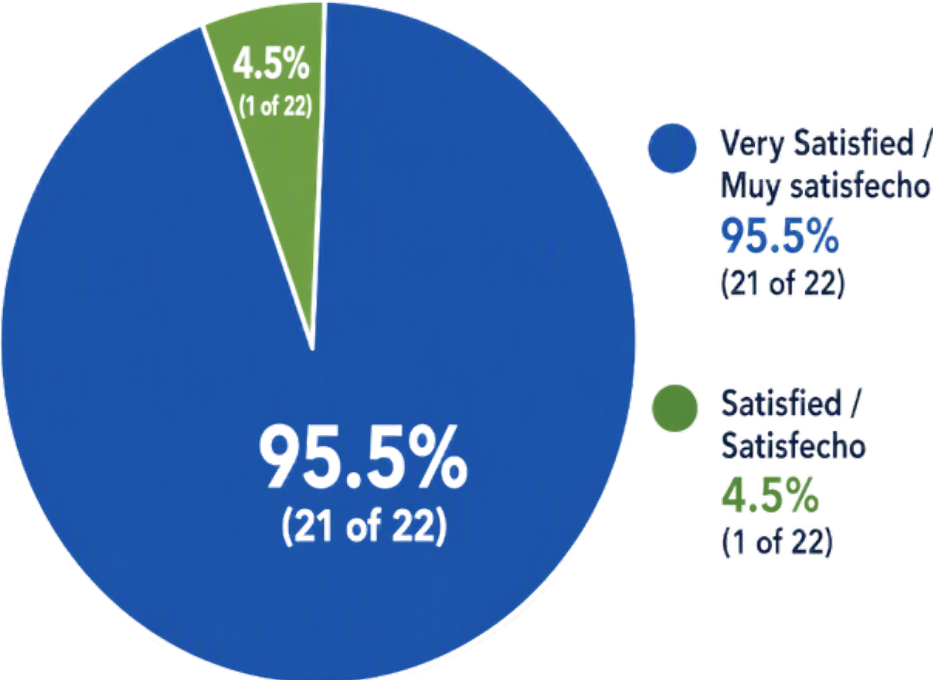
Do you feel your children's participation in this Sibling Camp helped reduce the overall stress in your family?



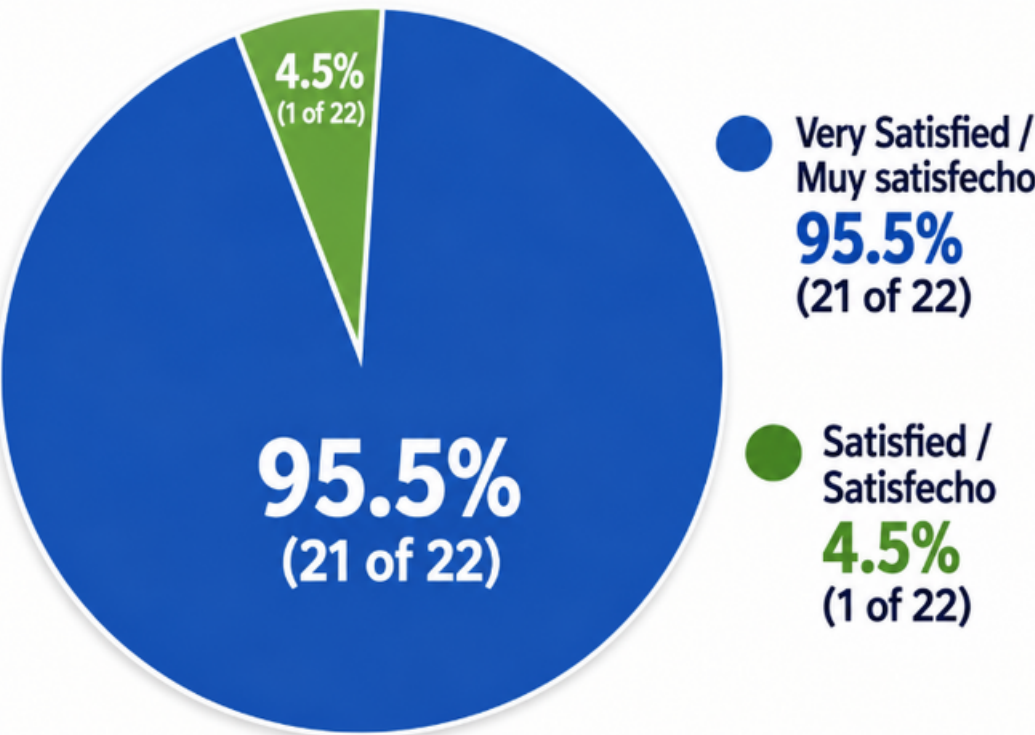
Sibling Day Camp Surveys

Siblings

Sibling (With Disabilities) Overall Experience



Sibling (Without Disabilities) Overall Experience



n = 22 respondents

Sibling Day Camp Surveys

Quotes

Games and bunny

They loved the bunny, sensory play and their sibling loved meeting other sibs

Everything!

*She liked the cup game, coloring, making friends
water balloons, slime, friends*

Slime, more activities for teens

Slime, playground, activities, ice cream

Water balloons, slime

He really liked coloring and the magnetic tiles

They loved everything about it .

Liked doing things with other kids. The crafts

Everything is perfect!

They liked all the activities. There wasn't anything they disliked.

I loved connecting with them on a personal level

Loved this!

Environment

All the Games

Slime

Spoon games

Everything

Hanging out with Russel

Kruz talking to everyone



Thank you to our Sponsors:



Thank you to our Partners:



Zoë Life Church of Enid

Unsolicited Application for Funding For July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028.

Aug 24, 2026

The Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) welcomes unsolicited proposals for contracts to fund activities that will advance the independence, productivity and inclusion of individuals with disabilities. If you have any questions, please email the Council's Planning & Grants Director at Jennifer.Robinson@okdhs.org.



* Required

Information for applying for funding

The Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) welcomes unsolicited proposals and applications for contracts to fund activities to advance the Council's 5-year plan, which will improve the independence, productivity, and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

- All proposals and applications must be for activities currently included, or eligible for inclusion, in the 5 Year DDCO State Plan found on our website.
- Applications must be complete for consideration by the Council.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Please know this application cannot be saved and returned to at a later date. You will need to complete the application in one sitting.
- * means the question is required.

1. Budgeting information for requests:

- The Council does not provide grants. Funding is provided through a contract in which an organization agrees to perform specific duties as agreed upon. Funding is provided by reimbursement only, meaning there is no funding provided to the organization in advance. The Council can approve to fund up to 75% of a total budget cost with matching funds required. Matching funds cannot be from federal sources and expected to be at least 25% of the total budget.
- Required match funding may be in the form of cash, direct expenditures, indirect expenditures, volunteer hours, or in-kind contributions, but may not include any direct or indirect federal funds. *An exception to this rule is made for projects specifically serving a designated poverty area. In those situations, the Council can approve to fund up to 90% of the total budget cost, with at least 10% matching funds from the organization making up the rest of the total budget costs. Other exceptions to the 10% or 25% match requirement may be negotiated but are rarely approved.*
- Federal law prohibits the Council from investing in real property, building enhancements, vehicles, or vehicle enhancements. Generally, any equipment purchased via a Council contract should be an item that could be returned to the Council in the event of contract cancellation.
- The Council does not consider applications that would provide any item solely for the use of a single individual – such as a wheelchair or other personalized assistive technology.

2. Proposals requesting \$5,000 or less:

- Project funding requests less than \$5,000 can be approved by the Executive Committee. Applications should be received a minimum of 6 weeks before the next the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting.
- Applicant(s) will be notified by email within 5 business days of meeting of a decision or request for more information.
- A resulting contract will have an effective start date of no less than 60 days from the approval date.
- Per Oklahoma Statute, no funding can or will be reimbursed for any good or service purchased before the effective start date of a contract.

3. Proposals requesting more than \$5,000, less than \$25,000:

- Project funding requests must be received a minimum of 6 months in advance of a July 1 start date.
- Applicant(s) will be notified by email within 5 business days of meeting of a decision or request for more information.
- A resulting contract will have an effective start date of no less than 60 days from the approval date.
- Per Oklahoma Statute, no funding can or will be reimbursed for any good or service purchased before the effective start date of a contract.

4. Proposals requesting more than \$25,000:

- Project funding requests must be received a minimum of 6 months in advance of a July 1 start date.
- **If applicant is a non-governmental entity, project funding requests are limited to no more than \$25,000.**
 - Non-governmental organizations include, but are not limited to, not-for-profit corporations and for-profit corporations. Individual persons are also non-governmental organizations for this purpose.
 - Governmental entities include state agencies, local government agencies, tribal governments, public school districts, or public colleges and universities.
- Applicant(s) will be notified by email within 5 business days of meeting of a decision or request for more information.
- A resulting contract will have an effective start date of no less than 60 days from the approval date.
- Per Oklahoma Statute, no funding can or will be reimbursed for any good or service purchased before the effective start date of a contract.

5. Note about the Invitation to Bid / Competitive Bidding process

- *Please note that any entity can apply for funding through an invitation to bid process with no restrictions as to funding amount. However, all invitation to bid applications are done through the Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES). This application is NOT an invitation to bid. You can learn about the statewide competitive bidding process at this website: <https://oklahoma.gov/omes/divisions/central-purchasing.html>. All questions regarding this process, statewide purchasing, and/or competitive contracting should be directed to OMES.*
- *The Council is not allowed to have any contact with persons, groups, or organizations submitting proposals that are subject to competitive bidding. If you or your organization are submitting a response for a competitive contract or is part of any other organization's proposal for a contract, please DO NOT discuss or disclose any information about your proposal with any DDCO member or staff.*

6. **General Timelines:**

Funding decisions can take time for the Council to discuss. Please allow time for feedback on your proposal and possible revision of your proposal or providing more information. We want to be a partner and are happy to work with you as you complete an application. Please ask questions. If approved for funding, contract dates depend on when the proposal was received, length of review by Council committee, and contract negotiations.

For a proposal requesting funding for a full year, contracts will typically follow the state fiscal year: July 1 through June 30.

Proposals received are evaluated by a Council Committee, and if approved, a recommendation is made to the full Council for a decision. If approved by the full Council, we will make every effort for contracts to be effective as early as possible, typically by July 1. Applicants will be notified by email within 5 business days of the full Council's decision.

IMPORTANT: Do not begin work until a fully executed contract and purchase order (PO) is in hand. Per Oklahoma Statute, no funding can or will be reimbursed for any goods or service prior to the effective date of a contract.

If you have any questions, email our Planning & Grants Director, Jennifer Robinson:
Jennifer.Robinson@okdhs.org.

Part 1 - Contact Information

7. Organization Name *

8. Organization Address *

Mailing address please: Street number, Street name, City, State, 9-digit Zip Code

9. Contact Info *

Name, email address **and** phone number of the person completing this application.

10. Website

Organization's Website

Our State Plan Goals

To qualify for funding, projects must meet one of the goals in the 5-Year Council State Plan. The state plan is available for review <https://oklahoma.gov/ddco/about/state-plan.html>.

11. State Plan Goal *

Goals have been established for our next 5 Year State Plan (2027-2031), and proposals submitted should fall within **one** of our themes we have identified.

- **Goal 1 – Making Information Easy to Find and Use**
- **Goal 2 – Advocacy and Awareness**
- **Goal 3 – Supporting Families and Caregivers Over Time**

Part 2 - Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

The State of Oklahoma prohibits persons and organizations from participating in the development of a competitive contract where they may receive an actual or perceived benefit. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a fair and impartial procurement process. The questions that follow are designed to help the state determine if such a conflict exists.

12. Any relationships to the organization? *

Do you, or your organization, have any personal, professional or financial relationships to the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma? This disclosure does not necessarily create a real or perceived conflict of interest, but disclosure of such relationships is required.

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. Identify names and relationships

If you answered yes to "**Any relationships to the organization?**" please explain in detail. Identify names and relationships, as necessary.

Part 3 - Your activity proposal:

The Council's committee carefully reviews all complete and accurate applications. The information you provide in Part III will help our members understand your proposed work and how it aligns with the Council's funding priorities and expectations.

14. Proposal. *

Provide a written overview of your proposal (up to 4000 characters). A good overview should cover the key components of your proposal. This includes:

- **Introduction:** A brief summary of your project's purpose.
- **Problem Statement:** The issue your project aims to address.
- **Proposed Solution:** A clear description of your methodology and how your project will solve the problem.
- **Expected Outcomes:** The anticipated results or impact of your work.
- **Evaluation:** How the work will be measured.
- **Relevance:** How your project aligns with the council's goals and funding priorities.

15. Have you completed a needs assessment? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

16. Needs assessment:

If you have completed a needs assessment, please provide a summary below. Your response should include:

- A brief description of the methodology used (e.g., surveys, interviews, focus groups).
- The key findings that support the need for your proposed project.
- The population included in your assessment.
- An explanation of how this assessment directly informs your proposal.

17. Who will do the work? *

Please list all people and organizations that will be working on the project, and describe their experience and qualifications to provide the proposed goods and services.

18. Targeted population:

*

Tell us more about who you are targeting to improve outcomes for? Describe the age, region, familial status, learning or support needs, and type of disability.

19. Impact:

*

Please describe the anticipated impact of your proposal by addressing the following three components:

- Goals for the targeted population?
 - What are the specific, measurable goals you hope to achieve for the individuals directly served by this project?
- Broader implications for people with developmental disabilities:
 - Beyond the direct participants, how will this project create a broader, positive impact for the population of people with developmental disabilities as a whole?
- Measurable outcomes:
 - What specific, quantifiable metrics will you use to track your success and demonstrate the project's effectiveness?

20. Duplication or expansion:

*

Does this proposal duplicate or expand upon any existing work in Oklahoma or elsewhere? The Council cannot supplant funding to continue existing work unless the proposal is to expand on the work and enhances what is being done.

If your proposal duplicates or expands upon existing work, please describe the existing work and explain what makes your project unique and innovative. Be specific about how this approach and expected outcomes differ from and add value to what is already being done.

21. Best Practices:

*

Will your proposed project use current evidence-based best practices in the field of developmental disabilities? Identify the specific practices you will use, explain how you will incorporate them into your project, and cite your sources. Citations should include a mix of professional literature, research studies, and respected organizations or programs.

22. Systems change impact: *

"Systems change" can help improve a problem and change the way we support people with disabilities in Oklahoma. System change may include sharing information to change thinking, implementing best practice models, and/or improving skills for individuals and families to better say what they want and need.

How will your proposed project lead to **lasting systems change** for people with developmental disabilities? Please provide a detailed explanation of how your project's outcomes will shift thinking, improve practices, or empower individuals and families within the state's service system.

23. Where implemented:

*

Will the proposed project be implemented or offered statewide? If no, please define the specific counties and cities you will serve and provide the rationale for their selection.

Performance Measures

The Council is required to submit performance reports to evaluate the effectiveness of all Council activities to our Federal partners. We require all contracted vendors to submit quarterly and final performance measure data prior to final payment. As a required component of your application, please provide **projected data** for the following performance measures. The performance measures listed below will also be part of your quarterly reporting. All contractors must collect **baseline data** to evaluate the project's outcomes. If you have questions about these projected and baseline numbers, please reach out to us.

Note: Not all measures may be applicable to your proposal. If a measure does not apply, please enter zero.

- **IA** = Individual and family **A**dvocacy
- **SC** = System **C**hange

24. IA1.1

The number of **people with developmental disabilities who participated in Council supported activities** designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and or systems.

The value must be a number

25. IA 1.2

The number of **family members who participated in Council supported activities** designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect the family, the lives of others, and or systems.

The value must be a number

26. IA 1.3

The number of **other individuals who participated in Council supported activities** designed to increase their knowledge.

The value must be a number

27. IA 2.1

After participation in Council supported activities, the **number of people with developmental disabilities who report increasing their advocacy** as a result of Council work.

The value must be a number

28. **IA 2.2**

After participation in Council supported activities, the **number of family members who report increasing their advocacy** as a result of Council work.

The value must be a number

29. **IA 2.2.1**

The **number of people** who are better able to say what they want or say what services and supports they want or say what is important to them.

The value must be a number

30. **IA 2.2.2**

The **number of people** who are participating now in advocacy activities.

The value must be a number

31. **IA 2.2.3**

The **number of people** who are on cross disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies and/or serving in leadership positions.

The value must be a number

32. **IA 3.1**

The **number of people with developmental disabilities satisfied** with a project activity.

The value must be a number

33. **IA 3.2**

The **number of family members satisfied** with a project activity.

The value must be a number

34. **SC 1.1.1**

The number of policy and or procedures created or changed.

The value must be a number

35. **SC 1.2.1**

The number of statutes and or regulations created or changed.

The value must be a number

36. **SC 1.3.1**

The number of promising practices created.

The value must be a number

37. **SC 1.3.2**

The number of promising practices supported through Council activities.

The value must be a number

38. **SC 1.3.3**

The number of best practices created.

The value must be a number

39. **SC 1.4.1**

The number of people trained or educated through Council systemic change initiatives.

The value must be a number

40. SC 1.5.1

The number Council supported systems change activities with organizations actively involved.

The value must be a number

41. SC 2.1

The number of efforts that led to the improvement of best or promising practices, policies, procedures, statute, or regulation changes.

The value must be a number

42. SC 2.1.1

The number of policy, procedure, statute, or regulation changes improved as a result of systems change.

The value must be a number

43. SC 2.1.2

The number of policy, procedure, statute, or regulation changes implemented.

The value must be a number

44. SC 2.1.3

The number of promising and/or best practices improved by systems change activities.

The value must be a number

45. SC 2.1.4

The number of promising and/or best practices that were implemented.

The value must be a number

46. SC 2.2

The number of efforts that were implemented to transform fragmented approaches into a coordinated and effective system that assures individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

The value must be a number

Additional Requirements for funding

47. FINANCIAL INFORMATION *

Proposal Budget:

- Include a detailed revenue and expenditure budget, detailing the total costs and revenues of the proposal.
- Identify the amount requested from the Council within the context of the budget.
- **Projected budgets for multi-year project planning should show a decrease on Council funding.**
- **Council funding cannot exceed 75% of your budget.** For example, if your budget is \$10,000, our funding can be up to \$7,500. Your match would be a minimum of \$2,500. **Start with your budget** and calculate the 75/25 split. If you are located in/providing services in a designated rural county, please contact us.
- Identify the amount of the minimum required 25% funding match for your project's total budget. You need to explain where this matching funding will come from. **Sources for match funding** can include non-federal funding, monies from fundraisers or donations/sponsorships, salary/fringe, donated services or items, discounted services or items, and volunteer time. (*paid employees of a non-profit organization cannot volunteer to provide the same type of services to their non-profit organization that they are employed to provide) For help calculating match contact us. Match funding helps the Council understand all partners working with the project.
- Identify projected funding sources not currently in place. Provide a narrative explaining each category of expenditure and source or revenue associated with the project. **Revenue sources** include but are not limited to conference registration fees, third party grants, booth rentals, in-kind contributions, etc.
- If space does not permit the details necessary, please **email your budget** to Jennifer.Robinson@okdhs.org and include the Project Name in the subject line.

48. STATEMENT OF WORK (SoW): *

Provide a proposed statement of work for the contractual requirements. This should include a detailed description of the work to be done, project milestones, deliverables to the Council, and other details important to the work that you will provide in exchange for Council funding. [ProjectManager.com](https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/statement-work-definition-examples) has some good information for you to develop your statement of work: <https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/statement-work-definition-examples>.

49. Sustainability Plan: *

It is the Council's hope that funded projects will have a lasting impact on the community and achieve financial sustainability after the Council's funding is complete. The Council's funding is intended as a catalyst to help new work become self-sustaining. To assure the Council of this long-term vision, all applicants must submit a detailed Financial Sustainability Plan. Financial sustainability is defined as maintaining services to the community through a diversified funding model. **Important Note:** *The Council can approve funding for an activity for a maximum of five (5) years. However, our funding is not guaranteed, so applications for Council funding must be submitted annually. The Council expects all funded work to be self-sustaining by the end of the contract period.* For example, consider our year one funding to be 100%, year two could be 80%, year three could be 60%, year 4 could be 40% and year 5 could be 20%.

Your Financial Sustainability Plan should include, but is not limited to, the following components for each year of your proposed project:

- Annual Funding Goals: Clear, measurable funding targets for each year of the project.
- **Projected Budgets: A multi-year budget forecast that demonstrates decreasing reliance on Council funding.**
- Identified Partners: A list of specific organizations or entities with whom you will partner, along with a description of their role in your sustainability plan. Please also include any documented commitment of resources they are able to provide.
- Timeline: A clear timeline for all sustainability activities (e.g., "Year 2: Apply for three new grants," "Year 3: Implement a pilot fee-for-service program").

50. Outreach and Awareness Plan of the Work: *

Too often people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and others are not aware of resources available in Oklahoma. Please provide a marketing and outreach plan to bring awareness about the work being proposed. Your plan should address the following:

- Target Audience: Clearly identify the specific groups within the intellectual and developmental disability community you aim to reach (e.g., specific age ranges, individuals in rural vs. urban areas, diverse cultural communities).
- Marketing Channels: Describe the specific marketing channels you will use (e.g., social media, community events, partnerships, print materials) and how you will use them effectively to reach your target audiences.
- Partnerships: Explain how you will collaborate with other organizations, advocacy groups, or community leaders to expand the reach of your message.
- Accessibility and Language: Detail your strategy for ensuring your outreach is accessible and inclusive. Please discuss your plan for language translations, including which languages you will prioritize and how you will ensure cultural appropriateness.
- Measurement: Describe how you will measure the success and impact of your marketing and outreach efforts.

51. Logic Model:

To help the Council and your organization effectively evaluate the program's success, a logic model is a required component for all contracts in excess of \$5,000. A logic model is a simple visual tool that illustrates the connection between your project's resources (inputs), what you plan to do (activities), the immediate results of your work (outputs), and the changes you hope to achieve (outcomes). For a helpful guide to developing a clear and effective logic model, please refer to this resource from The Compass: <https://thecompassforsbc.org/how-to-guide/how-develop-logic-model-0>

52. Registered Vendor? *

Are you a registered vendor with the State of Oklahoma? All contractors must be registered in the State Supplier Portal. You can do this online: <https://oklahoma.gov/omes/divisions/central-purchasing/suppliers-and-payees/supplier-portal.html>

☐ Yes

☐ No

53. IRS 501(c)3? *

Is the proposed vendor applicant an IRS Registered 501(c)3:

☐ Yes

☐ No

54. Government entity? *

Is the proposed vendor a Government entity:

☐ Yes

☐ No

55. Provide form of government and name of entity *

56. **Are you a Tribal Organization? ***

Is the proposed vendor a tribal nation:

☐ Yes

☐ No

57. Tribal Organization Name

Please select the name of the Tribe. If it is not in the list, please select "Other" and enter its name.

- ☐ Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- ☐ Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town
- ☐ Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Caddo Nation
- ☐ Cherokee Nation
- ☐ Cheyenne and Arapaho
- ☐ Chickasaw Nation
- ☐ Choctaw Nation
- ☐ Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- ☐ Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- ☐ Delaware Nation
- ☐ Delaware Tribe of Indians
- ☐ Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Euchee (Yuchi) Tribe of Indians
- ☐ Fort Sill Apache Tribe
- ☐ Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Kaw Nation
- ☐ Kialegee Tribal Town
- ☐ Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Muscogee (Creek) Nation

- ☐ Osage Nation of Oklahoma
- ☐ Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians
- ☐ Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- ☐ Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- ☐ Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
- ☐ Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- ☐ Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- ☐ Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
- ☐ United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokees
- ☐ Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
- ☐ Wyandotte Nation
- ☐ Other

58. **Sole proprietor?** *

Is the proposed vendor the sole proprietor?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

59. Registered partnership? *

Is the proposed vendor a registered partnership?

☐ Yes

☐ No

60. Registered corporation? *

Is the proposed vendor a registered corporation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

61. ID Number *

Social Security Number, FEI Number, or OMES Supplier ID

Contact information

62. **Signing authority** *

Name of individual with contract signing authority, title, Phone number, email address

63. **Primary Contact:** *

Name of individual(s) to contact regarding contract performance & operations, title, Phone number, email address

64. **Finance Contact:** *

Name of individual(s) responsible for finance and accounting, title, Phone number, email address

65. **Legal Notices:** *

Name of individual(s) to send legal notices, title, Phone number, email address

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DDCO Request for Funding Proposal Evaluation Rubric

* Required



1. **PROJECT** *

Identify the organization applying for funding.

2. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE** *

Identify what Council committee is evaluating this request.

- ☐ State Plan Committee
- ☐ Advocacy, Training, and Outreach Committee
- ☐ Finance Committee
- ☐ Executive Committee
- ☐ Full Council
- ☐ Nominating Committee

3. **Reviewer Name** *

4. **Date of Review** *



5. State Plan Goals *

Does this proposal address at least one of the Council's Goals?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Target Population *

Does this proposal support people with developmental disabilities and/or their families?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. Budget & Match *

Does the budget for this proposal meet the Council's requirements? Do they have the 25% match?

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Sustainability *

Does this proposal have a plan for sustainability?

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. Were all answers yes above? (Goals, Population, Budget, Sustainability) *

If Yes, move forward. If No, is it worth reviewing depending on how many Nos?

☐ Yes, move forward

☐ No, still worth reviewing

☐ No, do not proceed

10. Comments**11. STATE PLAN GOALS ***

- WEAK (1,2) Does not fit in one of the Council's goals.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Mentions a theme, but connection to the Council's 5 Year Plan Goals is unclear.
- GOOD (6,7,8) Addresses at least one specific state plan objective.
- STRONG (9,10) Aligns with a Council State Plan Goal and objective with a high-impact strategy.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

12. NEED & TARGET POPULATION *

- WEAK (1,2) The problem is not known, target population is unclear, no needs assessment.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Describes a general problem but does not give supporting data or specific population details.
- GOOD (6,7,8) Problem is understood, population well-defined.
- STRONG (9,10) Uses needs assessment to target specific group, identify a unique problem, and proposes a solution.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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13. BUDGET *

- WEAK (1,2) Does not follow Council funding rules.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Budget is not clear, match sources are not known.
- GOOD (6,7,8) Provides realistic budget, clear 25% non-federal match.
- STRONG (9,10) Detailed itemized costs; detailed 25% non-federal match.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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14. SUSTAINABILITY *

- WEAK (1,2) Does not have a sustainability plan.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Sustainability plan has no timeline.
- GOOD (6,7,8) General timeline and may have some general funding ideas for sustainability.
- STRONG (9,10) Detailed funding sources and detailed timeline for sustainability.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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15. INNOVATION *

- WEAK (1,2) Duplicates existing work in Oklahoma, supplants current funding.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Similar to existing programs; unique value is not clearly explained.
- GOOD (6,7,8) Expands on existing work or brings a proven program to a new area.
- STRONG (9,10) Unique and innovative; Delivers brand-new outcomes.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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16. PLAN & CAPACITY *

- WEAK (1,2) Confusing plan. Statement of Work has no milestones. Team has limited experience.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Missing key details, Mentions best practices but doesn't provide research citations.
- GOOD (6,7,8) Statement of Work has clear milestones. Team is qualified, Uses best practices.
- STRONG (9,10) Ready for contract. Team has proven track record. Relies on research.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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17. IMPACT & METRICS *

- WEAK (1,2) Outcomes missing. Federal performance measures left blank or zero.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Metrics are not clear. Little potential for lasting change.
- GOOD (6,7,8) Gives clear outcomes and realistic numbers for required federal measures.
- STRONG (9,10) Has a way to track baseline and monitoring impact, Targets state level changes.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18. OUTREACH & ACCESSIBILITY *

- WEAK (1,2) No marketing or outreach plan.
- FAIR (3,4,5) Outreach plan is minimal (for example, "just Facebook"), lacks rural or accessibility information.
- GOOD (6,7,8) Clear marketing channels and has identified target audiences, includes translation plans.
- STRONG (9,10) Well thought and clear plan, Strong partnerships, Plan to ensure accessibility

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

19. STRENGTHS *

Comments regarding the strengths of this request. These are comments that can be provided to the applicant to better understand the Council's vision.

20. CONCERNS *

Comments regarding weaknesses or concerns with this request. These are comments that can be provided to the applicant to better understand what more is needed or wanted.

21. RECOMMENDATIONS *

Your final recommendation. You can recommend to fund the work, not recommend to fund the work, or create another recommendation (for example, I recommend to fund this project at another amount you identify).

- ☐ I DO recommend funding this project.
- ☐ I recommend funding this project with conditions
- ☐ I need more information before deciding
- ☐ I DO NOT recommend funding this project
- ☐ Other

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[EXTERNAL] Har-Ber Village Gazette

From Nicole Reynolds - Executive Director <events-har-bervillage.com@shared1.ccsend.com>

Date Mon 8/24/2026 9:37 AM

To Jennifer Robinson <Jennifer.Robinson@okdhs.org>



Big News!
Har-Ber Village was
awarded a Grant by
Developmental
Disabilities Counsel
of Oklahoma! The
Village is on the path
to become more
friendly to all
individuals that
would like to visit!

Stained Glass
Workshop
Saturday, August 22nd
~ 12 to 3:30
Leaves!



Join local
Artist
Rebecca
Harton for
a make
and take
class! This
will be a
workshop
where you
will create

a Stained Glass Sailboat Sun Catcher!
All supplies included in a \$65 per



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

**Har-Ber Village will be Partnering
with Square Holes to become
more welcoming to all individuals!**



We recently received a grant from the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) to make Har-Ber Village more accessible and welcoming for our full community, with a particular focus on neurodiversity. Square Holes is helping us conduct a needs assessment, looking at our grounds, programs, and policies, to figure out what's working, what isn't, and where we can improve.

One of those ways is through Sensory Backpacks that can be checked out for individuals of any age to help mitigate sensory overload while visiting.

Another is through a Calming Room (name to be determined by an advisory panel). This room will give any individual a place of quiet to adjust to the needs of their visit. This room will also be a room for nursing mothers!

Be on the look out for an upcoming survey on this new adventure the Village is undertaking!

This project is provided and funded by the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department

person workshop that ends with you taking home your very own self made piece of art! Limit of 8 students. Ages 10 and up. Please purchase tickets from the home screen!

Purchase Tickets Online



What's Coming up for the Fall Season?

**Three fantastic education days to
choose from!**

**14th Annual Pioneer Days:
September 24th and 25th, 2026**

**Last Day of the Season with
Oklahoma Historical Day:
November 6th, 2026**



Celebrate Harvey Jones!

*of Health and Human Services,
Washington D.C. 20201.*

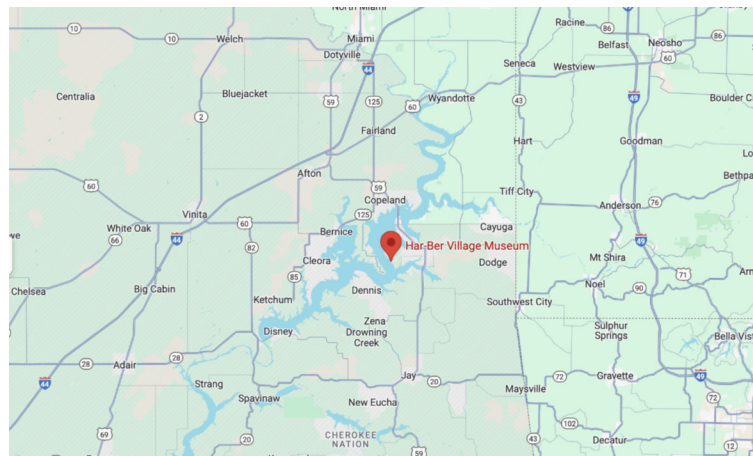
August is Harvey's Birth Month!

**Har-Ber Village will be
the first museum in
Oklahoma to
incorporate a
neurodivergent program
at its facility!**

Harvey Jones was born on August 19, 1899! He and his wife Bernice are the founders of Har-Ber Village Museum, a beloved treasure to the Grove and Grand Lake community! Join us as we celebrate him this month.

Visit the Village

[Map](#)



Current Ways to Support the Village

Due to your generous support, Har-Ber Village will be able to preserve and restore historic buildings like the Village Drug Store, expand hands-on educational programming, and improve our hiking trails and outdoor spaces. As a vital economic driver and regional tourism anchor, Har-Ber Village draws thousands of visitors to Grove each year—supporting local businesses, strengthening community partnerships, and enhancing quality of life. Thanks to you, Har-Ber Village continues to be more than a museum—it's a gathering place, a learning hub, and a proud symbol of why Grove is such a great place to live, work, and visit. Here are some ways you can help the Village thrive:

Leave us a review | Free: One of the best ways to let others know about the Village is to leave us a review! This enables them to see our pages on sites like Google and Facebook. [Click here to leave a Google review.](#)

Become a donor | \$5+: You can now become an official Har-Ber Village resident. Donations and memberships directly benefit the Village. [Donate!](#)

Come to our events: One of the main goals of the Village is to provide a place for the community to come and gather. By participating in events, you help us meet that goal. [Check out upcoming events.](#)

Spread the word! | Free: Do you enjoy the Village? Tell your neighbors or share pictures on social media! Tag The Village in your social posts so we can hear about your great time and your friends can see it, too! [Facebook link.](#)

Meet the Executive Director

Nicole Reynolds would love to show you the Village or visit about the vision and Harvey and Bernice Jones and the legacy of philanthropy and giving of the Founders.



Nicole Reynolds - Executive Director
director@har-bervillage.com

Har-Ber Village | 4404 West 20th Street Grove | Grove, OK 74344 US

FEIN: 71-0541295

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