

**The STRONG Partnership
Supporting Transition Resources and Opportunities in Neighborhoods Grant**

The Kentucky Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) in collaboration with the Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network (KY-SPIN); Seven Counties Services and the other partner agencies of the Neighborhood Place including the Louisville Metro Cabinet for Health and Human Services, Jefferson County Public Schools, and the State Department for Community Based Services; Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities, Kentucky Division of Protection and Advocacy, the University of Kentucky Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute; Workforce Development Cabinet; Center for Accessible Living; Metro United Way; The Council on Mental Retardation, Faith-Based Initiative, and Project FIND; and other state and local partners, including local faith-based organizations, proposes the development of a transition resource center for individuals and families with members with disabilities to complement the existing array of services available through the Louisville Metro area's Neighborhood Place one-stop family centers. The grant will support the development of a written plan for implementing a transition resource center in one or more of the Neighborhood Places for targeted individuals and families to preserve and strengthen the family unit and empower the person with a disability and his/her family to achieve enhanced life outcomes.

The planning grant will focus on three of the eight Neighborhood Place centers: Neighborhood Place South Central, Neighborhood Place Bridges of Hope, and Neighborhood Place Ujima. The three centers are in contiguous areas in central and western Louisville and have a large number of targeted families who could benefit from the services and supports of the transition resource center and are likely to access other services at the Neighborhood Place. The areas are home to a number of families who live in poverty and/or are from racial, ethnic, or cultural minorities such as African-American families and refugees from other countries. They also have a higher percentage of adults age 16 and older who are not-institutionalized who report mobility and self-care limitations and are home to a higher number of the elderly poor.

The transition resource center will increase opportunities for individuals and families to connect to services and supports within their respective neighborhoods and improve access to and inclusion in neighborhood programs. The transition resource center will:

- 1) Bring together a broad array of local and state partners and families;
- 2) Target individuals with disabilities and their families who are in poverty or from racial, ethnic, or cultural minorities including African-American families and refuge and immigrant families and directly involve them in the center's design and implementation;
- 3) Address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan from infants to the elderly from a person-centered viewpoint so that the center respects individual/family competence, acknowledges and honors choice, and supports the lives that they themselves envision and provides opportunity to increase community presence and participation for persons with disabilities so that they can make civic contributions to the well-being of their communities and neighbors.
- 4) Assist families and individuals to plan and develop person-centered plans and successfully negotiate the various transition points that occur along the life-span.

Following the development of the plan in the first year of the grant, the partnership will apply for grant funds to support implementation in the Louisville Metro and expansion of the planning process to Lexington, Kentucky and a site in rural Appalachia. Evaluation measures will be developed and monitored for both the comprehensiveness and quality of the plan.