

Backgrounder: The Social Development Partnerships Program- Disability Component (SDPP-D)

Through the Social Development Partnerships Program –Disability Component (SDPP-D) the Government provides \$11 million annually through grants and contributions to support projects intended to improve the participation and integration of people with disabilities in all aspects of Canadian society. More specifically, the Program supports not-for-profit organizations across Canada in tackling barriers faced by people with disabilities with respect to social inclusion.

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) is working to transform the SDPP-D to ensure that the Program remained responsive to the complex issues facing people with disabilities, while maximizing the impact of federal funding. At the heart of the transition was the move towards a more fully competitive process, meaning that the tradition of annually allocating \$8 million to the same organizations is changing to allow organizations to compete for funding. Other key elements of the transition are new requirements for applicants, including: a strong emphasis on establishing partnerships, leveraging of funds (leveraging refers to the applicant contributing towards project costs, preferably through contributions from partners); and an increasing focus on measuring project results/outcomes.

By April 1st 2015, almost all of SDPP-Ds \$11 million budget will be distributed through competitive processes open to any eligible applicant. SDPP-D's overall program objective will remain the same: to improve the participation and integration of people with disabilities in all aspects of Canadian society. Furthermore, the Program's overall budget of \$11 million a year will not change, but the way in which it is allocated and expectations regarding partnerships, leveraging and outcomes will. This stakeholder engagement process will give you the opportunity to share your views on how you think SDPP-D funds should be allocated after March 31st, 2015.

One course of action which you will hear referred to in the consultation document is the creation of a "national stream" of funding; in other words, a competitive call for proposals that would be open to eligible national disability organizations. SDPP-D would continue to have other calls for proposals that would have broader eligibility criteria and be thematically focussed. The consultation document asks several questions to guide a discussion on development of the parameters for this "national stream".