

# Solicitation Summary

**Date of Solicitation:**

May 31, 2025

**Number of Proposals Received:**

Five

**Review Team Agencies:**

Dakota County Staff

**Services Description:**

This initiative seeks to partner with community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to provide comprehensive support through training, education, technical assistance, and accessible resources. Additionally, microgrants will be made available to entities committed to evolving and improving their accessibility for people with disabilities. As Dakota County launches this initiative, this LOI seeks to identify community partners.

**Primary Deliverables:**

- **Educating and Raising Awareness:** Offering educational opportunities to learn about various disabilities and the challenges people face, sharing this knowledge within communities, and working to dispel myths and misconceptions about disabilities. This also includes offering platforms for individuals with disabilities to share their stories and talents within the community.
- **Creating an Inclusive and Welcoming Environment:** Ensuring that everyone, including people with disabilities, feels welcomed and valued when they enter any store or community space. This involves promoting friendliness and openness while equipping staff with the confidence and skills to provide excellent customer service.
- **Advocating for Change:** Advocating for policies that promote inclusion, working with local governments to improve accessibility and services, and supporting businesses that actively hire and accommodate people with disabilities.
- **Ensuring Accessibility:** Creating and maintaining accessible buildings and public spaces.

**Solicitation Selection Criteria:**

- Cover letter (including company name, website, address, and name, phone and email of contact)

- Responses to questions #1 - #3 below.

When responding to the Letter of Interest (LOI) for the Communities for All initiative, entities, businesses, and organizations should include the following elements to ensure a clear, concise, and complete submission:

**1. Introduction and Background:**

- a. A brief overview of the respondent's organization, mission, and core activities.
- b. A statement of interest that expresses why the organization is interested in participating in the initiative, how it aligns with its values or goals, and the organization's readiness to contribute to the success of the Communities for All initiative.

**2. Proposed Ideas:**

- a. A description of the services or items the organization would like to provide or receive from others to support the initiative's goals (e.g., training, technical assistance, public education, accessibility improvements, sensory equipment, etc.).
- b. An explanation of how these services will promote inclusivity and benefit people with disabilities within Dakota County.
- c. Budgets are not a required component of the LOI response. However, if you have established costs for the services you are interested in providing (e.g., hourly wages, set rates for training, etc.) or have obtained any cost estimates for your proposal, include that information.

**3. Experience and Expertise: (only complete if you identify as Target Population #2 - sharing your knowledge or expertise)**

- a. A summary of the organization's experience and expertise in areas related to the initiative, such as working with people with disabilities, promoting inclusion, or implementing accessibility improvements.
- b. Specific examples of past projects, programs, or services that demonstrate the organization's ability to contribute effectively to the initiative.

**Evaluation Results:**

After a thorough review, the review panel recommended moving forward with five projects proposed by: Advocating Change Together (ACT), City of Eagan, City of Farmington, Dakota County Agricultural Society, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA).

Projects with the cities require authorization from the Board for Joint Powers Agreements. The following projects will be facilitated through contracts that do not require County Board approval due to contract amount limits. The following is a description of non-city projects:

- Advocating Change Together (ACT) – \$27,250 for Disability Awareness in Schools, Supported Decision Making Course, Disability Pride Fest Sponsorship, Disability Visibility and Education Booths at Fairs, Side by Side Choir, and Remembering with Dignity (Grave Marker Project).
- Dakota County Agricultural Society – \$26,800 for hosting the Momentum Refresh universally designed restroom trailer and hosting the Joy Mobile sensory experience unit at the 2025 Dakota County Fair.

- Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) - \$6,000 to hire a qualified consultant specializing in disability inclusion to develop and deliver inclusive awareness training for bus operators.

### **Rationale of Recommended Vendor:**

The **Communities for All Initiative** aims to collaborate with community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to offer comprehensive support through training, education, technical assistance, and accessible resources.

The four selected vendors submitted proposals that addressed all five key goals outlined in the Letter of Interest for the Communities for All Initiative: **Educating & Raising Awareness, Creating an Inclusive & Welcoming Environment, Advocating for Change, and Ensuring Accessibility**. The review panel carefully evaluated all submissions to determine which proposals aligned with the scope and objectives of the initiative.