



## NEW INDEPENDENT PROVIDER OPPORTUNITY

### Purpose of the Request

- COG To encourage people to become independent providers for individuals with disabilities.
- COG To increase the number of independent provider to help with the lack of providers in the developmental disabilities system and individuals not receiving planned services.

### Strategic Plan Priority/Core Value –Grow

- COG **Grow Outcome 1** – The COG would like to encourage people to become independent provider and serve individuals with developmental disabilities. The new independent providers could help serve the individuals that cannot find a provider or are not getting all of the services they have planned to receive due to the lack of providers available.
- COG **Connect Outcome 1** – The COG would like to encourage people to become independent providers to help with the DSP workforce crisis.

**Budget:** Calendar year 2020 budget is \$4,700

### Detailed Description

- COG Clearwater COG will provide financial assistance in the form of “lump sum payments” to independent providers that request reimbursement for the costs associated with certification fees and/or background checks.
- COG One COG staff will approve each request submitted by providers. The COG will have a simple request form developed for providers to use.
- COG Independent providers will be selected on a first come basis.
- COG Certification fees and/or background checks shall be paid within 60 days of the request. After receiving the certification approval letter and/or proof of the payment for the background check, the COG will reimburse the independent provider.
- COG The new provider shall register themselves into the DSP Directory upon becoming certified.

### Expected Outcomes

- COG Increased number of independent providers in the Clearwater COG region.
- COG Individuals receiving services will have a larger pool of providers to choose from when selecting a provider.
- COG Individuals that are not receiving all of their planned services will have provider available to receive their services.