



Bridges to Success Pilot Program

Organization Name: Autism Nova Scotia

Program to be Evaluated: Bridges to Success Program

Invitation:

Autism Nova Scotia is seeking a qualified program evaluator to conduct a program evaluation of the Bridges to Success pilot. This proposal will focus on a) building in evaluative tools into the program architecture that measure its effectiveness and assure the program is functioning in the most appropriate way to meet the goals of individuals in the program, b) outline to the program's effect in achieving the outcomes laid out funding proposal, c) document the successes and challenges of the pilot program, including its broader place within the day-program service delivery landscape, and d) offer basic recommendations for improving the delivery. The evaluation should use both qualitative and quantitative tools, such as interviews, pre- and post-surveys, assessment of participant tracking and results, as well as other data coding systems. These measurement tools will assess the following desired goals and the impact of the program on four key stakeholders; 1) participants, 2) respite/support workers/families, 3) community partners and 4) Autism Nova Scotia Staff.

Background:

Autism Nova Scotia (formerly the Provincial Autism Centre) was founded in October of 2002, with a vision of connecting individuals with autism, families and loved ones into a community to address the need for information, and to others facing a similar diagnosis. The organization offers a variety of programs and services including family support, social groups, camps, employment support and more.

Our Vision:

A world where all people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can live their lives fully.

Our Mandate:

We are a community-based organization that fosters understanding, acceptance, and collaborative approaches for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders throughout Nova Scotia.

Purpose of the Project:

Bridges to Success is an innovative pilot program that will initially reach 12 people with ASD (between the ages of 18-24) in the Halifax-Dartmouth-Bedford area. This program aims to support the development of participants' social and life skills through person-driven planning that fuels the program's activities through five key pillars, these include: life skills, community exploration, recreation and leisure, self-regulation and social connection.

The program aims to support participants in developing skills that align with their own personal goals and transition each participant, with support, into meaningful community-based social and recreational activities. This program will achieve sustainable outcomes that last beyond the duration of the funding by building capacity within community partners and ensuring



that participants receive robust on-going support from respite/support workers. Modeled as a hybrid of three previously successful community experience and social-life coaching programs, this new program offering is designed to be scalable into other Nova Scotia communities.

The overlying outcomes of the Bridges to Success pilot program are as follows:

- 1) 12 people with ASD (participants) will be transitioned into community-based social and recreational, activities, with support that is sustainable after the program ends,
- 2) Community partners will have increased capacity to offer inclusive social and recreational activities to participants with ASD, beyond the span of the pilot program,
- 3) Participants will develop social skills and life skills that are essential for independence and meeting basic needs,
- 4) Respite/support workers will gain new skills, knowledge, experience, for deploying autism specific supports and strategies,
- 5) Participants will have increased opportunities and experiences in community and social settings.

Scope of Works:

The successful evaluator should be able to support Autism Nova Scotia staff by providing suggestions on how to build the curriculum and assessments to include evaluative methods. Along with, employing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The evaluator will be asked to construct their approach and methods around consulting with Autism Nova Scotia staff charged with overseeing the administration of the Bridges to Success program. The evaluator will also be asked to engage with participants, support workers and community members, through interviews and/or questionnaires, pre- and post-surveys, assessment of participant tracking and results, as well as other data coding systems, and will be asked to allow any data collected to inform recommendations for how to best structure the program moving forward.

Deliverables:

- Feedback on incorporating evaluative approaches during the development of the program
- Evaluation design for the Bridges to Success Program
- Articulate clearly the scope, successes, and adaptations of the project to meet the needs of the participants, support workers and community members.
- Interviews with Autism Nova Scotia staff, facilitators, participants support workers, families and community members
- Supporting data analysis
- Quarterly and Final evaluation reports (Dates will be provided by Program Supervisor as per the requirements)



Timelines:

November 2019 – March 2020

Budget:

Total 50 hours - \$4,150 plus HST = Total of \$4,772.50

Break down of Payment

2019-2020- \$4,150 plus HST = \$4,722.50 (Invoice must be received before year-end, March 31, 2020)

Proposal Requirements

- Cover letter offering any relevant experience
- Project Management Approach and work plan for evaluating the program;
- Declaration of Experience and Qualifications (Attach a separate CV if needed.)

Application Deadline:

Please submit applications electronically by October 28, 2019, and direct any questions to:

Thomas Reynolds

Program Supervisor with Autism Nova Scotia

Email: programsupervisor@autismns.ca