

***Project CONNECT Request for Proposals***  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Do existing *Project CONNECT* sites have to reapply for the grant?**

No. Existing project sites will continue to be funded at a reduced level without having to reapply.

**2. Why should my school district/local area apply for *Project CONNECT*?**

*Project CONNECT* was developed in response to findings by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that reflected a lack of interagency collaboration in transition planning and the lack of agency attendance at Transition IEP meetings. This continues to be a finding by both OSEP and Florida Department of Education monitoring. The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education, is committed to providing support for the improvement of interagency collaboration statewide. *Project CONNECT* is one method of supporting collaboration in transition through the development or improvement of interagency transition teams. Benefits that have resulted from interagency transition teams include:

- increased communication and collaboration among educators, agencies, community organizations, and families of individuals with disabilities;
- increased awareness of transition options and agency services through the development of products (such as brochures, handbooks, videos, or agency directories) and activities (such as agency fairs, college nights, or inservice training);
- increased availability of information about transition for all stakeholders;
- increased access to services;
- better coordination of transition services among stakeholders;
- provision of technical assistance, support, and expanded opportunities from the state level; and
- a statewide support network for sharing materials and ideas.

**3. Can my district receive assistance in completing the grant application?**

Yes. Two methods of support are available.

- *Project CONNECT* site coordinators can answer questions about their experiences in the process of submitting and obtaining the grant.
- Technical assistance is available from the state Project Coordinator at The Transition Center at the University of Florida. Support may include a review of the proposed application, suggestions for content, definition or clarification of project requirements, etc. See below for contact information.

**4. Are samples of previously submitted grants available for review?**

Yes.

- Samples may be obtained from the Project Coordinator at The Transition Center. However, since the format changed significantly last over time, some samples would benefit applicants only in terms of content.
- A sample of how the application may be completed is available as part of the application package.

**5. Who can I contact for more information?**

Persons interested in more information on the project may contact:

- the local project site coordinators about their involvement and experiences with the project. A list is of project coordinators is included with the application.
- Joyce Lubbers or John Boekenoogen, at The Transition Center at the University of Florida.

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**6. Is an electronic version of the application available?**

Yes.

- The application may be obtained electronically from The Transition Center website at [www.thetransitioncenter.org](http://www.thetransitioncenter.org) in the *Project CONNECT* section. Files available in both PDF and Microsoft Word formats.
- Or contact Joyce Lubbers ([jlubbers@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:jlubbers@coe.ufl.edu)) or John Boekenoogen ([jrboek@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:jrboek@coe.ufl.edu)) to request a copy via email.