

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCDA Government Relations Committee Announces New State Advocacy Grant Program

[AUGUST 13, 2026] — The National Career Development Association (NCDA) Government Relations Committee (GRC) is launching a new **State Advocacy Grant Program** to support advocacy efforts that advance career development awareness and public policy engagement at the state level.

The new program is designed to help career development professionals and state associations strengthen the voice of career development within their states by providing support for advocacy activities that build awareness, engage policymakers, develop advocacy capacity, and create opportunities for meaningful public policy engagement.

“Strong state-level advocacy is essential to ensuring that the value and impact of career development are understood by policymakers and other decision-makers,” said **Sarah JanTausch, Co-Chair of the NCDA Government Relations Committee**. “This program is designed to give members and state associations an opportunity to turn advocacy ideas into action while building stronger and more sustainable advocacy efforts across the country.”

Supporting Advocacy Across States

The State Advocacy Grant Program will support a range of activities, including:

- Legislative Advocacy Days;
- Meetings with state policymakers;
- Advocacy training for members;
- Public awareness and education initiatives;
- Policy engagement events;
- Development of advocacy resources and materials; and
- Other advocacy efforts aligned with NCDA's mission.

The program is intentionally designed to provide opportunities for states at different stages of advocacy development. Eligible applicants include:

- Established state career development associations;
- NCDA members applying in conjunction with a state career development association; and
- Groups of two or more NCDA members in states that do not currently have a state career development association.

“A state does not need to already have an established advocacy infrastructure to begin building its voice,” said Steven Thomas, Co-Chair of the NCDA Government Relations Committee. “We want this opportunity to encourage both established state associations and members who are ready to create something new.”

Application and Project Timeline

Applications will open August 14, 2026, and must be submitted by September 13, 2026. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by September 30, 2026. Funded advocacy activities must take place between September 2026 and September 2027.

Building a Culture of Advocacy

The State Advocacy Grant Program is intended not only to support individual advocacy activities, but also to help build long-term advocacy capacity throughout the NCDA community. Successful projects may help members develop relationships with policymakers, increase public understanding of career development, strengthen advocacy skills, create new resources, and establish a foundation for continued state-level engagement. The GRC encourages NCDA members and state career development associations to consider how they can use this opportunity to elevate the profession and strengthen the role of career development within their state.

About the NCDA Government Relations Committee

The NCDA Government Relations Committee works to strengthen the voice of career development through informed advocacy and to support engagement on issues affecting the career development profession and the individuals it serves. The State Advocacy Grant Program represents a new opportunity for members and state associations to translate that commitment into action at the state level.

Application Information

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

- Applications Open: August 14, 2026
- Application Deadline: September 13, 2026
- Award Notifications: September 30, 2026
- Eligible Project Period: September 2026-September 2027

For questions about the State Advocacy Grant Program, contact:

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