

**Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES)
2026-2027 Mentorship Cohort Opportunity Announcement (MCOA)**

Deadline for application: July 7, 2026

I. Overview

This is a mentorship cohort opportunity to establish, build, achieve accreditation for, sustain, increase access to, or expand Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) services serving adults with diabetes in Florida. Successful applicants will be provided individual and group technical assistance and mentorship. They will also be able to request \$1,000-\$4,000 in resource support. The program period is from approximately August 25, 2026, to May 7, 2027.

A. Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support

People with diabetes who complete DSMES are better able to manage their disease and prevent or delay complications. DSMES is NOT a 24-hour nurse hotline or a brochure. Rather, it is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to disease management that meets National Standards. To ensure DSMES services adhere to these data-driven standards, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) authorizes the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES) to certify DSMES programs as meeting the National Standards. CMS reimburses DSMES services only when provided by organizations recognized by the ADA or accredited by the ADCES. The designation of ADA recognition or ADCES accreditation assures participants in these DSMES programs that they are receiving quality, data-driven services.

Before responding to this mentorship cohort opportunity announcement, please review the following websites and resources for information regarding DSMES.

ADCES Website:

<https://www.adces.org/>

ADA Website:

<http://www.diabetes.org/>

Interpretive Guidance for ADCES's Diabetes Education Accreditation Program:

<https://www.adces.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-interpretive-guidance6-8-22e677fa36a05f68739c53ff0000b8561d.pdf>

ADA National Standards for DSMES Interpretive Guidance & Checklist:

<https://professional.diabetes.org/sites/default/files/media/11th-edition-interpretive-guidance-checklist-3-21-22.pdf>

National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/26350106211072203>

DSMES Guidance Manual

[DSMES Manual - Florida Diabetes Alliance](#)

II. Purpose of the Program

The purpose of this program is to increase access to quality DSMES services and to increase organizational capacity to provide quality diabetes self-management education and support services. Areas of particular focus include rural communities without a recognized or accredited DSMES program and populations that experience high rates of type 2 diabetes, its complications, and diabetes-related death.

The short-term goal is to increase the number of DSMES programs that are on a path toward accreditation or recognition. The long-term goal is to increase the number of programs in Florida that provide DSMES and meet the National Standards for accreditation and/or recognition. This program is intended to support activities, purchases, and technical assistance that will help eligible organizations attain one of the following objectives:

Objective 1: Build infrastructure that aligns with National Standards for DSMES

Objective 2: Achieve DSMES accreditation or recognition

Objective 3: Establish a recognized or accredited satellite site

Objective 4: Increase longevity and/or expansion of an existing recognized or accredited DSMES

Objective 5: Increase access to a recognized or accredited DSMES program

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS FOR DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT (DSMES) ONLY. THIS PROGRAM IS NOT INTENDED TO SUPPORT DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAMS (DPP). WE CANNOT SUPPORT ANY AGENCY RECEIVING 2320 DIABETES GRANT MONEY OR ANY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THIS OPPORTUNITY IS FOR DSMES SERVICES SERVING ADULTS ONLY. PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

III. Mentorship Opportunity

The cornerstone of this funding opportunity is exclusive access to our mentorship program. Successful applicants will join a cohort of 5–8 agencies, ensuring an intimate, highly tailored experience. Each agency will be matched with a dedicated mentor for intensive, one-on-one collaboration. This time will allow for personalized guidance on your actual project and/or program. These experts bring at least 5 years of experience in building and maintaining successful DSMES programs. Their expertise spans the entire program lifecycle: they have successfully guided agencies from the very earliest stages of program development to achieving formal accreditation or recognition through the accrediting body of their choice. Cohort members will also meet virtually once a month to receive high-level technical assistance, engage in peer-to-peer problem-solving, and share proven best practices.

IV. Resource Support

Our mentorship program is designed to empower participants by providing not only expert guidance but also essential resources to help build their programs. In addition to mentorship, we will provide direct support for program development and cover the cost of specific items essential to your success.

The resource support ranges from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per participant. These funds are used to purchase approved items on your behalf, such as:

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- Educational materials and curriculum: Books, online courses, software, or other learning resources.
- Training fees (excluding travel costs): Expenses related to workshops, seminars, or specialized skill development.
- Accreditation/recognition fees: Expenses for official recognition or certification of your program.

Please note that funds are disbursed as direct purchases of approved items; no cash will be provided to participants.

A. Program Priorities

Priority will be given to:

- Organizations proposing to provide services in counties with no recognized or accredited DSMES program, or that demonstrate an unmet need.
- Organizations that demonstrate a strong network of community partners.
- Other organizations will be considered, but organizations that meet the above criteria will receive priority.

B. Program Details

- Program period: Date executed by both parties through May 7, 2027
- Cohort members will be assigned a mentor
- The role of an assigned mentor is to provide specialized technical assistance and program development consultation.

V. Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Complete baseline and follow-up surveys on the implementation of the National Standards
- With assistance of a mentor, submit a work plan within 2 weeks of contract execution
- Submit demographics of DSMES clients served, if applicable at the beginning and end of the mentorship period
- Complete monthly surveys on progress and satisfaction
- Attend monthly technical assistance Zoom calls
- Communicate at least monthly with assigned mentor
- Submit at least one client success or program development success story on a provided template
- Submit a final progress report by Friday, May 7, 2027.

VI. Other Requirements

- Organizations must either meet the DSMES National Standards or commit to working towards meeting the DSMES National Standards.
- Grantees must document efforts to adjust the delivery of the DSMES programs to mitigate hindrance to enrollment and retention.

VII. Application Submission Process

Applicants are required to apply via completion of an application on SurveyMonkey, which is located at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26_27DSMESApplication

STEP 1: Review the entire mentorship cohort opportunity announcement, including the reference materials mentioned above, before completing the application survey.

STEP 2: Complete the information requested in SurveyMonkey. The questions are also listed at the end of this document for reference and planning, but the application must be completed in SurveyMonkey. All information must be completed.

VIII. Application Review Process

All applications will be reviewed by a review committee. As part of the application review process, the review committee may interview applicants by telephone to better assess the organization's ability and commitment to achieving the program goal(s).

Based on the applications received and interview results, the review committee will make cohort selections and resource allocations. Decisions of the review committee are final.

IX. Program Timeline

Opportunity announcement released on or before Monday, June 1, 2026

Q&A conference call

Monday, June 15, 2026, 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82459216622?pwd=qUs2cufRIT1cizaNxbTFrw7lFVrcW7.1>

Meeting ID: 824 5921 6622

Passcode: 539859

Summary of conference call posted on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, on Health Council websites

Application deadline

Friday, July 7, 2026*

Awards announced

Anticipated by Tuesday, July 28, 2026

All funded activities completed by

Friday, May 7, 2027**

All reports received by

Friday, May 7, 2027

*All applications must be received by midnight ET on this date. Late applications will not be considered.

**All activities, including travel and training, MUST be completed by this date.

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Below is a **sample** set of report and activity requirements

Sample Reports/Activities and Due Dates

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Reports and Activities</i>
Within 2 weeks of award	Conference call with the program and mentor to discuss work plan and timeline Completion of baseline SurveyMonkey Survey, indicating which National Standards are in place. Progress Report including: 1. Work plan describing what the mentee will accomplish throughout the program period, including a timeline and the person responsible for each activity. 2. Identify qualified DSMES Coordinator 3. If seeking DSMES accreditation/recognition, specify whether ADA or ADCES process will be used.
As needed, minimum monthly	Conference Call with program and/or mentor to discuss work plan, challenges, and concerns related to the program and activities.

<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Reports and Activities</i>
Monthly	<u>Progress Report:</u> Progress report will include an update on the work plan and milestones and: 1. Is the organization on track with completing activities in the work plan? 2. If not, what are the reasons for any delays? 3. What other DSMES-related accomplishments have the organization achieved during this reporting period? 4. What challenges has the organization encountered during this reporting period, and how were they overcome? 5. Checklist of National Standards showing which are in place. 6. Progress toward achieving objectives.
May 7, 2027	<u>Final report describing the following:</u> 1. Work plan milestones as shown above. 2. Reason for any milestones not achieved. 3. Successes, challenges, lessons learned. • Each agency will be required to submit a success story on a template that will be provided.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Summary of mock audit/site visit if applicable5. Submit proof of application for accreditation or recognition or projected date for application if applicable6. Next steps (post-program period).7. During this program period, how many participants received DSMES services through the mentee at the site supported through this program? What are their demographics? |
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DSMES MENTORSHIP COHORT APPLICATION SCORE SHEET

(Score sheet is to be completed by the Review Committee. Applicants should refer to this attachment to ensure all sections of the application are addressed.)

Applicant Organization: _____

Reviewer Name: _____ Date Reviewed: _____ SCORE: _____

APPLICATION SECTION/QUESTION	SCORING CRITERIA	SCORE
MENTORSHIP COHORT APPLICATION (via Survey Monkey - required) https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26_27DSMESApplication		
What type of agency is your organization?	Non-profit or government – 2 points For-profit – 0 points	
List the counties where your organization currently provides DSMES (whether or not they are recognized or accredited), the counties where you plan to provide DSMES, and the counties where you propose to increase access for people with no or limited DSMES services	Score of 0-5 points based on whether the counties listed would increase access to individuals in areas with no or limited DSMES services	
Experience: Describe your organization's knowledge and experience with providing diabetes education services.	0-20 points based on the strength of the response and the organization's prior experience	
Project Overview: Please describe what you would hope to accomplish from participating in this program.	0-25 points based on the strength of the response and the degree of benefit to the community served	
Project Justification: How would this help the people you serve? What are the gaps you would be filling?	Score of 0-25 points based on the need indicated by the gaps described and the quality of the answer.	
Describe the staff who are currently or proposed to be involved in diabetes education or management.	0-20 points based on the strength of staff described and the projected ability of the staffing to meet the goals of the grant and program.	
Provide three community references (outside of your organization) who can speak to your organization's capability and commitment to providing education services. For each reference, provide the following information	0-3 points based on whether appropriate references are provided.	