

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Request for Proposal Reviewer Summary
Expansion of Leadership Development & Advocacy Skills Training Projects

Applicant Organization:	Brighton School (San Antonio)
Key Project Staff:	Lorene Dillard (Project Director); Manuel Garcia (Project Coordinator)
Project Location (counties):	Bexar, Kendall, Comal, and Guadalupe

Project Abstract:

From the proposal: The Parent Alliance for Learning and Support program provides classroom and hands-on training to parents of children with disabilities, young adults with disabilities and community members in the areas of self, IDEA and general advocacy. All training for parents of children with disabilities and young adults (ages 15-22) with disabilities are provided through curriculums which allow hands-on learning environment. The training provided through the PALS program works to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities by providing them a voice until their own voice can be heard.

Year 1 Budget

Funding amount requested:	\$ 40,000
Match:	<u>\$162,091</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$202,091

Strengths:

- The applicant will support parental involvement, which is important.
- The proposal includes a multifaceted analysis of the origin of the issues and pulled together a strong partnership to address these issues.
- Their program appears to be the only program of this type in the area.
- They should be able to sustain activities; their continuation plan is strong.
- They will expand the impact of their previous activities through their partnerships.

Needs:

- The proposal would be stronger if the applicant, in their response, considered “cultural diversity” in a broader light. There are many aspects of “cultural diversity” beyond language issues. For example, they might have discussed the diversity of disability and/or referenced other aspects of culture.
- The applicant didn’t provide a description of barriers they have encountered in the past and how they were addressed, which was requested in the RFP. Inclusion of this could provide more specific information about needs and about the organization’s ability to solve problems.
- The proposal is not specific about which educational issues will be addressed.

Final Recommendation: Funding Recommended.

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Applicant Organization:	Education Service Center – Region 19 (El Paso)
Key Project Staff:	Ricardo Razo (Project Director); Josue Rodriguez (Project Coordinator)
Project Location (counties):	El Paso, and Hudspeth

Project Abstract:

From the proposal: The Education Service Center - Region 19 and the Paso Del Norte Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) program is requesting support to expand the impact of the current YLF training program and to serve as a resource to other organizations in the community. The requested funds will provide for advanced leadership development and advocacy building activities for young people with disabilities, ages 16-21, who need continued support and advanced training to participate in school and non-disability community organizations such as the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar, the El Paso Mayor's 100 Teens Program, the United Way Global Youth Day Organization and other community organizations.

Year 1 Budget

Funding amount requested:	\$40,000
Match:	\$ 4,444
Total Project Cost:	\$44,444

Strengths:

- Using participants from previous project to mentor others is a good idea.
- The applicant plans to support youth to participate in other non-disability activities/clubs/communities, which is innovative and not frequently done.
- The applicant's partnerships are strong, especially their partnerships with school districts and colleges.
- The organization's experience in this area was reflected in their ability to think through how to implement activities.
- This proposal's cultural diversity plan was one of the most specific of all proposals.

Needs:

- The applicant didn't provide a description of barriers they have encountered in the past and how they were addressed, which was requested in the RFP. Inclusion of this could provide more specific information about needs and about the organization's ability to solve problems.

Final Recommendation: Funding recommended.

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Applicant Organization:	Imagine Enterprises
Key Project Staff:	Sandy (Hardy) Smith (Project Director); Angela DeLeon (Project Coordinator)
Project Location (counties):	The area covered by Region 14 ESC - 43 school districts in West Texas

Project Abstract:

From the proposal: Using a Peer Mentoring training model, Imagine Proposes to increase the capacity and impact of graduates of the Youth Leadership and Advocacy project. In partnership with the Betty Hardwick Center, Region 14 ESC, and Not Without Us Center for Independent Living, the Youth Leadership and Advocacy project will train 6 Peer-to-Peer Trainers to instruct 50 youth as Peer Mentors over the two years of the project. Peer-to-Peer Trainers recruited from the current graduates will receive intensive support and coaching from Imagine staff to provide training in Peer-to-Peer supports, leadership, advocacy, community living, continued education and employment.

Year 1 Budget

Funding amount requested:	\$40,000
Match:	\$13,333
Total Project Cost:	\$53,333

Strengths:

- The organization has strong partnerships.
- The organization has a solid fundraising plan.
- The description of the issues related to cultural diversity is strong.
- The sustainability plan is innovative and broad based.
- The organization is experienced and understands the needs.

Needs:

- The applicant needs a stronger, more specific plan for outreach to increase the diversity of the people they serve. They may need to hire staff or a contractor to address this.
- It's unclear how this is an expansion of the impact of their previous activities. Is the intention to increase capacity of partners as "expansion"? If so, this should have been more clearly noted.
- The connection between project work and outcomes is not clear; it was hard to identify the milestones.

NOTE: There were no funds in the budget specifically identified to ensure that all activities are accessible. This might be because the organization expects to absorb these costs, but this should be clarified.

Final Recommendation: Funding recommended if they can demonstrate how this approach will expand the impact of their previous project.

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Applicant Organization:	The Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center (El Paso)
Key Project Staff:	Gilda Lopez, MA, Director (Project Director), Project Coordinator to be named
Project Location (counties):	El Paso

Project Abstract:

From the proposal: The Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center is requesting \$40,000 which will be matched with agency funds to expand the scope and focus of the already in place and operational Leadership Academy for Families. With the requested funding our agency will add a much needed Parent to Parent mentoring component to this program; provide curriculum enhancements; and increase the overall numbers of families we support. These improvements and expansion of program scope will have a permanent and lasting impact on the community of El Paso, Texas, and become a permanent component of the services we provide.

Year 1 Budget

Funding amount requested:	\$40,000
Match:	\$10,000
Total Project Cost:	\$50,000

Strengths:

- This is clearly an expansion; the project is well-framed in the proposal.
- The parent to parent component – supporting parents to assist other parents, within the public school system, is a good approach.
- The organization involves siblings of youth with disabilities in the programs they offer, not just the parents and/or the youth who have disabilities.
- The organization has strong relationships and broad partnerships.

Needs:

- The discussion of the target population is vague.
- Proposal would be stronger if specific numbers were provided. For example, how many people does this organization serve?
- The sustainability plan is weak and needs more specifics.
- The applicant didn’t provide a description of barriers they have encountered in the past and how they were addressed, which was requested in the RFP. Inclusion of this could provide more specific information about needs and about the organization’s ability to solve problems.

NOTE: The proposal notes the percentage of the children in the area that have been identified as having special health care needs; it seems low.

Final Recommendation: Funding recommended IF the needs are addressed to the satisfaction of TCDD.

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Applicant Organization:	SER - Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast, Inc. (Houston)
Key Project Staff:	Johnny Bright (Project Director); Francesca Garcia (Project Coordinator)
Project Location (counties):	Harris and Galveston, City of Houston and surrounding areas of the Southeast Texas Gulf Coast

Project Abstract:

From the proposal: Building on knowledge gained from first-hand experience, SER aims to expand the availability and community impact of the agency’s existing TCDD Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training using a multi-faceted approach. SER will do so by increasing the involvement of partner agencies, clients and other stakeholders in publishing refined, targeted, best-practice-based curriculum. This curriculum will build on effective existing training structures by introducing an interactive train-the-trainer component for community stakeholders and service providers, who will in turn conduct their own trainings. Furthermore, SER proposes incorporating technology and multimedia resources to ensure greater accessibility of information to clients and the general public.

Year 1 Budget

Funding amount requested:	\$40,000
Match:	\$10,000
Total Project Cost:	\$50,000

Strengths:

- This was the only proposal that identified previous barriers and stated how they addressed them (this evidences an ability to solve problem).
- They are planning to implement social media into the project which should improve their ability to reach more people.
- The use of a “Train the Trainer” model will expand the number of people who have the capacity to provide training to others.
- In the description of issues and needs related to cultural diversity, they did a good job of addressing needs related to both diversity of disability and diversity of ethnicity.

Needs:

- The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) must be more involved for this project to be successful and sustainable. The proposal notes they have had limited PAC involvement in the past; how will they address this problem?
- The sustainability plan needs to be better fleshed out. Why is the PAC not involved in addressing sustainability?

Final Recommendation: Funding recommended IF they can show they will have strong PAC involvement.