

**Background:**

Enclosed for Committee discussion and possible action are:

- **The TCDD FY2012-2016 State Plan: Progress in Year 1 and Suggested Next Steps** – Staff provide this document to assist Council members in monitoring progress toward goals in the current State Plan and to inform future decisions about activities or Plan amendments. The document includes suggested “Next Steps,” including possible amendments to the Plan, for the Committee’s consideration. State Plan amendments require public comment prior to submitting to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Staff recommend that any proposed amendments be drafted and reviewed at the February meeting.
- **Advocacy U Support Executive Summary** – Support for the “Advocacy U” website will end 2/28/13. A decision regarding future support for Advocacy U must be made prior to this date. The enclosed Executive Summary includes background information, recommendations made by the grantee, data gathered regarding the use of the website by other organizations, and the estimated cost of continuing to support the website.
- **Culturally Competent Family Supports Executive Summary** – TCDD has experienced a great deal of success in its work with groups that are supporting people with developmental disabilities who strongly identify with an ethnic minority group and their families. The enclosed Executive Summary outlines activities that will build on those successes.

The Committee will also discuss:

- possible next steps to support the continued expansion of the use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports; and
- recommendations from TCDD Public Policy staff regarding building advanced leadership skills in self-advocate communities.

**Project Development Committee**

**Agenda Item 8.**

**Expected Action:**

The Project Development Committee will discuss progress toward State Plan Goals and possible future activities, and may make recommendations to the Council.

**Council**

**Agenda Item 10.**

**Expected Action:**

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

**TCDD FY2012 – 2016 State Plan:  
Progress in Year 1 and Suggested Next Steps**

<p><b>Goal 1:</b> Build collaborations within at least one geographic region served by an Education Service Center (ESC) to demonstrate ways to create measurable improvement in at least two identified indicators of educational success for students with developmental disabilities by 9/30/16.</p>		
Objective	Status as of 9/30/2012	Suggested Next Step(s)
<p><b><u>Objective 1</u></b> Evaluate achievements of Project IDEAL relative to the impact the program might have on the identified indicators of educational success and determine next steps by 2/28/14.</p>	<p>7//26/12 - Project Development Committee determined to not propose additional funding for an independent evaluation.</p>	<p><b>Review and amend plan if activity will not be conducted.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Objective 2</u></b> Identify two indicators of educational success and key criteria to solicit interest from organizations for partnering on activities in a region, by 9/30/12.</p>	<p>Completed. Selected IDEA Indicators 4, 5, and 15. See attached for additional information.</p>	<p>Record baseline data and continue to monitor Region 17 and Texas as a whole.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 3</u></b> In the selected ESC region, provide training and/or intervention to support active engagement by at least one family member for every four students who have developmental disabilities, by 9/30/15.</p>	<p>End date for objective revised to 9/30/16 to correct typographical error.</p> <p>RFP for “Family Involvement in School” posted 9/12/12; will close 11/21/12.</p>	<p>Complete RFP process. Monitor if awarded.</p> <p>Earliest possible project start date for project is 3/1/2013.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 4</u></b> Partner with other organizations to develop and evaluate a user-friendly template for a summary report of educational outcomes of students with developmental disabilities within a school district or school that may be used by organizations to provide information to parents, by 9/30/15.</p>	<p>Not yet started.</p>	<p><b>Review and determine if this continues to be a priority or if an amendment is needed.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Objective 5</u></b> Demonstrate how appropriate assistive technology can enable students with developmental disabilities to reach their educational goals, by 3/31/16.</p>	<p>Enabling Technology RFP posted 5/27/11 for projects to address employment or school. No proposals to address education received.</p>	<p><b>Review and determine if this continues to be a priority or if an amendment is needed.</b></p>

**Goal 2:** Establish at least two programs that assist Texans with developmental disabilities to gain competitive employment and/or to increase their personal income and assets, and that continue to operate after the completion of a maximum of 3-5 years of TCDD funding, by 9/30/16.

Objective	Status as of 9/30/2012	Suggested Next Step(s)
<p><b><u>Objective 1</u></b> Implement a program that provides supports and on-the-job learning opportunities to students with developmental disabilities in a post-secondary program that results in at least 80 percent of students who participate for two or more years in the program gaining jobs related to their desired careers within six months of completing their education, by 3/31/16.</p>	<p>Three projects started in FY12: Project CASE Texas Tech; Project in Lubbock 10/1/2011-9/30/2016</p> <p>Project Hire DARS; Project in McAllen 1/1/2012-12/31/2016</p> <p>Bridge to Career in Human Service TAMU, project in College Station 10/1/2011-9/30/2016</p>	<p>Monitor and evaluate.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 2</u></b> Develop and implement a plan to demonstrate to employers, people with developmental disabilities, and/or family members how available assistive technology can increase job performance and employment options, by 3/31/16.</p>	<p>Two projects started in FY12: Enabling Technology: Collaborating for the Future (Virtual Job Coach) Strategic Educational Solutions 4/1/12 – 3/31/17</p> <p>Working with HEART (application to take inventory) Educational Programs Inspiring Communities, Inc. 3/1/12-3/28/17</p>	<p>Monitor and evaluate.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 3</u></b> Partner with other organizations to expand and evaluate the impact of Project SEARCH in Texas, by 9/30/16.</p>	<p>Administrative Support for Project SEARCH RFP posted 4/11/12; awarded to Texas Tech in Lubbock (will be statewide); started 10/1/12.</p>	<p>Monitor and evaluate.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 4</u></b> Each year, advocate for legislative and/or policy change to increase the assets a person receiving SSI and/or Medicaid can retain without losing benefits and to remove other policy-related barriers to full-time or part-time employment.</p>	<p>Public Policy Staff participated in workgroups, such as the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant workgroup, that are addressing this issue.</p> <p>Demonstration projects that ended in FY12: Community Healthcare and VSA Self-Employment projects.</p>	<p>Continue to advocate.</p> <p>Review final reports from demonstration projects (incl. Easter Seals Asset project, ended FY11) to determine if materials or information can be used in advocacy effort or suggest a “next step.”</p>

**Goal 3:** Conduct ongoing educational campaigns in collaboration with community leaders, organizations, and businesses to enable them to better support, include, and/or provide services to people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2016.

Objective	Status as of 9/30/2012	Suggested Next Step(s)
<p><b><u>Objective 1</u></b> Develop, implement, and evaluate at least two targeted educational campaigns to increase awareness of specific issues and/or to reduce stigma that may negatively impact the life of a person who has a developmental disability, by 9/30/14.</p>	<p>Council selected “Accessible Parking” as the topic for the first campaign 5/4/12. Staff was directed to determine best approach and to draft an Executive Summary for specific activities.</p>	<p>Executive Summary for to go to Council 10/25/12.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 2</u></b> Provide increased level of support to TCDD during legislative sessions as needed to implement communication activities and to provide information requested by members of the legislature and/or the media.</p>	<p>Not applicable. Texas only has legislative sessions in odd numbered years.</p>	<p>No changes recommended.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 3</u></b> Provide information and/or technical assistance to at least four organizations that promote general community development, so that they may better include, support, and address the needs of community members who have developmental disabilities by 9/30/16.</p>	<p>Staff worked directly with three organizations as described by this goal: Circle of 10; OneStar Foundation; West Central Texas Regional Foundation.</p>	<p>Continue to work with organizations, as needed and appropriate, to help them better understand how to include people with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Develop formal evaluation and tracking system.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 4</u></b> Work with others to provide information to at least 200 community organizations and/or businesses to better support inclusion of people with developmental disabilities more fully by 9/30/16.</p>	<p>DD network partners discussed and did not identify materials that needed broader dissemination.</p> <p>Four “Inclusive Faith-Based Communities” grants awarded to assist faith-based communities to better include people with IDD.</p> <p>RFP posted 9/28/12 to sponsor disability-related presentations at conferences.</p>	<p>Continue.</p> <p>Develop tracking system to decrease likelihood of counting the same organization twice.</p>

**Goal 4:** In at least one Health and Human Service (HHS) region, increase the percentage of people with developmental disabilities surveyed who report they have access to the transportation they need to participate in their community in the manner they wish, by 9/30/16. (Note: Goal revised Goal 4 for FY13, to read “increase by 1% the percentage of...” in response to input by peer review team)

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Status as of 9/30/2012</b>	<b>Suggested Next Step(s)</b>
<p><b><u>Objective 1</u></b> Partner with disability advocacy groups, public transportation advocacy groups, and/or leadership and advocacy training programs to increase the number of individuals with disabilities who serve on transportation planning entities and are active in transportation planning by 9/30/15.</p>	<p>Accessible Transportation, Accessible Communities RFP posted 6/8/12.</p>	<p>Proposal and Review Panel recommendations to be reviewed by Executive Committee 10/24/12.</p> <p>No changes recommended.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 2</u></b> Build the capacity of at least four local organizations in the selected Region to provide transportation training to people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/16.</p>	<p>Accessible Transportation, Accessible Communities RFP posted 6/8/12.</p>	<p>Proposal to be reviewed by Executive Committee 10/24/12.</p> <p>No changes recommended.</p>

**Goal 5:** Demonstrate how to prevent unnecessary admissions to State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) by supporting community organizations in at least 1 HHS Region to increase their capacity to provide community-based services that support people with developmental disabilities to improve and maintain their health and to have access as needed to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite, by 9/30/16.

Objective	Status as of 9/30/2012	Suggested Next Step(s)
<p><b><u>Objective 1</u></b> Determine evaluation methodology and gather baseline data.</p>	<p>Not yet completed.</p>	<p>Work with DADS to determine if use of Core Indicators is appropriate.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 2</u></b> Provide funding to enable at least 10 organizations working in the target region(s) to implement plans that will increase their capacity to provide healthcare services, behavior supports, and/or respite to support people with developmental disabilities living in the community by 9/30/16.</p>	<p>Building Community Capacity through Collaboration (BC3) RFP posted 7/1/12. Proposals received from Region 1, 4 (2 proposals), 6, and 10.</p> <p>Other projects: Two Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Region 17, Lubbock 6/1/08-5/31/13</p> <p>Gulf Coast of TX African American Family Support Conference Helpful Interventions, Houston (Region 1) 9/1/12-8/31/13</p> <p>Staff worked with the Hogg Foundation and others to support a group of African American Pastors to address issues specific to their communities. (Region 7)</p>	<p>Four BC3 projects slated to begin in FY13. All will involve multiple organizations, but they will not all be in the same region. Earliest possible start date: 12/3/12.</p> <p><b>Determine if an amendment is desired to continue to develop and promote PBIS.</b></p> <p><b>Determine if amendments are desired to address disproportionality of access to, use of, and outcomes from healthcare that is experienced by people who are black, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American.</b></p> <p>Continue to monitor and evaluate.</p>

**Goal 5 (Continued):** Demonstrate how to prevent unnecessary admissions to State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) by supporting community organizations in at least 1 HHS Region to increase their capacity to provide community-based services that support people with developmental disabilities to improve and maintain their health and to have access as needed to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite, by 9/30/16.

<p><b>Objective 3</b> As funds are available, demonstrate and evaluate other strategies to support individuals with developmental disabilities to improve and/or maintain their personal health and well-being by September 30, 2016.</p>	<p>Revised Objective 3 for FY13 to: “Pilot at least 5 different strategies to support IDD and their families to be able to have increased control over their personal health and well-being by 9/30/16.”</p> <p>One Volunteer-Supported Decision-Making Project: Arc of San Angelo, San Angelo 4/1/11-3/31/14</p> <p>One Meaningful Relationships project continued: SafePlace, Austin 2/1/11-1/31/14</p> <p>Three Health and Fitness projects started: “Health and Fitness for People with Developmental Disabilities” SILC 4/1/12-3/31-17</p> <p>“Any Body Can Wellness Program” Any Baby Can, San Antonio 3/1/12-2/28/17</p> <p>“Get Fit Texas” Epilepsy Foundation, Houston 4/1/12-3/31/17</p>	<p>Continue to monitor projects and evaluate.</p>
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**Goal 5 (Continued):** Demonstrate how to prevent unnecessary admissions to State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) by supporting community organizations in at least 1 HHS Region to increase their capacity to provide community-based services that support people with developmental disabilities to improve and maintain their health and to have access as needed to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite, by 9/30/16.

<p><b>Objective 4</b> Each year of the plan, advocate for reallocation and/or more efficient use of existing resources, necessary policy changes, and/or increased funding to enable individuals with developmental disabilities to access necessary healthcare services, behavioral supports, and respite in the communities in which they wish to live and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization.</p>	<p>Public Policy staff participated in: the IDD System Improvement Workgroup; HHSC Children’s Policy Council &amp; System Reform Sub-Committee; HHSC Task Force on Children with Special Health Care Needs; and the Community-based Services Interest List Stakeholders. Staff also worked with the following Advisory Committees: Promoting Independence, Money Follows the Person Demonstration, DADS Aging and Disability Resource Center, Lifespan Respite Services.</p> <p>Staff worked with the DD Network Partners on the SSLC Person Centered Thinking Proposal.</p> <p>One Microboard project demonstrated an alternative to traditional service provision. The Arc of Texas, Austin 10/1/08-9/30/13.</p>	<p>Continue and track efforts.</p>
<p><b>Objective 5</b> Beginning in FY13, develop opportunities to partner with people who have developmental disabilities, families, providers, medical schools, licensing and certification boards, agencies, and/or community-based organizations to provide or develop training and/or practice guidelines that include knowledge related to disability and incorporate components of successful TCDD projects.</p>	<p>Planning staff are exploring a program that offers training (and CMEs) for medical personnel through a series of webinars conducted by the Florida DD Council in collaboration with the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry and the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities.</p>	<p>Continue to explore and consider future projects.</p> <p>Review other relevant grant projects in progress and projects that are completed to determine which resulted in information or models that should be disseminated.</p>

**Goal 6:** Work with others to double the number of identified leadership development and advocacy training programs that are able to provide culturally appropriate training for people with developmental disabilities without ongoing grant funding from TCDD, by 9/30/2016.

Objective	Status as of 9/30/2012	Suggested Next Step(s)
<p><b><u>Objective 1</u></b> Each year of the plan, provide funding or technical assistance to establish and/or strengthen at least one program for the direct funding of a state self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Two projects continued work: TX Advocates; Central, South TX 3/1/12-2/28/15</p> <p>SILC, statewide (focus on rural) 2/1/12-1/31/15</p> <p>TCDD, DD Network Partners, and other partners provided funding and technical assistance for a team to participate in a self-advocacy Summit in Chicago and develop a plan for Texas.</p>	<p>Continue and develop means of evaluating.</p> <p>Work with self-advocate groups and individual self-advocates to decide next steps.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 2</u></b> Each year of the plan, support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.</p>	<p>RFP for “Self Advocates as Speakers” posted 8/20/12.</p>	<p>Proposals due 10/31/12. Earliest possible start date 3/1/12.</p> <p>Explore working with organizations that provide “presentation training,” to adapt their curriculum for self-advocates if necessary.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 3</u></b> Each year of the State Plan, support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.</p>	<p>Staff provided technical assistance to recruit culturally diverse self-advocates to boards.</p> <p>TCDD provided funding to support people with developmental disabilities to serve on boards, committees, and workgroups.</p>	<p>Determine how many cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions exist.</p> <p>Develop or provide support for at least one cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalition in FY13.</p>

**Goal 6 (Continued):** Work with others to double the number of identified leadership development and advocacy training programs that are able to provide culturally appropriate training for people with developmental disabilities without ongoing grant funding from TCDD, by 9/30/2016.

**Objective 4**

Each year of the plan, support individuals who have developmental disabilities, their family members, and their allies to improve their skills related to self-advocacy, public advocacy, and leadership.

Staff monitored other projects in various stages of operation:  
 \*Family to Family, ended in FY12.  
 \*Existing projects that end in FY13:  
     Paso del Norte LAST, El Paso  
     TAMU (TALAC), Statewide  
     Brighton, San Antonio  
     Region 19 (Youth), El Paso  
     Imagine (Youth), West Texas  
 \*Existing project that ends in FY14:  
     SER, Houston  
 \*Existing projects that end in FY15:  
     NAMI, Statewide  
     Arc of Dallas, Dallas  
     TAMU, Bryan-College Station  
     Arc of Texas, Central Texas

To support grantees, staff hosted monthly conference calls to promote coordination information-sharing; and TCDD contracted with Circle of 10 to assist these grantees to develop sustainability for those programs.

TCDD provided funding to help people with IDD or family members to attend conferences or to serve on boards, committees, and workgroups; and worked with "Outreach and Development" projects to increase knowledge necessary to develop culturally competent programs.

Advocacy U continued to be supported during FY12, but was used little by other organizations.

Continue to monitor and evaluate leadership and advocacy projects.

Consider project to develop leaders with very advanced skills.

Continue activities to increase capacity of grantee organizations: continue coordinate monthly calls and explore having guest presenters; continue (and expand to other grantees) contract with Circle of 10. **Consider amendment to plan if necessary.**

Continue to provide stipends and "Outreach and Development" projects. **Consider amendment(s) if necessary.**

**Consider discontinuing support and offering the website to another organization (requires amendment to plan) or provide funding to an organization to reach out and assist organizations to keep information updated.**

**Goal 7:** Each year the Council and its Committees receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council’s mission and goals. (Note: Revised for FY13 to, “Each year the Council and its Committees receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement activities for at least 90% of all identified objectives noted under Goals 1-6, by 9/30/16.”)

Objective	Status as of 9/30/2012	Suggested Next Step(s)
<p>Objective 1 Each year of the State Plan, provide input representing the philosophies and positions of the Council on public policy issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and, when possible, offer concrete policy alternatives to ensure that individuals and families can access and maintain self-directed community-based services and supports of their choice.</p>	<p>Accomplished for FY12.</p> <p>Objective revised for FY13 to “Each year of the State Plan, provide input representing the philosophies and positions of the Council on public policy issues affecting people with developmental disabilities at ninety percent (90%) of occasions and when possible, offer concrete policy alternatives to ensure that individuals and families can access and maintain self-directed community-based services and supports of their choice.”</p>	<p>Determine measurement and monitoring methodology for new Objective; track progress.</p>
<p>Objective 2 Each year of the State Plan, coordinate the Council’s planning, project development, evaluation, and reporting processes, with special attention to strategies to address issues related to the diversity of ethnicity, age, income, and geographic areas of Texas.</p>	<p>Accomplished for FY12.</p> <p>Presentations given to TCDD by: Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians; Friends and Families of Asians with Special Needs; Parents as Partners in Special Education (Spanish language); Dr. King Davis.</p> <p>Objective revised for FY13 to “Each year of the State Plan, coordinate the Council’s planning, project development, evaluation, and reporting processes, with special attention to strategies to address issues related to the diversity of ethnicity, age, income, and geographic areas of Texas and provide updates to the Council on State Plan implementation at least four (4) times yearly.”</p>	<p>Continue to track progress.</p> <p><b>Recommend amending plan to add specific objective to reflect TCDD’s commitment to supporting cultural competency and responsiveness.</b></p>

**Goal 7 (Continued):** Each year the Council and its Committees receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council’s mission and goals.

<p><b><u>Objective 3</u></b> Each year of the State Plan, support the Council to effectively use grant funding to reach identified goals.</p>	<p>Accomplished for FY12.</p> <p>Objective revised for FY13 to “Each year of the State Plan, support the Council to effectively use grant funding to reach identified goals with no lapse of funds greater than 1.5% in any fiscal year.”</p>	<p>Continue with no changes.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 4</u></b> Each year of the State Plan, support and coordinate meetings of the Council and Committees and provide leadership and administrative coordination to implement Council approved activities.</p>	<p>Accomplished for FY12.</p> <p>Objective revised for FY13 to “Each year of the State Plan, support and coordinate at least 4 quarterly Council meetings and at least 12 meetings of the Council and Committees and provide leadership and administrative coordination to implement Council approved activities.”</p>	<p>Continue with no changes.</p>
<p><b><u>Objective 5</u></b> Each year of the State Plan, implement outreach and strategic communication activities to reach specific goals.</p>	<p>Accomplished for FY12.</p> <p>Objective revised for FY13 to “Implement outreach and strategic communication activities to reach specific goals, with at least a 3% increase in established connections to organizations and individuals each year.”</p>	<p>Continue with no changes.</p>

# **Funding Proposal Executive Summary**

## **Culturally Competent Family Supports Executive Summary**

### **Background**

In the last two years, the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) has successfully established relationships with a number of groups that are focused on providing and promoting culturally-competent family supports for families of people with developmental disabilities.

As of October 1, 2012, the Council has approved funding for:

- Reproduction of the successful Central Texas African American Family Support Conference. Funding for this project was approved by the Council in February 2012 with up to \$35,000 available for years one and two, and \$15,000 for year three. A grant to Helpful Foundations was approved in May pending negotiations. Helpful Interventions plans to hold the Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference in 2013.
- Grant awards for up to ten “Outreach and Development” grants of up to \$10,000 each, for up to one year. Thus far, grants have been awarded to:
  - The Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians
  - The Barbara Jordan Endeavors Foundation
  - Centro de Mi Salud
  - Friends and Families of Asians with Special Needs (FFASN)
  - Light and Salt
  - Parents as Partners in Special Education
  - The Sower Foundation

The grants enable these groups to expand on their ability to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities who strongly identify with an ethnic minority culture. The work conducted by grantees also provided TCDD with more in-depth knowledge of barriers that may prevent many Texans with developmental disabilities from receiving the full benefit of existing services and supports.

The Outreach and Development grantees that have completed their projects (The Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians; the Barbara Jordan Endeavors Foundation; FFASN; Light and Salt; and Parents as Partners in Special Education) were expected to provide recommendations based on their experiences. The recommendations and final reports pointed to some commonalities:

- Diversity exists within ethnic communities and impacts how change may be achieved. The following are quotes taken from final reports or presentations:

- “Understand that not all people have access to the internet”
- “Respect the diverse educational levels of this population (Hispanic families), and that sometimes, information must be presented and explained orally (not written).”
- (We learned that) “Rural areas are less open to change... Success means leveraging existing systems and convincing funding sources that rural change may cost more.”
- Despite diversity within ethnic communities, many people who identify strongly with an ethnic minority culture may be more comfortable in environments with others who they see as similar to them. Individual grantees recommended:
  - “Be mindful that assimilation is not a minority culture goal.”
  - “Develop culturally-based work and social environments for Asians with special needs.” (Survey findings indicated that about 2/3 of the Asian families surveyed stated they preferred taking their children to social activities with others from the same cultural background)
- There is a pressing need for information to be provided in people’s native language or in ways consistent with specific culturally-influence learning styles or that are culturally sensitive.
- In some cultures, the family – rather than the individual – is the basic social structure. This impacts how services may be received, and means that the concept of self-advocacy is not strongly emphasized. Grantees recommended:
  - “Understand the cultural issues that impact the family.”
  - “Identify supports needed for Asian families to keep their family members with special needs at home for as long as they wish.” In addition, FFASN reported that over half of the people they surveyed chose foster care with a relative as the preferred living arrangement for their child with a disability if the family could not support that child at home.

The main focus of the Council’s work thus far has been to improve understanding of the different values, cultures, and customs that exist in Texas and how these may influence what is a best practice in service delivery and how supports may best be provided. This work is best viewed as a beginning step towards TCDD’s mission to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities.

To guide the Council on this path, an Outreach and Development Workgroup was formed. The workgroup - consisting of Council members Gladys Cortez, Andy Crim, John Morris, and Cindy Swain - built on information provided by grantees and other sources and drafted “Recommendations for Next Steps,” which was reviewed by the Project Development Committee in February, 2012.

The workgroup's first recommendation was to "Increase the participation of individuals from diverse backgrounds in Council activities and take steps to get input from diverse groups of people into the Council's planning processes, grant projects, policy discussions, and other activities." The group recommended soliciting the input and involvement of Outreach and Development grantees in Council efforts in the future.

The Outreach and Development grants have demonstrated the benefits of partnerships with groups that are a part of, and provide services and supports to, ethnic minority communities:

- They have been able to successfully provide culturally-competent supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families;
- Most have provided valuable insight into the strengths, needs and preferences of the communities they serve;
- All have been willing to provide input and recommendations to TCDD as requested and to provide presentations at Council meetings; and
- TCDD has gained a fuller understanding of some of the barriers that exist for small groups that directly serve specific communities but receive no consistent funding support.

However, one "lesson learned" since the workgroups made their recommendation is that the majority of the Outreach and Development grantees relied a great deal on volunteers to implement activities. They do not have the capacity to become actively involved in many non-core activities. For those who do have paid staff, the staff time is fully occupied by providing direct services and assistance to families who are dependent on them for supports that aren't available elsewhere. Additionally, paying for items that others might consider necessary "infra-structure" – such as a fax machine - may be a financial burden.

These challenges limit the extent to which smaller, grassroots organizations can participate in policy or systems-change work. Several grantees also pointed out in their final report that the impressive outcomes achieved by committed volunteers provided with these small, time-limited grants would not be sustainable over time without funding to develop and maintain some infrastructure. As Light and Salt noted in their final report, "... although volunteers, including parents, have made significant contributions to the growth and success of SNCC, many of them have full time jobs in addition to raising a child with DD, which could be another full time job to them. Thus, a full time paid staff is needed to coordinate and manage the daily operations of the programs and services and to develop strategies to leverage additional resources from the community and other collaborating partners."

## State Plan Goal

**Goal 5:** Demonstrate how to prevent unnecessary admissions to State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) by supporting community organizations in at least 1 HHS Region to increase their capacity to provide community-based services that support people with developmental disabilities to improve and maintain their health and to have access as needed to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite, by 9/30/2016.

## Expected Outcome

At least five organizations will have the opportunity to significantly improve the availability of culturally-competent supports for families of people with developmental disabilities who strongly identify with a specific ethnic community. Additionally, an increased number of these families and individuals will become active advocates or self-advocates.

## Project Description

TCDD will collaborate with other organizations to support specific capacity-building and information-sharing activities lead by an organization that has received funding through TCDD's Outreach and Development grants or that can demonstrate active involvement in the planning and implementation of the 2011 Gulf Coast of Texas African American Family Support Conference. Project activities are focused on building cultural competence and understanding within the organization's broader community.

Funds may be used:

- to support at least one part-time or full-time staff to coordinate culturally appropriate activities and to build the infrastructure of the lead organization so that the organization may continue to exist after the grant period;
- to support culturally appropriate training conducted by a self-advocate or self-advocates to increase understanding of self-advocacy or to develop self-advocacy skills; and
- to translate materials into other languages or accessible formats.

Each project funded must:

- host local or regional culturally-competent conferences, mini-conferences, or regular public meetings to provide information and support to at least 100 families and individuals per year;
- support families and providers to help each other understand how cultural issues may impact service provision;
- support families and individuals to take active roles in guiding service delivery;

- support at least 3 families or individuals to assume leadership roles – or increase the impact of their leadership role - in advocating for high-quality, culturally competent public service systems;
- share information with individuals who have developmental disabilities and their families about opportunities to learn about and engage in self-advocacy;
- assist TCDD to hold an open forum to solicit public input at least once during the life of the grant;
- assist TCDD to develop and disseminate culturally-sensitive information to promote opportunities for individuals to serve on state-level boards and committees, including the Council for Developmental Disabilities.

### **Proposed Funding Amount**

Up to \$75,000 per year, per project, for up to 5 projects. Grantees will be expected to provide match as per TCDD guidelines.

### **Proposed Duration**

Up to 4 years

### **Other Considerations**

1. The Outreach and Development grants are currently funded as activities related to:

Goal 7, Objective 2: Each year of the State Plan, coordinate the Council’s planning, project development, evaluation, and reporting processes, with special attention to strategies to address issues related to the diversity of ethnicity, age, income, and geographic areas of Texas.

The types of activities funded through Outreach and Development grants were intended to inform the Council’s activities in general. However, given the insight gained through the projects funded and the increasing importance of developing the capacity for communities to provide culturally-competent supports, staff recommend Council consideration of a State Plan amendment to reflect these activities more specifically.

2. TCDD expects to fund three additional Outreach and Development grants for a total of ten grants over 2-3 years. TCDD staff recommend Council consideration of funds for up to five projects per year for the remainder of the TCDD five year plan (years 3-5).

# Future Funding Proposal

## Executive Summary

### Continuing Support for Advocacy U Website

#### Background

TCDD funded the development of the website “Advocacy U” ([www.AdvocacyU.org](http://www.AdvocacyU.org)) as one component of a group of projects designed to create a comprehensive network of partner organizations that provide leadership and advocacy training, so that they could share information and resources. TCDD intended for Advocacy U to help ensure that:

- Texans with developmental disabilities, their families, and their allies, had access, as needed, to free training materials, resources and curriculum modules that organizations or individuals may use to train people on a range of topics related to disability advocacy, leadership, and community organizing. Also, TCDD hoped the site would include materials designed specifically for specific target audiences, materials in Spanish, and possibly materials to assist organizations in fundraising and/or marketing.
- Texans with developmental disabilities, their families, and their allies could locate existing leadership and advocacy training programs in their area of the state. The site was to include listings of advocacy, leadership, and community organizing training programs in Texas.

Syracuse University managed the project, provided customer support, and gathered and maintained the information that was not specific to the partner organizations. This includes the information found on the pages in the following sections:

- Home
- About
- Self-Advocates
- Family Members
- Training (for training not offered by the partner organizations)
- Resources

Although Syracuse provided the above content, Advocacy U was developed primarily to provide organizations an easy way in which to contribute information about their upcoming advocacy training and events. Eight organizations that received TCDD leadership development and advocacy training grants at the same time were required, as a part of each grant, to contribute information about their advocacy events. Several of them contributed other valuable information as well, such as programs that could be used by others.

During monthly teleconferences facilitated by TCDD staff, the partners were strongly encouraged to enter information. However, according to Pamela Walker at Syracuse, getting the partners to consistently enter their information and keep it up to date proved to be a challenge. Walker feels that the lack of partner activity was because those organizations needed to put their energy into the maintenance of their own websites. To make sure there was fresh content on the site, this task was often completed by Syracuse. Walker estimates that for 1-1/2 years of the project, she spent 6-8 hours per week managing information, answering emails and conducting surveys. Upon completion of their grant, Syracuse no longer made updates for partners, and few events or training opportunities are now listed on the website.

The website architecture and database were developed by DataMomentum - a company located in Ithaca, New York - and the website continues to be hosted and maintained on their servers. DataMomentum owns the software and database that form the structure of the website. The contract for the website ends on February 28, 2013. TCDD would need to renew this contract or come to an alternate agreement with DataMomentum if Advocacy U is to continue to exist. The costs for hosting and supporting the site are as follows:

- **Website hosting:** The yearly contract fee for the period of March 1, 2013 to February 1, 2014 is \$5,800. This covers hosting, backup, site maintenance, bug fixes, server and server-related software updates. There is no limit on the number of files supported or bandwidth used.
- **Ongoing support:** The hourly fee for any site modifications, consulting time, graphic design and training is \$120. DataMomentum offers the following three discount packages - which can be purchased at any time and must be used within a year of purchase:
  1. Package 1: \$9,500 for 100 hours (\$95 per hour)
  2. Package 2: \$7,500 for 75 hours (\$100 per hour)
  3. Package 3: \$5,500 for 50 hours (\$110 per hour)

Keeping the site updated would require a dedicated resource to do the following:

- research and update the existing information
- work with partner organizations to update their content or to research events and training opportunities and put that information on the website on behalf of the partner organizations
- serve as project manager and the contact for customer support

Review of the website traffic between January 1, 2012, and September 4, 2012, reveals that out of a total of 90,827 website hits, no more than 8,225 (9%) might have been from people purposely searching for something on the internet. Most likely, the number of unique visitors to the site was less than 100. This would include a significant percentage of visitors that were associated with Syracuse University, TCDD staff members, and three of the project partners. Should TCDD determine to continue to support Advocacy U, assistance would be required to market the site more broadly.

## State Plan Goal

**Goal 6:** Work with others to double the number of identified leadership development and advocacy training programs that are able to provide culturally appropriate training for people with developmental disabilities without ongoing grant funding from TCDD, by 9/30/2016.

**Objective 4:** Each year of the plan, support individuals who have developmental disabilities, their family members, and their allies to improve their skills related to self-advocacy, public advocacy, and leadership.

**Activity 7:** Each year of the plan, continue to provide support to maintain Advocacy U, an online clearinghouse that maintains current information about leaders and advocacy training programs.

## Summary of Recommended Actions

TCDD staff recommend the Council consider one of three actions:

1. No longer continue to support the Advocacy U website. Explore the possibility of allowing another organization to assume full ownership of and responsibility for the future operation of the website.
2. Renew the contract with DataMomentum, continue to pay for hosting, and offer the operation of the website to an advocacy organization based in Texas for their use, for a set time, after which this organization would pay for hosting.
3. Renew the contract with DataMomentum and develop a grant project to conduct the following activities:
  - a. research and update the existing information
  - b. expand the base of partner organizations committed to Advocacy U
  - c. work with partner organizations to update their content or to research events and training opportunities and put that information on the website on behalf of the partner organizations
  - d. serve as project manager and the contact for customer support
  - e. market the website with the specific goal of increasing website traffic
  - f. survey users to determine if the content on the website meets their needs
  - g. develop a sustainability plan

## Proposed Funding Amount

The funding amount required would depend on the action selected by TCDD:

1. No longer supporting Advocacy U would require no funding.
2. Renewing the contract and offering the website to an advocacy organization would most likely require funding between \$5,800 and \$11,200 per year.
3. Awarding a grant to continue to provide full support and conduct the activities outlined in Action 3 above would most likely require between \$50,000 and \$75,000 per year.

## Proposed Duration

The duration of funding would depend on the action selected. Actions 1 and 2 could be completed in 1 year or more. For Action 3 to be successful, a minimum of 3-5 years would most likely be required.

## Other Considerations