

Background:

Staff will provide updates to Project Development Committee members regarding Public Information activities, the status of new or recently approved projects, and projected available funds. Meeting materials include the following written information for your review prior to the meeting:

- Grant Project Highlights – The quarterly Grant Project Highlights Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. This report provides highlights of grantee accomplishments for a number of current TCDD funded projects. The Project Highlights for the Enabling Technology projects will be presented by grants staff at the Committee of the Whole.

Staff may also refer to the following printed materials, found behind other Tabs:

- Public Information Report - This quarterly report includes recent public information staff activities related to creating awareness and building connections. Tab 16
- TCDD Quarterly Financial Report – This report summarizes TCDD’s approved budget and year-to-date expenditures and is used in projecting available funds for additional projects in future years. Tab 7

TCDD staff may also provide updates to the Committee of other achievements or items of concern.

Project Development Committee

Agenda Item 6.

Expected Action:

No action is anticipated; information item only.

Council

Agenda Item 13. A.

Expected Action:

The Council will review discussions on this item. No action is anticipated.

**TCDD Project Highlights
August 2013**

Enabling Technology

RFP Intent: To improve employment options and educational outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities by promoting collaboration between people with developmental disabilities and developers to create affordable, widely available, technology; to enable people with developmental disabilities to gain and maintain competitive employment

Grantee: Strategic Education Solutions, LLC.

Project Title: Virtual Job Coach
Project Location: Houston

Year: 2 of 5
TCDD Budgeted: \$225,000

Accomplishments:

- Developed 5 needs assessment surveys for clients, parents, and service providers in English and Spanish
- Launched fully operational pilot site for testing
- Recruited 15 participants of diverse autism diagnosis, gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Pre and post-pilot surveys used to compile a year 1 evaluation report
- Pilot participant accepted an employment offer

Sustainability:

The technology used to deliver the content will be licensed through Trinity Education Group in an industry-standard arrangement based on the number of users, with the per-user licensing fee reducing as the number of user's increases. Funds paid by users to access the site can come from an extremely wide variety of funding sources.

Products:

VirtualJobCoach.org, Needs Assessment Surveys (English/Spanish), Content Development Manual, Year 1 Evaluation Report. The project will develop a virtual job coach application.

Grantee: Educational Programs Inspiring Communities

Project Title: Working with HEART
Project Location: Houston

Year: 2 of 5
TCDD Budgeted: \$225,000

Accomplishments:

- Grantee and project partner completed design of all components of the HITS (**HEART Inventory Tracking System**) application
- Test application developed and installed on tablet technology
- Some components of the application were developed, coded, and deployed
- Project partner trained participants and staff on use of the application
- Preliminary evaluation of program and product distributed to participants

Sustainability:

Hardware for this project has been purchased (iPads) and TCDD funds have been used to pay for the development, installation, and integration of the application. Therefore, ongoing costs will be minimal and are limited to expenses such as operating the app (monthly hosting fees) and wireless data plans for the tablets. The project partner (Blue Lance Group) has also been very creative in utilizing various licenses to ensure that ongoing costs are further reduced.

Products:

Scheduling flow component of the application, Pre-assessment participant questionnaire, Program evaluation.

The project will create HITS application for iPad technology.