

Consideration of Continuation Grant Awards

Tab 5

Background:

Executive Summaries for three (3) current grant projects that are eligible for continuation funding are enclosed for consideration by the Committee (Items A-C). Grants monitoring strategies are noted under staff recommendations which follow the grants risk assessment report. Note that grantee organizations' names below are "hyperlinks" to summary information about each project on the TCDD website.

- A. [Texas A&M University](#) – Higher Education
- B. [Circle of Ten](#) – Building Community Capacity through Collaboration (Resubmittal of Phase 2)
- C. [Texas Tech University](#) – Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Members will note that two of the Executive Summaries are for Building Community Capacity (BC3) projects (Items B-C). Proposed Phase 2 strategic plans should address:

- How the proposed plan relates to Goal 5 of the TCDD FY 2012-2016 State Plan;
- How the change achieved through the proposed plan will be sustained or result in permanent systems change;
- How specific public policy implications will be identified, and if they will be addressed, the strategy to be used; and
- How people with developmental disabilities and people who are members of groups who are identified as being underserved or unserved will be involved in meaningful ways in the implementation of the proposed plan.

Grants Risk Assessment Report (found under Tab 3) – The Grants Risk Assessment Report enclosed summarizes the risk assessment matrix for consideration of grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects.

Important Terms:

Continuation Grant Awards: For each grant project funded by TCDD, the Council authorizes the number of years of funding available (usually 3 to 5 years), but projects must reapply for funding each year.

Executive Committee
Agenda Item 8.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review the information provided and consider approving funding for each continuation award.

Council
Agenda Item 13. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on Executive Committee decisions.

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`
Executive Committee**

Date: 11/05/14 **Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

**Item: A
Year: 4 of 5**

Grantee: Texas A&M University
Project Title: Bridge to Career in Human Services
Project Location: Statewide

Website: b2c.tamu.

TCDD RFP Intent: To develop, demonstrate, and evaluate more inclusive models of post-secondary education through which students with severe disabilities receive the supports they need to succeed in college, university, and/or vocational/technical programs that were originally designed for students without disabilities. .

Authorized Funding: Up to \$225,000 for up to 5 years.

Expected Results: The Bridge to Career in Human Service program will train 50 students in the human service area leading to a certificate and job placement by the end of year 5.

Project Goal Years 1- 3: To recruit, admit, and support students with developmental disabilities in the Bridge to Career in Human Services postsecondary program.

Project Accomplishments Years 1- 3:

- **Admitted** 25 students to 5-week summer program for summer 2013.
- 21 students continued in fall program consisting of independent living skills, self-determination, familiarity with online College of Direct Support curriculum, disability and development, professionalism, practicum placement and job placement assistance.
- 30 applications submitted for 2014 academic year. 16 students admitted for 2014 academic year.
- **DARS Funding** approved from DRS and DBS for individuals to attend the summer and/or fall programs.
- **Graduated** 21 students in 2013 program graduated in May 2014.
- **Competitively Employed:** Of the 21 students that graduated, 14 individuals are competitively employed in the field of their choice at graduation.
- **Student Evaluations:** 2012-2013 students completing the program and competitively employed – 7 of 9 individuals who were employed were still competitively employed after one year. Project will follow up with the 21 students that graduated in 2014 (2013-2014 semester) about their employment status after one year.
- Program recognized as Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary program so that students attending the program have access to Federal Financial Aid.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Recruit, admit and support students with developmental disabilities to attend the Bridge to Career in Human Services postsecondary program; and, teach and support students to help them complete the program.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: Bridge to Career is integrated into service system providing services to nearly three times as many students as were anticipated in summer 2014. Since DBS and DRS funding exists and federal financial aid approval is being sought for this purpose, this model could be replicated across the state. There is legislative interest in expanding higher education opportunities for people with DD. Legislative presentations should be considered. **Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns; high risk monitoring (awards within awards, grantee required to submit RAR's monthly). **Staff recommendations:** TCDD staff recommends the Council to consider continued funding.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$80,476/\$89,284	\$305,476/\$314,284
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$4531)	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$69,104/\$72,779	\$294,104/\$297,779
Expended Year 3 (4 months) (Consultant: \$9435)	\$225,000/\$22,969	\$74,998/\$25,561	\$299,998/\$48,530
Amount requested for Year 2 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	129,900	8694	138,594
II. Travel	2475	0	2475
III. Purchased Services (Consultants: \$25,435)	62,847	0	62,847
IV. Property/Materials	1860	0	1860
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Graduate Student Tuition	9240	0	9240
VIII. Other (Indirect Costs)	18,678	66,306	84,984
Budget period totals	\$225,000	\$75,000	\$300,000

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`

Executive Committee

Date: 11/05/2014

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: B

Grantee: A Circle of Ten, Inc.

Year: 1 of 5

Project Title: Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Project Location: Gulf Coast: Alvin, Bellaire, Crosby, Galveston, Houston, Huffman, Katy, Liberty, Pasadena, Pearland, Port Bolivar, Seabrook, Spring & Sugarland Website: none

TCDD RFP Intent:

To establish and/or strengthen a network of appropriately diverse organizations to develop a strategic plan to build the capacity of that community to provide community-based services that will decrease the need for individuals with developmental disabilities to be served in an institution.

Authorized Funding: Up to \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

Expected Results: The Expanding Community Collaborative Capacity Opportunities (ECCCO) will strengthen and grow the Gulf Coast Network of 30-50 diverse agencies/individuals collaboratively implementing the Strategic Plan, while increasing agency and community capacity to provide and multiply holistic services to people with disabilities and their families, and decreasing the need for institutionalization.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Planning Year:

Goal: Develop a strategic plan, based on a community needs assessment, and identify resources necessary to build the capacity of a community to provide: culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental); behavior supports; respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families; and other supports identified by the community support network.

Accomplishments per goal:

Partnerships were established and/or strengthened with several community organizations to address respite, transportation, employment opportunities, behavior support, occupational and physical therapy, family support services and training. A strategic plan was developed and submitted for TCDD review, but staff noted several concerns. At the April 2014 Interim meeting, the Executive Committee granted a Phase I extension to address those issues.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 1:

Goal: Identify supports, services and programs that are in the community and develop a resource list accordingly. Research and partner with local and state stakeholders to determine location of individuals with DD and assess their needs. Implement 5 pilot projects aimed at addressing needs identified by network partners and research. The grantee identified the following issues to address in the implementation phase: behavior supports, respite, mental healthcare, health coverage, and transportation/workforce.

The project will address these issues with 5 pilot projects:

- Adaptive Behavior Analysis Training: ABA training curriculum from the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the University Houston Clear Lake will be adapted into a training-of-trainers program, which will then be used to train 10 parents who will train other parents.
- Volunteer Respite Care: A respite care training curriculum will be developed in partnership with the Gulf Coast Center MHMR, which will then be used to train 10 parents who will train other parents and develop a network of trained volunteers to offer a respite exchange service.
- Mental Health: NAMI Gulf Coast curriculum will be used to train 10 people on NAMI services and topics such as mental health first aid and suicide prevention. Training will also be offered over 5-8 events for teachers, counselors, and other community members.
- Access to Health Coverage: Texas Children's Hospital will provide orientation and outreach events to make families aware of and know how to sign up for services such as CHIPS, Medicaid, and STAR+.
- Transportation and Workforce: Through partnerships with Quality Education Institute and 1900 Transport Now, the project will recruit and train 10-12 people for jobs in transport-related employment opportunities.
- The project also requests funds to provide 3-day trainings on capacity building, grant-writing and sustainability for each of the partners involved in the above activities.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: The grantee proposes to contract with Texas Children's Hospital to provide health coverage awareness. The grantee is encouraged to ensure that TCH collaborates with a local authority and/or an Arc to ensure the full array of services are included.

Grant Management Considerations: Grant staff continue to have concerns about an apparent lack of understanding of the intent of this RFP, to reduce admissions to SSLCs, and what research is relevant. It is well-established that complex medical needs are a major contributing cause to SSLC admissions. The grantee indicates there are no gaps in medical

needs identified in their area. Grant staff believes that the proposed access to health care project does not increase capacity for individuals with complex medical needs as required by the RFP. There is no evidence to support that lack of employment is a contributing factor to SSLC admissions. TCDD staff recommends not approving those activities, and reducing the proposed budget accordingly.

Staff also note that if approved for funding, the grantee will be required to monitor each pilot to ensure outcomes, performance measures and evaluations are accomplished as planned. No additional concerns; proposed project is considerable risk monitoring due to award amount and multiple awards-within-award which may impact outcomes. The grantee is relying heavily on the expertise of the sub-awards.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends partial funding for Phase 2 of this project; some of the proposed activities are not allowable and/or do not meet the intent of the RFP. Expenses budgeted for those activities are approximately \$50,000. Staff recommend partial funding up to \$100,000 for Phase 2 of this project.

If continuation funding is approved, A Circle of 10 requests that awards for years 2-5 be reduced to account for the \$35,000 approved for the extension to allow resubmitting this strategic plan.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Planning Year: (8 months) (Consultant:\$8,860)	\$75,000 / \$75,000	\$32,100/\$32,779	\$107,100/ \$107,779
Expended Extension: (4 months)(Consultant: \$0)	\$35,000 / \$35,000	\$12,239/\$12,533	\$47,239/\$47,533
Amount Requested for Year 1 budget:			
I. Personnel services	80,102	0	80,102
II. Travel	5,263	8,023	13,286
III. Purchased Services (\$20,500 consultants)	45,450	27,422	72,872
IV. Property/Materials	11,385	1,977	13,362
V. Rental/Leasing	6,000	15,000	21,000
VI. Utilities	1,800	0	1,800
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$150,000	\$52,422	\$202,422

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`

Executive Committee

Date: 11/05/2014

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: C

Grantee: Texas Tech University

Year: 2 of 5

Project Title: Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

Project Location: West Texas

Website: none

TCDD RFP Intent:

To establish and/or strengthen a network of appropriately diverse organizations to develop a strategic plan to build the capacity of that community to provide community-based services that will decrease the need for individuals with developmental disabilities to be served in an institution.

Authorized Funding: Up to \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

Expected Results: The West Texas Community Network (WTCN) is a partnership among the Burkhart Center, High Point Village, and the HALI Project established to increase access to community-based and strength-based supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. WTCN developed a strategic plan "to encourage higher expectations for individuals with DD to live, work and play in more inclusive communities that value their contributions and unique gifts."

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goal: Develop a strategic plan, based on a community needs assessment, and identify resources necessary to build the capacity of a community to provide: culturally appropriate, person-centered or family-centered healthcare services (including both physical and mental); behavior supports; respite to community members who have developmental disabilities and their families; and other supports identified by the community support network. Goals for Year 1 including addressing some areas of the needs assessment and a strategic plan re-write.

Accomplishments per goal:

Partnerships were established and/or strengthened with several community organizations to address respite, transportation, employment opportunities, behavior support, occupational and physical therapy, family support services and training. A strategic plan was developed and submitted for TCDD consideration. The project was advised to conduct additional needs assessment activities and revise the strategic plan accordingly to address the intent of the RFP.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Strengthen the capacity of West Texas and the Panhandle to support individuals with DD and their families by developing a strategic plan to establish a collaborative network of diverse community organizations that best serve this population to help keep them working, playing, and living in our communities and out of institutions.

Objective: Develop a strategic plan & identify resources necessary to build the capacity of West Texas to provide culturally appropriate, person-centered or family centered healthcare services (both physical and mental health); behavior supports; respite to community members who have DD and their families; and other supports identified by the community support network.

Issues identified by WTCN from the needs assessment to be addressed by the strategic plan and proposed activities:

1. Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families cannot find the medical supports and specialty services they need in their local communities. In areas where these services and supports exist, families are often unaware of their existence.
 - Quarterly Community Connect events for medical, mental health, and other community service providers to talk to families about services and support needs. (with free dental screenings, etc.)
 - Disseminate information about services at least 2 workshops / trainings hosted by Partners.
 - Identify needs of individuals and families and share information.
 - Develop / update WTCN Resource List
 2. Local Authorities are often unaware of service providers, mental health professionals and medical professionals outside of their own agency who are willing to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.
 - Identify liaison with each LA in region to ensure all have latest information about new physicians, supports, services, and programs available.
 - Communicate with LA liaisons to learn of any new resources and add to resource list
 3. Individuals with developmental disabilities are often employable but are unable to find employment or the supports they need to be employed in their local communities.
 - Provide information to employers about the advantages of hiring individuals with DD through workshops and printed materials.
 - Share with DARS new business contacts in our communities developed by the PAC, Project CASE, and the Burkhart Transition Academy to create more employment opportunities.
 - Provide information to help connect families and individuals with DD to appropriate vocational training programs.
 - Co-sponsor job fairs with DARS, Workforce, etc.
-

4. Families have noted in their responses to the WTCN Needs Assessment that the State Supported Living Center is an unacceptable alternative housing for their family members with developmental disabilities.
 - Sponsor, host and/or partner with other entities and/or existing conferences/meetings to help individuals and families learn of available resources that will improve their quality of life, provide access to needed medical and behavioral health professionals, and thus reduce institutionalization.
 - Collect data to identify needs of individuals released from SSLC into local communities; share with LA and providers; work with community leaders to help these individuals not have to return to institutional care.
 - Share information and resources for families with providers & document outcomes of individuals transitioned out of SSLCs.
 - Attend hearings / meetings at State Capitol that influence decisions making on items of importance to individuals with DD such as housing and funding.
 - Facilitate communication among providers, medical and mental health professionals (re: complex medical issues) to encourage more referrals among them for a complete plan of care for individuals with DD.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: Public Policy staff does not support the use of B3C funds to expand employment opportunities (Issue 3). Though the network, representing people in the community, has an *interest* in employment, there continues to be no evidence presented to suggest that people are being committed to SSLCs because of lack of employment. The most notable finding from a public policy perspective is that County Jail has a wing dedicated to people with IDD; this is worth exploration.

Grants Management Considerations: The workplan outcomes are vague and lack quantifiable outputs and measureable outcomes. It's not evident what will be accomplished as a result of the needs identified and how the project will build capacity to decrease the need for people with DD to be served in institutions. Some of the activities appear logical, but should result in measureable outcomes. Regarding the issues and proposed strategies:

- Complex medical issues are a major cause of admission to SSLCs and nursing facilities. Medical and behavior needs are identified as a number one issue in the needs assessment, but are not thoroughly addressed in the proposed plan in a manner likely to result in a measurable increase in capacity. The proposed activity does not address specialized care, but rather will connect providers "willing" to work with individuals with DD. There is no evidence how the project will address medical complexities and acute health care needs.
- The project has not yet established partnerships/relationships with local authorities. The project notes that local authorities are often unaware of service providers, mental health professionals and medical professional who are willing to "treat" individuals with DD. Local authorities should be well versed in how to link individuals to community services.
- There is no evidence that links a "lack of employment" opportunities with SSLC admissions.
- The project indicates they will collect and identify the needs of individuals released from the SSLC and share with local authorities, group homes and other providers. Local authorities are already responsible to transition individuals with DD returning to their catchment areas and coordinate necessary community supports.
- SSLC admission for eligible individuals should not be considered an "alternative housing option." This issue and the related proposed activities appear to be irrelevant.
- The grantee submitted a second proposal which excludes the employment component. However, that workplan also lacks clear outcomes and does not demonstrate how proposed activities will increase the capacity to provide community-based services that support people with DD to improve and maintain their health and to have access to necessary healthcare, behavior supports, and/or respite.

If funded, this project would require increased grants monitoring due to the award amount and award-within-award.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff do not recommend funding for this project as submitted. The Executive Committee could consider as an option allowing the project to revise and resubmit a strategic plan and related workplan materials to be considered by the Committee in February. Staff would again recommend no additional funds for that option.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Planning Year: (Consultant:\$8,860)	\$74,996 / \$74,935	\$25,226/\$25,205	\$100,222/\$100,140
Expended Year 1: (Consultant: \$38,000)	\$150,000/\$89,762	\$50,455/\$30,192	\$200,455/\$119,954
Amount requested for Year 1 budget:			
I. Personnel services	85,589	0	85,589
II. Travel	5,185	0	5,185
III. Purchased Services (\$38,000 consultants)	44,614	0	44,614
IV. Property/Materials	976	0	976
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	13,636	50,455	64,091
Budget period totals	\$150,000	\$50,455	\$200,455