

Background:

TCDD provides grants of up to \$10,000 for Outreach and Development Projects to groups that are composed of individuals and families of individuals who have developmental disabilities and strongly identify with an ethnic minority group. Funds are available for up to five of these projects per year, with no more than five funded at any one time.

Two (2) proposals were received this quarter. Summaries and recommendations from the staff review panel will be emailed to Committee members and included as a handout for all members.

- Down Syndrome Association of Houston
- Special Kids, Incorporated (SKI)

Executive Committee

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions on the appeals of funding decisions.

Council

Agenda Item 13. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report of Executive Committee decisions.



6201 E. Oltorf, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78741
E-Mail TXDDC@txddc.state.tx.us
txddc.state.tx.us

Mary Durheim, Chair
Andrew Crim, Vice Chair
Roger A. Webb, Executive Director

TO: TCDD Executive Committee

FROM: Sonya Hosey, Grants Management Director
Jessica Ramos, Public Policy Director
Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator

SUBJECT: Summary of Outreach and Development Proposals

DATE: January 14, 2014

The TCDD staff review panel reviewed 2 Outreach and Development proposals received this quarter.

Background

The Council offers grants of up to \$10,000 each for up to 18 months to groups made up of people who are black or African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, or Native American that are working to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities from ethnic minority cultures. TCDD expects these grants to be an avenue through which TCDD can partner with and learn from individuals who are typically unserved and/or underserved.

TCDD's Goals in Funding These Grants

1. Develop partnerships to increase TCDD's understanding of different values, cultures, and customs that exist in Texas, and how cultural issues may impact how services should be provided; and
2. Support activities that the group has determined will help members of their community who have disabilities to receive support that is culturally appropriate.

Criteria for Evaluation of Proposals

The TCDD staff review panel use the following criteria to evaluate if funding the proposal is consistent with the goals above:

- The group is made up of people who identify with a specific ethnic/cultural minority group who are working to increase access to culturally appropriate supports and services for individuals with disabilities of a similar cultural background. The Request for Proposals (RFP) states that "To receive a grant, most of the members and/or the leadership of your organization must belong to one of these ethnic/racial groups."
- Working together will deepen TCDD's understanding of that culture's values, cultures, and customs.

When proposals meet the criteria noted above, staff will recommend them for consideration for funding. If funded, TCDD grants staff ensure that all activities conducted are allowable under law and TCDD policies. Staff also provide technical assistance to assist the grantee to meet TCDD's expectations. *If proposed activities and budget items are both allowable and reasonable and will result in the intended outcomes, proposals are not expected to meet additional requirements.*

Recommendations:

TCDD staff recommend the Committee review and discuss the application(s) and fund those that best meet TCDD's goals. The complete proposals, 5-9 pages in length, will be available at the Executive Committee meeting.

Applicant:	Special Kids, Incorporated (SKI)	Length of time in existence: 26 years
Group Size:	10	Geographic Location: Harris County
Amount Requested:	\$10,000	Meeting Frequency: Quarterly
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served:	Black, Hispanic/Latino	
Organization Mission:	SKI's mission is Empowering and supporting families of children and individuals with disabilities that have been traditionally under-served and under-represented. We assert the need for one-on-one service to help families gain culturally relevant assistance, comprehensive flexible services, and acknowledge that all children and individuals have the right to be an integral part of their community.	
Planned Activities:	To establish a business office; train new board members; develop governances; develop promotional materials (including materials in Spanish) to increase community awareness of services; and to foster networking and volunteerism opportunities.	
TCDD Staff Comments	<p>The organization will serve at least 50 families and identified four organizations that will work on the project (e.g., Partners Resource Network, Helpful Interventions, United Way of Greater Houston and Houston Public Library). The initial budget allocates TCDD funds for allowable cost. If approved by the Council, grants staff will negotiate a final budget to include required match.</p> <p>This is the second time that this organization has applied. In this application, they noted that their organization is made up of, and provides services to, primarily black and latino families. The website www.specialkidsinc.com indicates that the organization's founders are African American with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the organization lists Helpful Interventions (the organizer of the Gulf Coast African American Family Support Conference as an organizational partner.</p> <p>This organization appears to meet the two criteria for evaluation of proposals noted on page one of this memo.</p>	

Applicant:	Down Syndrome Association of Houston (DSAH)	Length of time in existence: 40 years
Group Size:	2,000 members	Geographic Location: Harris County
Amount Requested:	\$6,102.00	Meeting Frequency: Community groups meet at least once per month, as does the Board of Directors.
Ethnic/Cultural Group Served:	Black, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native American	
Organization Mission:	To provide programs and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who serve them; and to create awareness in the community through advocacy, education, and medical outreach.	
Planned Activities:	To help the Spanish-speaking community in Greater Houston understand and navigate the complex web of resources available to them by providing a series of quarterly workshops titled "Accessing Services and Support in Greater Houston When Spanish is Your Primary Language."	
TCDD Staff Comments	<p>The organization will serve at least 350 Spanish-speaking families and identified other similar non-profits and social-service agencies that will work on the project.</p> <p>The RFP states that "To receive a grant, most of the members and/or the leadership of your organization must belong to one of these ethnic/racial groups." The proposal submitted by DSAH notes that approximately 54% of their members are Hispanic/Latino, and that about 30% of these have very limited or no English-speaking ability. However, it is not clear that the people who proposed this project or who will develop and provide the training are Hispanic/Latino. They do not appear to offer any services or programs in Spanish at this time.</p> <p>The proposal states that this grant will help ensure that individuals do not miss out on opportunities "merely because of a language difference." TCDD is aware that language is only one of the issues that prevent people from receiving culturally competent services. It is not evident from their website (http://dsah.org/about-dsah/) that the organization has a focus or emphasis on ensuring that services are culturally competent or that working together will deepen TCDD's understanding of a particular culture's values, cultures, and customs. It appears that the proposal would provide funds to a majority culture to educate a minority culture, which is not the intended purpose of the outreach and development funds.</p> <p>The initial budget allocates TCDD funds for allowable costs. If approved by the Council, grants staff will negotiate a final budget to include required match. If approved, grants staff recommend authorizing up to \$10,000 should we determine other expenses are necessary for a successful project.</p>	