

**Background:**

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

- **Grants Risk Assessment Report (found under Tab 3)** – summarizes the risk assessment matrix for considerations of continuation grant awards, new grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects. This format now includes any concerns identified by grants staff from ongoing monitoring of projects.
- **Grant Project Highlights** – The quarterly Grant Project Highlights Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. This report provides highlights of grantee accomplishments for current TCDD funded projects. Project Highlights Enabling Technology – *Strategic Education Solutions, LLC* and *Educational Programs Inspiring Communities* projects will be reviewed 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** - includes recent public information staff activities that create awareness and build connections. Tab 14
- **TCDD Quarterly Financial Report** –summarizes TCDD’s approved budget and year-to-date expenditures and is used in projecting funds available for additional projects in future years. Tab 6

**Project Development Committee**

**Agenda Item 6.**

**Expected Action:**

Information items only; no action is anticipated.

**Council**

**Agenda Item 15. A.**

**Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report on key discussions of the Committee on these items. No action is anticipated.

**TCDD Project Highlights  
February 2015**

**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: 3 of 5  
TCDD Budgeted: \$225,000

**Accomplishments:**

- Over 50 modules including career planning and job search skills have been completed
- Pre and post-pilot surveys were used to compile evaluation reports for years 1 & 2
- A group of students from a high school transition class were recruited to test the product
- A management component was added to enable support staff to create “classes” of users
- Users have received employment offers

**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 users increases. The grantee is exploring ways to expand the product’s reach through partnerships with DARS, TEA, and WorkForce.

**Products:**

VirtualJobCoach.org, Needs Assessment Surveys (English/Spanish), Content Development Manual, Evaluation Report (years 1&2)

**Grantee: Educational Programs Inspiring Communities**

Project Title: Working with HEART  
Project Location: Houston

Year: 3 of 5  
TCDD Budgeted: \$225,000

**Accomplishments:**

- Grantee and project partner developed, coded, and deployed all components of the HITS (**HEART Inventory Tracking System**) application
- Project partner trained participants and staff on use of the application
- Participants have begun testing the functionality of the application
- Participants are currently using the application to enter inventory and check in products

**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:**

iPad application, Pre-assessment participant questionnaire, Program evaluation.