

Background:

Executive Summaries for six (6) current grant projects that are eligible for continuation funding are enclosed for consideration by the Committee (Items A-G). 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. Imagine Enterprises – *Self-Advocates as Speakers*
- B. Strategic Solutions, LLC – *Enabling Technology*
- C. Educational Programs Inspiring Communities – *Enabling Technology*
- D. Epilepsy Foundation of Texas – *Health and Fitness*
- E. Region 17 Education Service Center – *Family Involvement in Schools*
- F. Coalition of Texans with Disabilities – *Developmental Disabilities Fellows*

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 8. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on Executive Committee decisions.

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

Date: 5/6/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: A

Grantee: Educational Programs Inspiring Communities

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Enabling Technology

Project Location: Houston

Website: www.heartprogram.org

TCDD RFP Intent: The project intent is to assist Texans with developmental disabilities in attaining competitive employment opportunities. Grantees will develop and implement a plan to demonstrate to employers, people with developmental disabilities, and/or family members ways in which available assistive technology can enhance job performance and increase employment options.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$225,000 per year for up to three years with an option of funding years four and five.

Expected Results: Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) will have access to technology that will enable them to complete job tasks more efficiently and independently. This technology will be shared with other organizations to promote the hiring and support of people with IDD.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1-3:

Goal: The goal of this project is to design, develop, deploy, and evaluate an interactive customized mobile tablet solution that will increase the employability of low-income adults with developmental disabilities in the HEART Program

Accomplishments per goal: In year one, the grantee administered a survey to program participants to gauge technology proficiency; Modules for the app were defined and designed. An evaluation was developed to solicit feedback from pilot participants. In year two, the project partner fully coded and deployed all aspects of the app which were designed and defined in the first year. The app was tested and de-bugged first by project staff. Participants were provided with training on how to use the iPads per needs assessment. Testing of the entire application by pilot participants began in the last quarter of year two. During the third project year, new modules were designed, coded and added to the app. Testing continued and the app was fine-tuned. The app was deployed to program participants to begin using in HEART's in-house inventory environment and with HEART's vending machine job training and employment program. By conducting pre and post assessments, the grantee has determined that the participants have increased their familiarity with the iPads.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Support the HITS app by designing and implementing change requests to current system; Maintain the HITS app by conducting system updates and deploying change requests to the HITS app; Create a stand-alone inventory module for use outside of The HEART Program; A business will be selected and the app will be designed with input from a representative of the business.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: EPIC is working to modify the app so it can be used in other environments. Since DARS is in the business of recruiting employers willing and interested in hiring people w/disabilities, PP staff encourage collaboration so that DARS has tangible recommendations for how employers can simplify training and production methods for all employees.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; high risk monitoring (awards within awards)

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of continuation funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$175,000)	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$75,000/\$100,456	\$300,000/\$325,456
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$175,000)	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$85,000/\$136,613	\$310,000/\$361,613
Expended Year 3 (7 months) (Consultant: \$175,000)	\$225,000/\$117,924	\$90,000/\$46,880	\$315,000/\$164,804
Amount requested for Year 4 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	40,018	0	40,018
II. Travel	0	0	0
III. Purchased Services (\$175,000 consultants)	177,000	95,000	272,000
IV. Property/Materials	743	0	743
V. Rental/Leasing	879	0	879
VI. Utilities	6,360	0	6,360
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$225,000	\$95,000	\$320,000

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

Date: 5/6/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: B

Grantee: Strategic Education Solutions

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Enabling Technology

Project Location: Houston

Website: www.strategicedolutions.com

TCDD RFP Intent: The project intent is to assist Texans with developmental disabilities in attaining competitive employment opportunities. Grantees will develop and implement a plan to demonstrate to employers, people with developmental disabilities, and/or family members ways in which available assistive technology can enhance job performance and increase employment options.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$225,000 per year for up to three years with an option of funding years four and five.

Expected Results: Adults with cognitive disabilities will have access to a low-cost instructional resource that will assist them with career planning, the job search, and sustaining competitive employment.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1-3:

Goal: To provide adults with Cognitive Disabilities and caregivers a comprehensive, accessible, and low-cost instructional resource that supports them through their career planning, job search, and employment journey.

Accomplishments per goal: In year one, the grantee developed content for 30 modules in the area of job search skills. 15 pilot participants of diverse autism diagnosis, gender, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds were recruited. The website was launched and the grantee deployed 10 modules for participant testing. In year two, the Virtual Job Coach (VJC) team developed 20 additional user modules. The grantee recruited one teacher and 10 students from a mixed high school transition class who have been using the training site since September, 2013. The project partner responsible for technology deployment developed a feature that enables support staff to create "classes" of users, assign content on a customized schedule, and monitor users' progress. In year three, the project focused on forming partnerships with new organizations to establish new pilot groups. The grantee will support a new pilot in a Project SEARCH site in Fort Bend, TX. Several pilot testers have gained meaningful employment. The project director has met with local agency staff (DARS, TEA, WorkForce) to discuss statewide implementation of the VJC.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Identify product distribution partners/channels; Engage and oversee pilots; Support the product on an ongoing basis; Evaluate project activities and effectiveness; Recruit, convene, and monitor Project Advisory Committee (PAC).

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: The development of a standalone application that is portable across settings and simple to use is consistent with sustainability goals. The app seems to be ready for prime time. PP staff hope that the app soon will be widely available to people with disabilities and that we may start promoting it.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; high risk monitoring (awards within awards)

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of continuation funding for project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$147,827)	\$224,967/\$224,967	\$27,617/\$29,995	\$252,584/\$254,962
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$156,180)	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$50,042/\$55,603	\$275,042/\$280,603
Expended Year 3 (9 months) (Consultant: \$150,680)	\$225,000/\$136,423	\$72,571/\$30,795	\$297,571/\$167,218
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	72,000	43,008	115,008
II. Travel	0	0	0
III. Purchased Services (\$152,925 consultants)	152,925	30,532	183,457
IV. Property/Materials	0	588	588
V. Rental/Leasing	0	200	200
VI. Utilities	0	672	672
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$224,925	\$75,000	\$299,925

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities`

Executive Committee

Date: 5/6/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: C

Grantee: Imagine Enterprises
Project Title: Self-Advocates as Speakers
Project Location: Statewide

Year: 3 of 4

Website: www.imagineenterprises.org

TCDD RFP Intent: To develop a project that will support and promote a diverse pool of self-advocates who can present or serve as facilitators or mentors at in-state conferences or training events.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$125,000 per year for up to four years.

Expected Results: There will be an increase in the number of organizations that include self-advocates as speakers, facilitators, and mentors in conferences or trainings.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1-2:

Goal: Project Sharing Personal Experiences and Knowledge (SPEAK) will recruit, train, and support at least 15 self-advocates per year from diverse backgrounds to present in local and state venues where their message will have an impact. At least 50 self-advocates will have been trained by the close of this project.

Accomplishments per goal: In year one, Project SPEAK coordinated efforts with three organizations that will serve as training sites for participants and created an info sheet and application process. Project staff created a curriculum that is used to conduct both a three-day and one-day follow up training. 15 SPEAKers were recruited and trainings began in February, 2014. Self-Evaluations are provided to SPEAKers during the trainings in order to encourage reflection and the desire to improve. In year two, the grantee trained 24 total SPEAKers from four different sites: Dickinson Independent School District (ISD), Family to Family, Texas Tech University, and Alvin ISD. Twenty of the 24 participants have presented at a variety of venues including a school board meeting, civic organization meetings, the 2014 Texas Advocates conference, and the Inclusion Works conference. The project began collaborating with another TCDD project to encourage SPEAKers to share their stories with legislators. All training materials have been translated into Spanish.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 3:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Implement the infrastructure plan for the Project SPEAK, including modifications of the curriculum for self-advocates, needed supports for project outcomes and sustainability by May 31, 2016; Develop and implement marketing strategies; Develop three Project SPEAK team sites to recruit five participants per site (15 new participants total per year), to train and sustain as speakers, facilitators or mentors by May 31, 2016; Coordinate each Project SPEAK team site to prepare and deliver a minimum of one presentation per member at in the local area and at least two state conferences by May 31, 2016.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: It appears that the SPEAKers are doing great work. This year they are going to take their stories to individual legislative offices and speak at a legislative breakfast event. These self-advocates are experiencing public policy advocacy and advancing self-determination. PP staff request a list of speakers and their topics so that we may support their efforts, collaborate when appropriate, and recommend speakers for engagements.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; considerable risk monitoring (awards within awards; award amount)

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of continuation funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (13 months) (Consultant: \$25,974)	\$124,999/\$111,493	\$41,767/\$27,633	\$166,766/\$139,126
Expended Year 2 (8 months) (Consultant: \$23,844)	\$125,000/\$76,360	\$51,316/\$27,821	\$176,316/\$104,181
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	82,947	18,422	101,369
II. Travel	5,868	1,200	7,068
III. Purchased Services (\$22,194 consultants)	36,150	23,700	59,850
IV. Property/Materials	35	1,420	1,455
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	3,000	3,000
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$125,000	\$47,742	\$172,742

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

Date: 5/6/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: D

Grantee: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Year: 2 of 2

Project Title: Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows

Project Location: Statewide

Website: www.txdisabilities.org

TCDD RFP Intent: The project intent is to hire and support a Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellow to increase the capacity of individuals and organizations in Texas to engage effectively in developmental disability policy advocacy and to increase the number of individuals who have the skills, knowledge and experience to work effectively in developmental disabilities policy.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$67,500 per year for up to two years.

Expected Results: New policy-focused professionals will receive training and mentoring to effectively work together with self-advocates and families to create the policies and procedures of the future.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goal: Through professional development, in-depth public policy research, and meaningful interactions with Texans with self-advocates and their families, CTD will develop a Fellow who has the skills, knowledge, and experience to work effectively in developmental disabilities public policy.

Accomplishments per goal: In year one, the grantee recruited and hired a Policy Fellow. The Fellow has chosen three policy focus areas: employment, Early Childhood Intervention (ECI), and personal attendant wages. The Fellow has created consumer surveys to solicit input on these three focus areas and the surveys have been distributed statewide. The mentor and Fellow have recruited 15 young self-advocates to participate in Advocacy Corps (A-Corps) and will be providing training sessions to members throughout 2015; Recruitment for A-Corps is ongoing. The Fellow has been attending the Hogg Policy Academy and has also attended a variety of agency, legislative, and partner meetings. In addition, the Fellow attended several workshops and symposia in year one.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: The Fellow will build upon the knowledge gained in year-one of public policy issues regarding Texans with developmental disabilities; The Fellow will provide training and support for self-advocates with developmental disabilities (and their families) on key research issues, and relevant public policy topics.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: DD Fellow Chris Masey is engaged in a number of policy advocacy discussions and has taken the lead on high profile issues with unlikely allies. PP staff anticipate reporting objective and substantial outcomes at the May meeting.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; moderate risk monitoring (new grantee)

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of continuation funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (4 months) (Consultants: \$0)	\$67,500/\$14,188	\$27,011/\$3,993	\$94,511/\$18,181
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	64,246	14,969	79,215
II. Travel	0	0	0
III. Purchased Services (\$0 Consultants)	490	6,200	6,690
IV. Property/Materials	0	0	0
V. Rental/Leasing	2,764	1,360	4,124
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$67,500	\$22,529	\$90,029

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

Date: 5/6/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: E

Grantee: Epilepsy Foundation of Texas (EFTX)

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Health & Fitness – Get FIT (Fitness, Integration, Training) Texas

Project Location: Statewide rural communities

Website: <https://www.getfittexas.org>

TCDD RFP Intent:

The RFP intent is to demonstrate how appropriate supports may help people with developmental disabilities to participate in exercise and nutrition programs. Grantees are expected to demonstrate how to: 1) Provide *individualized*, inclusive recreational fitness programs to people with developmental disabilities to assist them to reach their goals in fitness, recreation, and overall wellness and 2) Provide training and/or technical assistance to enable service clubs and volunteer organizations to, if necessary, alter their culture and activities to support full and equal participation by people with developmental disabilities in a way that will promote participation in recreational programs based on interest and wellness goals.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$250,000 for up to five years.

Expected Results: At least 2 sustainable programs will be created or modified to provide individualized community health and fitness programs/opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. Data will be collected on each project's impact for at least 30 people per site.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1-3:

Goal 1: Implement a health and wellness curriculum and fitness program for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and epilepsy, as well as their caregivers.

Goal 2: The project will focus on the rural Texas communities and expand to West Texas, serve at least 250 individuals total (years 1-3).

Accomplishments per goal:

A comprehensive, 12-week health and wellness program was created to improve the physical fitness, nutrition and healthy lifestyles of adults with DD and epilepsy and their caregivers. First year total enrollment was 88, which was expanded to 200 by the end of the second year, and 250 by the middle of the third year. The development of an individualized Get FIT plan of action with "at home activities" was created and applied. The program served rural areas surrounding major cities including Austin, Dallas, Plano, Houston, San Antonio, and Lubbock. The project started expanded into schools in the third year, with a small program in the CyFair schools district near Houston. Grant participants were monitored and showed improvements in fitness measures (chair squat, plank, sit and reach), body composition measures, quality of life scores, and health screen tests.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Include more preventative health screening services such as lipid and glucose testing; 2) Establish project sustainability sources like becoming a Medicaid provider enabling our participants to bill through the state Medicaid, additional grants and sponsors; 3) Maintain our current partnerships and provide services to 300 individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

Council Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: Get FIT wants to advance preventative health programs, like Get FIT, by advocating inclusion as a Medicaid benefit. PP staff recommend that the grantee approach Medicaid managed care companies in their service areas to gauge interest in using Get FIT as a "value added service."

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; extensive risk monitoring (amount, award-within-award).

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council consideration of continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$35,000)	\$249,538/\$249,538	\$80,848/\$81,869	\$330,386/\$331,407
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$59,375)	\$249,750/\$249,750	\$83,624/\$95,341	\$333,375/\$345,091
Expended Year 3 (8 months)(Consultant: \$62,550)	\$250,000/\$161,872	\$85,004/\$54,384	\$335,004/\$216,256
Amount requested for Year 2 budget:			
I. Personnel services	174,112	84,771	258,883
II. Travel	2,836	0	2,836
III. Purchased services (\$62,550 consultants)	64,050	6,573	70,623
IV. Property/Materials	9,002	1,500	10,502
V. Rental/Leasing	0	10,914	10,914
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$250,000	\$103,758	\$353,758

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

Date: 5/6/2015

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: F

Grantee: Region 17 Education Service Center

Year: 3 of 5

Project Title: Family Involvement in Schools

Project Location: Bailey, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Cochran, Hockley, Lubbock, Crosby, Dickens, King, Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Garza, Kent, Gaines, Dawson, Borden **Website:** None

TCDD RFP Intent:

The intent of the Family Involvement in Schools proposal is for one project to recruit, engage, empower and support families of children with special needs attending schools in the Region 17 Educational Service Center (ESC) to become involved with their child's public school.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$300,000 for up to five years.

Expected Results: At least 2,220 parents or other family members (including fictive kin) who have children attending schools in the Region 17 ESC will be actively engaged in schools and other education-focused community collaborative efforts because they receive training and other necessary services to support that involvement.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1-2:

Goal: Build collaborations within ESC 17 to demonstrate ways to create measureable improvement in at least 2 identified indicators of educational success for students with developmental disabilities. The percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement will increase.

Objectives: 1) Provide training and coaching to support active engagement by at least 1 family member for every 4 students who have developmental disabilities in ESC 17; 2) Increase the number of home and school activities that participating districts provide to families of students with disabilities within the school year; 3) increase the attendance of parents/family members at ARD meetings; 4) increase the attendance of parents/family members at training and events; and 5) increase parents' level of satisfaction with the school environment, communication between parents and school and ARD/IEP participation

Accomplishments per goal:

A total of 4 school districts (Slaton, Roosevelt, Wilson and Southland ISD) were recruited to participate in training and coaching for Cohort 1. Cohort 2 consists of Brownfield ISD (6 campuses total) and 2 other campuses in Levelland ISD and Denver City ISD. ESC 17 has utilized a coaching model that will enable districts to continue utilizing strategies acquired through the trainings and collaborations. A library of resources is provided for parents and professionals to each campus. Approximately 250 parents attended ARD meetings. A total of 23 events/trainings were held with more than 450 parents were served. The project provided scholarships for parents to attend 6 conferences on Autism, Building Strong Families, Inclusion, etc.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 3:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Same; 2) Increase the number of home and school activities that participating districts provide to families of students with disabilities within the school year and to increase parents' level of satisfaction with the school environment and with communication between parents and schools; and 3) Increase parent/family members' attendance at ARD meetings, trainings and events.

Council Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: Region 17's Family Involvement in Schools promotes community schools in which parents of children with disabilities are actively engaged in helping re-shape the school culture into one of collaboration among caring adults. PP staff look forward to data quantifying the effect of increased parental involvement on overall success of students and parental satisfaction.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; extensive risk monitoring due to award amount and sub-awards.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$95,500)	\$300,000/\$300,000	\$33,333/\$35,175	\$333,333/\$335,175
Expended Year 2 (7 months)(Consultant: \$97,912)	\$300,000/\$163,878	\$33,333/\$5,023	\$333,333/\$168,901
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel services	167,880	0	167,880
II. Travel	10,000	0	10,000
III. Purchased services (\$80,000 consultants)	95,250	19,758	115,008
IV. Property/Materials	7,665	0	7,665
V. Rental/Leasing	19,105	0	19,105
VI. Utilities	100	0	100
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	13,575	13,575
Budget period totals	\$300,000	\$33,333	\$333,333