

Consideration of Continuation Grant Awards

Tab 6

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.

- A. The Arc of Texas – *DD Policy Fellows*
- B. Texas Tech University – *Project SEARCH*
- C. Volar Center for Independent Living – *Building Community Capacity through Collaboration*

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.

<u>Executive Committee</u> <u>Agenda Item 9.</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u> The Executive Committee will review the information provided and consider approving funding for each continuation award.
<u>Council</u> <u>Agenda Item 9. B.</u>	<u>Expected Action:</u> The Council will receive a report on Executive Committee decisions.

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Executive Committee

Date: 8/5/15

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: A

Grantee: Arc of Texas

Year: 2 of 2

Project Title: Developmental Disabilities Policy Fellows

Project Location: Statewide **Website:** www.thearcoftexas.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: The Arc of Texas will provide a policy fellow with a supportive learning environment to prepare them to successfully engage in and build capacity for public policy advocacy to create meaningful change for people with developmental disabilities in Texas.

Accomplishments per goal: In year one, the grantee recruited and hired a Policy Fellow. The Fellow attended a Midwest Academy training on Organizing for Social Change and has also attended a variety of agency, legislative, and workgroup meetings. She has conducted several focus groups with stakeholders around the state to research and identify policy issues. The Fellow has selected guardianship reform as her primary focus and policy goal. The mentor and Fellow have attended and participated in over 30 public policy activities to date including hearings, conferences, and trainings including the national Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. The Fellow made over 50 visits to legislator's offices with self-advocates and family members of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) during the legislative session. She created three educational 1-pagers on the following topics: state budget, supported decision-making, and state supported living centers. The Fellow will use these materials as a launching point during the final quarter of the first grant year to create six public education/awareness materials.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: The Fellow will launch a public policy campaign to achieve the major policy goal identified in year one; The Fellow will develop a public policy campaign toolkit to recruit and engage stakeholders in public policy that promotes self-advocacy and self-determination; The Fellow will utilize the toolkit and host trainings to assist stakeholders in developing their own public policy campaigns.

Staff Recommendations:

Public Policy Considerations: The Public Policy Fellow developed public policy expertise and was actively engaged with stakeholders and policy makers to advance significant reforms in guardianship and implementation of supported decision-making. The fellow is now working on educating stakeholders on how guardianship reform and supported decision-making can impact their self-determination.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; moderate risk monitoring (new grantee). Grantee states that staff will receive a 5% pay raise upon approval of the board. TCDD will not execute the NGA for year 2 until documentation has been received that the pay raise has been approved by the Arc of Texas board.

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

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (8 months) (Consultants: \$4,400)	\$67,500/\$25,285	\$30,865/\$8,299	\$98,365/\$33,584
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	48,929	38,227	87,156
II. Travel	3,971	0	3,971
III. Purchased Services (\$5,607 Consultants)	11,850	0	11,850
IV. Property/Materials	1,651	0	1,651
V. Rental/Leasing	275	0	275
VI. Utilities	825	0	825
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$67,500	\$38,227	\$67,500

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee**

Date: 8/5/15

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: B

Grantee: Texas Tech University

Year: 4 of 5

Project Title: Project SEARCH

Project Location: Statewide Website: www.projectsearch.us

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is to provide support for school districts, businesses, and/or other entities who wish to contract with Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH is a business-led school-to-work transition model with demonstrated success in developing internships for students with developmental disabilities.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$175,000 for up to five years.

Expected Results: TechWorks for Texas (TWT) will support the development of 10 newly certified Project SEARCH sites in Texas by the end of Year 5 of this grant.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Years 1-3:

Goals: 1) Develop the infrastructure and leadership team who will be responsible for the development and implementation of a strategic plan. 2) Develop a marketing plan to identify and recruit communities who wish to establish a site. 3) Assist entities across the state indicating an interest to establish a site to receive technical assistance and training. 4) Provide evaluative information on the implementation of Project SEARCH® in Texas community sites to TCDD, DARS and other relevant stakeholders

Accomplishments per goal:

Planning and preliminary project implementation activities took place in the first year, including conference calls with the Project SEARCH® national office and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). A difficult negotiation process to contract with the Project SEARCH® national office was completed. Communities currently participating include: Tyler, Lake Travis/Eanes, San Antonio, Garland, Fort Worth, Lewisville, College Station, Brenham, and Sugarland. Business partners include: Atlas Copco Drilling Solutions, Medical Center of Lewisville, Texas Wesleyan University, Baylor Scott & White Hospital (2 – College Station and Brenham), and United Healthcare. Several programs are in planning phases, scheduled to begin serving students interns in August 2015. So far in Year 3, a total of 18 students transitioned from school to community and jobs and a total of 18 adults have jobs of their choice through Council efforts.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Solicit letters of interest from local communities in the DARS 5 region, which includes south Texas. 2) Select 2-3 sites that are the most ready to begin and provide training and technical assistance

Council Considerations: Public Policy Considerations: If Project SEARCH is successful building sites that engage individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in competitive employment it will be a declaration of both philosophy and policy stating that competitive employment is the first priority and preferred outcomes of people with developmental disabilities.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; high risk monitoring (awards within award).TCDD staff has frequent contact on a quarterly basis and annual onsite reviews.

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1	\$174,854/\$174,854	\$59,523/\$58,784	\$234,377/\$233,638
Expended Year 2	\$174,666/\$174,666	\$58,751/\$58,751	\$233,417/\$233,417
Expended Year 3 (7 months)(Consultant: \$45,000)	\$66,613/\$174,716	\$22,830/\$58,768	\$89,443/\$233,484
Amount requested for Year 2 budget:			
I. Personnel services	85,409	0	85,409
II. Travel	19,733	0	19,733
III. Purchased services (\$51,780 consultants)	52,000	0	52,000
IV. Property/Materials	1,636	0	1,636
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	15,878	58,748	74,626
Budget period totals	\$174,656	\$58,748	\$233,404

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities Executive Committee

Date: 8/5/15

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: C

Grantee: Volar Center for Independent Living
Project Title: Building Community Capacity through Collaboration
Project Location: El Paso **Website:** www.volarcil.org

Year: 2 of 5

TCDD RFP Intent: The project intent is 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: TCDD has approved up to \$150,000 for up to five years.

Expected Results: The Upper Rio Grande Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Community Support Network will identify, enhance, and expand community supports for people with disabilities in order to prevent and reduce admissions of people with developmental disabilities to institutions.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goal: To prevent and reduce admissions of people with developmental disabilities to State Supported Living Centers or other institutionalized settings by strengthening the capacity of community supports and developing additional resources.

Accomplishments per goal: The grantee established a network that includes representation from 55 agencies and organizations. The Network began implementing five approved initiatives to provide a variety of services including emergency respite, supported employment, transition planning, youth leadership, and post-secondary education. A transition planner was hired and has received 32 referrals for assistance. There are currently 21 families receiving support through this initiative. One student helped by the planner was in the process of being admitted to a State Supported Living Center (SLLC). Staff from Project HIRE visited El Paso to provide training and technical information about their model. Eighteen students attended this training and several have applied to enroll in the 2015 fall semester at El Paso Community College (EPCC). A summer college readiness training is scheduled for early August. The Network partnered with Texas Tech University to sponsor a Project Search forum for service providers, school districts, and community organizations. Forty people attended the event, but Project Search has not yet been established in El Paso. A Youth Leadership Development (YLD) Assistant has been hired to provide leadership and advocacy training and educate young people with disabilities about available services and supports in their community. The assistant conducted outreach to area high schools and developed media to recruit new participants. Some of the YLD participants met with legislators on Capital Day in Austin.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal 1: Same as above

Objectives: Develop person-centered transition plans for young adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) between the ages of 13 to 21; Implement Project HIGHER in El Paso to assist six students with IDD in completing a certificate program at EPCC; Provide workshops on Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) to stakeholders; Provide leadership and advocacy training to 30 people with IDD between the ages of 16 and 22.

Staff Recommendations:

Public Policy Considerations: [Public policy staff have concerns with the plan to provide 2 hour behavior management trainings. Some BCBAs use aversive techniques that could result in emotional and/or physical harm. Training should be reviewed by TCDD staff to ensure that ONLY positive techniques are used.](#)

Grant Management Considerations: Considerable risk monitoring (awards within awards; award amount). **Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (7 months) (Consultant: \$59,358)	\$125,000/\$43,004	\$14,483/\$15,488	\$139,483/\$58,492
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	37,153	12,287	49,440
II. Travel	1,218	0	1,218
III. Purchased Services (\$103,274 consultants)	103,274	2,517	105,791
IV. Property/Materials	1,409	0	1,409
V. Rental/Leasing	1,881	3,370	5,251
VI. Utilities	541	0	541
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$145,476	\$18,174	\$163,650