

**Background:**

Staff coordinated independent review panels to evaluate proposals received this quarter for two (2) Request for Proposals:

- Accessible Transportation Summits
- Leadership Development & Advocacy Training

The document behind this tab includes recommendations for the Accessible Transportation Summits. Information and recommendations for the Leadership Development and Advocacy Training proposals **will be emailed** to Executive Committee members prior to the meeting and included in the handout folder.

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions about proposals to approve for final negotiations for these projects.

**Executive Committee****Agenda Item 9.****Expected Action:**

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions on the project proposals.

**Council****Agenda Item 12. B.****Expected Action:**

The Council will receive a report of Executive Committee decisions.



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

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**TO:** TCDD Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Danny Fikac, Planning Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Summary of Review Panel Recommendations  
**DATE:** February 3, 2016

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TCDD staff convened review panels to evaluate proposals for two TCDD Request for Proposals (RFPs):

- Accessible Transportation Summits (1 project to be funded)
- Leadership Development and Advocacy Training (up to 4 projects can be funded)

This memo includes information and recommendations for the Accessible Transportation Summits. Information and recommendations for the Leadership Development and Advocacy Training proposals will be emailed to Executive Committee members prior to the meeting, and hard copies will be included in the meeting folder.

**1. Accessible Transportation Summits RFP Goal:** For this project, the grantee will coordinate and host at least three transportation summits for organizations and individuals who will actively collaborate with others in their community to address local transportation issues. The grantee will also provide support to the communities to develop, adapt, or revise plans to guide what they are doing at a local level, and they will share this information with other groups. The grantee will survey stakeholders to gather information about their experiences and goals, share this information with TCDD as well as share recommendations that can be used to develop further develop policy actions and future projects. During the posting period, TCDD received two proposals for this RFP.

**Authorized funding amount per RFP:** TCDD has made available up to \$150,000 per year, for the first, second, and third years; up to \$125,000 for the fourth year; and up to \$100,000 for the fifth year.

**The review panel ranked proposals as follows:**

1. Texas State Independent Living Center (SILC)

The review panel unanimously selected the proposed project from SILC. One additional proposal was received but was not recommended.

**Summaries of review panel and staff follow.** Summaries of review panel comments for proposals not recommended for funding by the panel are included for information purposes. These are not reviewed by staff.

## **Accessible Transportation Summits Proposal(s) Recommended for Funding**

**Organization:** TX State Independent Living Center (SILC)

**Funding Requested:** \$150,000

**Location of Main Office:** Austin, TX

**Match:** \$50,000

### **Strengths Noted by the Review Panel:**

- The Review Panel agreed that the proposal was well written and clear.
- The Panel acknowledged that transportation issues are statewide, and it is a positive that SILC has planned summits in four different areas of the state, including designated poverty counties.
- SILC has planned more transportation summits than the RFP required.
- The proposal demonstrates activities used to recruit, involve and support individuals' participation.
- SILC has demonstrated experience and knowledge about transportation and mobility issues and barriers and are qualified to perform the activities in the proposal.
- SILC has developed an accessible transportation network that includes the 27 independent living centers and a partnership with Texas Department of Transportation.
- The proposed project includes diverse traditional and nontraditional partners for the summits.
- As an incentive for participation, SILC offers continuing education credits.
- The continuation of the transportation summits appears to be possible due to SILC utilizing vendor fees.

### **Additional Strengths Noted by TCDD Staff:**

- Each of the five transportation summits will include a unique transportation public policy issue.
- Each summit issue is relevant to the community in which it's being held. Issues to be addressed include: local ordinances; funding complexities; rural transportation connectivity; county or boundary line coordination; safe and accessible streets and sidewalks; technological solutions, ADA paratransit.
- There is also a summit dedicated to public policy advocacy.
- TX SILC will conclude with a final report that documents the project efforts and provides recommendations regarding accessible transportation and alternative funding sources to serve as a roadmap for system-wide expansion of accessible transportation projects.

**Note:** SILC should look into resources available from the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, a new Federal Transit Administration technical assistance center that will: provide technical assistance, information and referral; develop and field training; implement an interactive communication and outreach strategy; and offer grant funding to support communities to assess needs and develop innovative transportation solutions.

### **Concerns Noted by the Review Panel:**

- SILC already has summits planned and did not address performing pre-summit surveys to determine issues and barrier topics for the summits.
- The time between summits may not be enough to allow thorough follow up surveys and data collection.
- SILC plans to track 30 individuals after the summit to monitor their progress with understanding and knowledge about transportation and mobility issues. The Review Panel believes there should be a high number of tracked individuals. The performance measures that stated that 500 attendees would be trained in transportation and that 400 participants would be trained in transportation advocacy.

### **Additional Concerns Noted by TCDD Staff:**

- The SILC's proposed budget needs clarification and revision.

## **Accessible Transportation Summits Proposal(s) Not Recommended for Funding**

**Organization:** Community Options, Inc. (COI)

**Funding Requested:** \$150,000

**Location of Main Office:** Austin, TX

**Match:** \$50,000

### **Strengths Noted by the Review Panel:**

- The proposal promotes the inclusion of individuals with disabilities.
- Review Panel members indicated that COI provided a clearly written proposal.
- The goals and objectives are clear with realistic timelines to accomplish them.
- COI emphasized their ability to collect stories and data to be shared with TCDD.
- COI is engaged in another grant project with Uber, and Uber is committed to participating in this project.
- The proposal promotes opportunities to increase public awareness about transportation needs and issues.

### **Concerns Noted by the Review Panel:**

- COI has ample experience in providing employment and housing support for individuals, but COI does not appear to have significant experience with transportation services and issues, and the level of participation from individuals is unclear.
- Although there is inclusion of individuals, the COI transportation alliance does not clearly state how individuals will be included and how their feedback will be incorporated. This proposal should more clearly outline how individuals will be a part of the planning of the project and project activities.
- Although Uber will be involved in the project, COI's project would benefit from more nontraditional partners.
- COI has 10 offices in different states, but the Review Panel feel that the number of individuals COI serves in Texas appears to be low.
- COI highlighted already known transportation barriers and issues, but they did not identify new ideas and transportation barriers.
- Transportation and mobility is a statewide concern, and COI has focused their project on the Austin/Travis County area. They did not appear to utilize the surrounding rural areas.