

Background:

Minutes of the May 4-5, 2016, Executive Committee meeting are included for your review.

Executive Committee — Agenda Item 3

Expected Action:

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
MAY 4-5, 2016**

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Council Chair
Gladys Cortez

Kristen Cox
Michael Peace

Lora Taylor

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Ruth Mason

STAFF PRESENT

Beth Stalvey, Executive
Director
Martha Cantu
Joanna Cordry

Cynthia Ellison
Danny Fikac
Wendy Jones
Jessica Ramos

Joshua Ryf
Koren Vogel

GUESTS PRESENT

Brittain Ayres

Brooke Hohfeld

Cozetta Lamar

CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, in the Jennings Room at the Doubletree Austin Northwest - Arboretum, 8901 Business Park Drive, Austin, TX 78759. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016, Executive Committee meeting as presented.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Council Chair Durham reported the expected absences for the meeting which include Hunter Adkins, Kimberly Blackmon, Dana Perry and John Thomas. Kristine Clark and Rick Tisch will attend meetings on Thursday but not Friday. Representatives from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) are not able to attend but will send Meghan Regis as a non-voting alternate. Durham will also not be able to attend the meetings on Thursday or Friday and has asked Council Vice-Chair Kristen Cox to facilitate the Committee of the Whole and Council meetings.

Durham also reported that Justin Babineaux was named as the alternate representative from the Department on Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and has been through orientation and is therefore eligible to vote.

Durham provided an overview of her work with the National Task Force on Workforce Development and Employability for People with Disabilities where she serves on the sub-committee for Career Readiness and Employability. This group was convened by invitation only and was charged with identifying how state governments- can address the challenges and opportunities to deliver effective and meaningful education and training for people with disabilities. The group also made recommendations to address barriers to entering the workforce. Durham participated in two national meetings that evaluated four policy areas: 1) career development and readiness with emphasis on person centered planning; 2) skill development and job exploration; 3) family engagement; and 4) awareness of education for all. She will provide an in-depth presentation on the group's work at the August Council meeting.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Stalvey reviewed stipend awards that were approved during the past quarter to the following applicant:

- Texas Parent to Parent: Events stipend for up to \$6,000 for the *12th Annual Texas Parent to Parent Conference* on June 17-18, 2016, in San Marcos.

Stalvey also noted that the Project Development Committee will consider an increase to the total annual stipend amount from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and individual awards from \$6,000 to \$7,500. Staff are also exploring opportunities to promote stipends to broader audiences.

Stalvey provided an update on TCDD staff noting that Sonya Hosey has returned to full-time duties but elected to step down from the Grants Management Director position and will be working as a Grants Specialist with additional responsibilities for quality control and special projects. Cynthia Ellison accepted the Grants Management Director position and has transitioned into that role. A Grants Management Specialist position remains vacant and will be posted for applications beginning next week. A candidate was selected during a previous posting and accepted the offer but then declined prior to the start date, choosing to stay with current employment.

Stalvey provided further staff updates to note that Josh Ryf's position has been reclassified to a Communications Director position in response to expanded efforts in communication and marketing. Communications activities are no longer under Public Policy and is now reflected as a separate division on the TCDD organization chart. Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry's

responsibilities have also increased to add additional federal reporting requirements, Committee support, and supervision of planning staff so her position is being evaluated for reclassification to a Director position. Public Policy Specialist Belinda Carlton is retiring on May 31, 2016. Her position has been posted for applications with the intent to have a new Public Policy Specialist in place in advance of the 2017 legislative session.

TCDD staff recently completed the biennial Survey of Employee Engagement. Results show an overall score of 371 which is an increase from 362 in 2014. Scores over 350 are considered to be desirable with scores over 400 noting a “highly engaged workforce”. The management team is exploring ways to address the lowest scoring areas and may look and external as well as informal staff development based on staff input.

Stalvey discussed modifications to this quarter’s Council meeting agenda. These changes were implemented in response to member suggestions and comments in previous quarters and will be evaluated for effectiveness. A summary of modifications include: an optional, informal session will be held at 8:30 AM on Thursday morning to allow members to ask questions about the agendas or materials. At 4:00 PM on Thursday, a “workshop” session will allow members and staff to share resources. The focus this quarter will be to gather Council member personal stories that Communications Director Ryf can share in member recruitment and other public awareness activities. At 4:30 PM on Thursday, following the Committee meetings, the Executive Committee will reconvene to consider any unfinished business and allow for a debrief of the Project Development Committee and Public Policy Committee meetings as well as plan for Committee reports at the Council meeting. Friday’s Council meeting will include a grantee presentation and allow more time for discussion of the systems change impact of the project. Stalvey also noted that a survey has been prepared for members to evaluate not only the schedule changes but the effectiveness of the meeting format and materials. Upcoming Council meetings will include preparations for the 2017 legislative session by focusing on key policy items that are expected to be addressed as well as providing support for Council members to be involved.

Stalvey discussed recent marketing and outreach activities to raise awareness of TCDD. She noted that Ryf and Executive Assistant Koren Vogel have participated in seven statewide conferences and local events with personal discussions about TCDD resources with over 250 people, increased email subscriptions by 120 and identified 15 potential new Council members. Council members Lora Taylor and Ruth Mason attended grantee sponsored events in the Houston area with Ryf and Vogel.

Stalvey further discussed recent and upcoming meetings with leadership from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). She is introducing herself to agency leadership and exploring options to collaborate on systems change activities.

6. GRANTS ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Grants Management Director Cynthia Ellison reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report noting that seven audits were completed during the quarter without any significant findings. The audit of Imagine Enterprises was still pending. She also reviewed the Grants Monitoring Exceptions Report noting that four onsite reviews were completed during the quarter and that all monitored projects are complete. She reviewed the Risk Assessment of TCDD Projects and the

Committee discussed the language of “funding issues” as a risk activity. It was noted that “funding issues” refers to reimbursements, spending patterns, budgets, and the amount of funding for a project that automatically places it in a higher risk category. Members discussed terminology for this risk category to ensure it accurately reflects what is reported.

Operations Director Martha Cantu provided an update on the status of the contract with Texas Center for Disability Studies (TCDS) to distribute travel funds for public members of advisory committees. Amy Sharp in her new position as director of TCDS along with other new project staff met with Cantu and Stalvey to become oriented with the process and reporting is now current. TCDS has contacted active workgroups to let members know that travel funds are available and has conducted surveys to individuals that have used the funds to determine their level of participation in their respective groups.

Executive Director Stalvey reported that Megan Morgan who was the TCDD Public Policy Fellow with the Arc of Texas recently resigned her position to accept a counseling position at Safe. This will end that project about three months early. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently posted for Public Policy Fellows and the Committee is expected to review applications for these new projects during the August meeting.

Stalvey also reported on the progress for the Partners in Policymaking project. Staff are working to post for applications for an in-house contractor who will manage the project while working closely with TCDD staff. Due to the amount of the contract, it is being reviewed through the state Comptroller’s office and will be posted once that process is complete.

Another contract with the DD Network Partners to manage the training on Alternatives to Guardianship and Supported Decision Making is being developed.

7. TCDD QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Operations Director Cantu presented a new format for TCDD financial reports. The new format provides the same information but uses simplified terms such as “spend” and “assign” instead of “obligate” and “liquidate” and includes dates for when funds need to be assigned and spent. A corresponding pie chart shows a summary of numbers as presented in percentages of funds. Committee members discussed if there was a need to list previous year’s funding as a separate column in the report and it was suggested that the current year be listed first because the previous year’s total is already included in the current year column. Cantu further explained that the main goal is to show how much of current year funds need to be assigned and spent and by what dates.

Cantu also reviewed the Operating Expense report which also has new formatting. It shows the approved budget amounts for the year for each category, the amount spent to date past and the amount left to be spent in the fiscal year. She noted that due to changes in staffing, adjustments were made to increase that category by \$45,000 by adjusting amounts in categories where it was not needed such as professional services and out of state travel. The total amount of the Operating Expenses budget did not change. Members did not express any concerns regarding the financial reports.

8. CONSIDERATION OF CONTINUATION GRANT AWARDS

TCDD Grants Management Director Cynthia Ellison reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to Enabling Programs Inspiring Communities for its enabling technology project. The project developed an application (app) for an iPad to assist employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to maintain inventory in vending machines. Funding has been requested for the final ten months of the project to increase the modules available on the app and continue training the individuals participating in the program. No concerns were noted for this project.

Committee member Lora Taylor informed the Committee that she and Council member Ruth Mason, along with Communications Director Josh Ryf, recently attended an open house for this grantee and described the work as “stunning”. She was impressed with the training provided to the participants as well as the process of the app. She added that training is being implemented for students in Houston Independent School District beginning at age 14. Taylor also noted that this grantee, separately from TCDD funding, employs individuals with I/DD as vendors for Papa John’s pizza at the Houston Rodeo as well as Houston Texans and Houston Rockets games with great success including “vendor of the year” awards. She encouraged all Council members to visit TCDD grantees and personally see the good work. Mason added her positive impression of the product and the training and noted that there is work to adapt the app to other industries from food service.

MOTION: To approve up to \$225,000 in continuation funding to Enabling Programs Inspiring Communities for the final year of a five-year Enabling Technology project.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 1)

Grants Management Director Ellison reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to Strategic Education Solutions for its enabling technology project. This project developed computer modules to assist individuals with autism as well as I/DD with job search skills as well as “virtual job coach” functions. In the remaining 10 months of the project, the grantee will continue training, and will focus on sustainability in finding funding to maintain the modules.

MOTION: To approve up to \$224,465 in continuation funding to the Strategic Education Solutions for the final year of a five-year Enabling Technology project.

MADE BY: Mary Durham

SECOND: Kristen Cox

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 2)

Ellison reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to Imagine Enterprises for the fourth and final year of a statewide Self Advocates as Speakers project. The project will reach the number of required trainees upon completion of the third year and will exceed the required number in the fourth year. Participants have presented to local, regional, and statewide organizations. The final year will focus on sustainability and will develop curriculum to be presented on the high school level.

MOTION: To approve up to \$125,000 in continuation funding to Imagine Enterprises for the final year of a four-year Self-Advocates as Speakers project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 3)

Ellison reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to VSA Arts of Texas for the fourth and final year of a statewide Self Advocates as Speakers project. During the first three years, this project has expanded from the Austin area to Houston and El Paso and will conduct classes in San Antonio during the final year. Self-advocates complete a six-week training course focusing on story-telling and interview practice and participants have presented in showcases, webinars and conferences. The final year will focus on continued training and finalizing the training manual.

MOTION: To approve up to \$125,000 in continuation funding to VSA Arts of Texas for the final year of a four-year Self-Advocates as Speakers project.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 4)

TCDD Grants Management Specialist Wendy Jones reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas for final ten months of a health and fitness project. This project adapted Get Fit New Jersey to Get Fit Texas beginning as a home based program serving 88 individuals in the first year. In the second year, the project moved to public locations such as the YMCA and expanded to serve 200 individuals. 250 have been served in the third year and the grantee expects to serve 300 in the fourth year. The program works with both adults and children and provides quantitative as well as qualitative data to show participant improvement. The grantee has partnered with organizations for potential sustainability such as school districts, YMCAs and the Richmond State Supported Living Center. No compliance issues or concerns were expressed for this project.

MOTION: To approve up to \$250,000 in continuation funding to Epilepsy Foundation of Texas for the final ten months of a five-year Health and Fitness project.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor

SECOND: Gladys Cortez

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 5)

Grants Specialist Jones reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to Region 17 Education Service Center for the fourth of a five-year Family Involvement in Schools project. The objective of this project is to increase family involvement for students with disabilities by participation in Admission, Review & Dismissal (ARD) meetings as well as other school activities. The goal is that one family member for every four students with disabilities will be involved in schools. Project activities encourage family attendance in collaborative events such as BLOCKfest training, hippo therapy and back-to-school conferences. Families for which English is a second language have been a focus of this project. No concerns or compliance issues were noted.

MOTION: To approve up to \$300,000 in continuation funding to Region 17 Education Service Center for the fourth year of a five-year Family Involvement in Schools project.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 6)

Jones reviewed the executive summary for continuation funding to Texas Advocates for the second year of a three-year Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing project. The project will help self-advocates learn advanced leadership skills and work with community organizing groups to make changes so that people with I/DD are included in their community. Texas Advocates made an administrative decision in October 2015 to become more independent from the organization providing fiscal and administrative resources. This move required Texas Advocates to restructure internally and they requested a temporary "hold" on the project for a few months. A new workplan that included new staff and plans to continue the project was presented by Texas Advocates in February and was approved by TCDD. Due to this delay, an updated quarterly report for this plan has not yet been received to determine if the project is back on target. During the continuation review for the final year of the project, the Committee may choose to consider the months that the project was not active and extend for those months. TCDD staff are satisfied with the plans that have been established to continue the project. Executive Director Stalvey clarified the delay in the project noting that the "hold" was to prevent unnecessary termination of the project. TCDD Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry noted that Texas Advocates is the only statewide self-advocacy organization for which the leadership is comprised entirely of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Texas Advocates project staff Brooke Hohfield and Brittain Ayres were present at the meeting and confirmed to members that project activities are resuming and that they are optimistic they will meet the goals of the project.

MOTION: To approve up to \$100,000 in continuation funding to Texas Advocates for the second year of a three-year Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing project.

MADE BY: Mary Durham

SECOND: Lora Taylor

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 7)

9. REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning Coordinator Cordry and Planning Specialist Danny Fikac presented the review panel recommendations for Leadership Development and Advocacy Training projects. Cordry noted that 11 proposals were received but only 10 were considered because one did not include a budget or supplemental materials. Four proposals were not recommended for funding. The panel ranked six proposals and Fikac and Cordry provided a brief summary in the order of that ranking.

The Committee discussed how many projects could be approved and it was noted that funding was originally allocated for up to four projects but that funds were available for additional projects if the Committee chose to fund more. It was noted that projects would begin according to staff availability for monitoring and that was expected to be no more than 2 per year. Chair Durham directed staff to determine the order of project start dates.

Paso Del Norte, located in El Paso, proposed a partnership with Volar Center for Independent Living to provide culturally appropriate training for a minimum of 100 participants based on the Partners in Policymaking model. The review panel liked that the plans included work in a high-poverty area with Spanish speaking participants and that plans for sustainability were included. Concerns included lack of plans to address modification of the curriculum to meet the needs of individuals with I/DD and timelines for the objectives may need to be changed to obtain project staff but it was felt that any issues could be resolved through workplan and contract negotiations.

Family to Family Network proposes to train 100 individuals in the greater Houston area and partner with Houston Center for Independent Living and/or Houston Community College and include Imagine Enterprises Project Speak graduates present as part of the training. Strengths include the organization's strong network and reputation for supporting both families and people with disabilities and including them in a meaningful way. As with other proposals the timeline needed to be more specific and budget needs clarification. The Committee discussed the diversity of the organization and it was noted that recent events and activities hosted by

Family to Family included a diverse audience. Fikac reviewed the application to highlight plans for training conducted in Spanish or Chinese languages or with certified translation services.

Easter Seals of Central Texas is located in Austin but will coordinate with local chapters to provide training not only in central Texas but in the lower Rio Grande Valley and Dallas/Fort Worth. Through a partnership with VELA, separate but simultaneous trainings in Spanish and English could be held where the need exists. Strengths included a broad network and strong presence throughout the state. Concerns include the need for more accuracy in the timeline and better definition of roles of project staff.

The Arc of Texas proposes to extend and expand current TCDD leadership and advocacy Project MOVE while incorporating components of the Public Policy Fellows project. However since the application, the policy fellow resigned her position so it is unknown if that could still be included. Strengths include historically strong projects with TCDD with a wide impact to raise public awareness. Concerns were that the policy platform may not be what the trainees choose to focus on and that the project was heavy on staff. There was an emphasis on group training and not individuals.

Advocacy for Living in Mainstream America (ALMA) proposes leadership and advocacy training to Spanish speaking self-advocates and family members in El Paso, Potter and McLennan counties. The work will only be in designated poverty counties for the under-served. They have previously had an Outreach and Development project through TCDD. Strengths include a long-standing history in the Latino/Latina community which should empower and build strong advocates. Concerns include an unclear organizational structure and lack of an annual financial audit or accrual accounting system as well as a focus on family members instead of self-advocates.

Texas A&M University (TAMU) proposes to continue a current leadership and advocacy project – Project LEAP as TAMU LEAP-2 providing training to 100 students in Educational Service Center Regions 4 and 6. LEAP was based on a previous TCDD Youth Leadership Forum project and the review panel noted strengths of a large network and significant resources. The panel felt the proposal was innovative but supported by a strong logic model and evidence based curriculum. The project plans to recruit youth to participate in project activities. Concerns include that it is a continuation of existing training and non-traditional partners do not appear to be included. There is also not a specific plan to address diverse populations.

MOTION: To approve grant funding of up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years to Paso Del Norte, Family to Family Network, Easter Seals and Texas A&M University for Leadership Development and Advocacy Training projects.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Michael Peace

Committee members were in agreement that further consideration of proposals from ALMA and the Arc of Texas was not necessary. Members agreed that they wished to fund proposals from

Paso Del Norte and Family to Family Network but wanted to continue discussion on proposals from Easter Seals and Texas A&M University.

Concerns were expressed about the proposal from Easter Seals because there is an apparent delay in Spanish translation services for the first year of the project. It was noted that this organization would be a new grantee for TCDD and has the strength of a sizable organization with a good reputation. Cordry expressed that Spanish language materials are available for other subjects but because leadership and advocacy is a new topic it may take some time to obtain translations. It was also noted that there was a plan in place to account for the translation.

Members expressed concerns over the proposal from Texas A&M University for various factors. It was noted that this is continuation of a current program instead of a new project. The large geographic area and population seemed problematic to train only 100 students.

AMENDMENT: To approve grant funding of up to \$75,000 per year for up to five years to Paso Del Norte, Family to Family Network, and Easter Seals for Leadership Development and Advocacy Training projects.

MADE BY: Kristen Cox

SECOND: Michael Peace

The motion **passed** unanimously. (Attachment 8)

10. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Committee members reviewed updated conflict of interest disclosure information for Council members and staff. No concerns were noted.

11. OTHER UPDATES

Executive Director Stalvey thanked members for submitting their Personal Financial Statements to the Ethics Commission and noted that state agency representatives were no longer required to file these statements.

Committee member Gladys Cortez noted that she was asked to participate in with the Mission, TX Parks and Recreation Department on the 10-year master plan for that community and she was able to provide input on inclusive and adaptive sites.

RECESS

Chair Durham recessed the Executive Committee at 6:17 PM.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Durham, Council Chair	Kristen Cox	Lora Taylor
Gladys Cortez	Michael Peace	

STAFF PRESENT

Beth Stalvey, Executive Director	Joanna Cordry Cynthia Ellison	Jessica Ramos Joshua Ryf
Martha Cantu	Danny Fikac	Koren Vogel

RECONVENE

Chair Durham reconvened the Executive Committee in the same location on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 4:35 PM.

12. COMMITTEE CHAIR DEBRIEFING

Committee members discussed the Committee of the Whole, Project Development Committee and Public Policy Committee meetings as well as the optional sessions before and after the meetings for members. Executive Director Stalvey noted that quite a few people attended the morning session and staff were able to informally address member questions. It also provided members with a networking opportunity. It was agreed that this time was beneficial for members and recommended to continue at the next quarterly meeting. Members also attended the afternoon session with Communications Director Joshua Ryf and provided personal stories for him to use in future social media opportunities.

Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reviewed the executive summaries that will be recommended for approval during the Council meeting. Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor reviewed the three position statements that will be recommended for Council approval and other Committee discussion.

Members also discussed how to include guests at future meetings to ensure full participation.

ADJOURN

Chair Durham adjourned the Executive Committee at 5:02 PM.

Beth Stalvey
Secretary to the Council

Date

Attachments

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

ITEM: A

Date: 5/4/16

Grantee: Educational Programs Inspiring Communities

Year: 5 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 for Year 1–4:

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.

Project Accomplishments for Year 1–4:

Year 1: A survey was administered to program participants to gauge technology proficiency from which modules for the app were defined and designed. An evaluation was developed to solicit feedback from pilot participants.

Year 2: The project partner fully coded and deployed all aspects of the app. 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.

Year 3: 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.

Year 4: There was an expansion on the HITS design which resulted in templates or modules that can be used by other businesses and companies outside of HEART while at the same time providing updates to the current successful HITS app so that it can continue to be utilized fully within HEART.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

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; and, Create a stand-alone inventory module for use outside of The HEART Program.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: The public policy obstacles identified by the grantee should be revisited now that all Medicaid waiver programs expressly offer both employment assistance and supported employment services. It should be noted that the HCS program does not prohibit job training programs (“It is not allowable under the day-hab rules for the consumer to participate in any job training activities”). The underlying public policy is that a provider cannot charge for the provision of two services at the same time (day habilitation and habilitation training) or charge for day habilitation when the service being delivered is habilitation training. PP staff recommend that proceeds of goods or services produced in training should accrue to the individual, not the training provider. At this stage in the grantee’s product development, it would be helpful to develop measures of how its technology helps workers with disabilities perform competitively in integrated environments.

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

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

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
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 (Consultant: \$175,000)	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$90,000/\$98,967	\$315,000/\$323,967
Expended Year 4 (7 months) (Consultants: \$175,000)	\$225,000/\$130,878	\$95,000/\$58,720	\$320,000/\$189,598

Amounts Requested for Year Four Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
1. Personnel Services	\$40,018	\$0	\$40,018
2. Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Purchased Services (Consultants: \$175,000)	\$177,000	\$100,000	\$277,000
4. Property/Materials	\$1823	\$0	\$1823
5. Rental/Leasing	\$859	\$40	\$859
6. Utilities	\$5300	\$0	\$5300
7. Other (Indirect Costs)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Budget period totals	\$225,000	\$100,000	\$325,000

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

ITEM: B

Date: 5/4/16

Grantee: Strategic Education Solutions

Project Title: Enabling Technology

Project Location: Houston

Year: 5 of 5 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 for Year 1-4:

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.

Project Accomplishments for Year 1-4:

Year 1: 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.

Year 2: 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 which had been used as 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.

Year 3: 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.

Year 4 (to date): In years 1-4, pilots served a diverse group of 46 users (ages 16-43). The project staff is in the process of developing a RFQ to enable re-negotiation of the technology license agreement to minimize per-user cost or identify a new technology system to disseminate contact. The project is in the process of uploading additional content in the area of Career Planning. A RFP will be sent to Texas MHMR’s and Regional Education Service Centers in an effort to identify organizations that serve rural and/or poverty counties to complete a pilot program. The project continues to pilot the program with project SEARCH in Fort Bend ISD and Social Motion will implement a pilot in Houston during the last four months of the budget period.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Update technology in support of the sustainability plan; update the content in support of the sustainability; refine branding/positioning/messaging in support of the sustainability plan; pilot the testing expansion; and, update the program evaluation.

Staff Recommendations:

Public Policy Considerations: Finding competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities requires a person-centered approach when working with both the individual and the potential employer. Regarding both the individual and the employer as clients substantially improved rates of employment using customized employment and internships, relying on tools such as professional and personal profiles to augment interviews. 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

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
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 (Consultant: \$150,680)	\$225,000/\$225,000	\$90,000/\$73,335	\$315,000/\$298,335
Expended Year 4 (9 months) (Consultant: \$175,000)	\$225,000/\$112,708	\$95,000/\$62,488	\$315,000/\$175,196

Amounts Requested for Year Three Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
1. Personnel Services	\$80,000	\$46,120	\$126,120
2. Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Purchased Services (\$141,705 consultants)	\$141,705	\$41,868	\$183,457
4. Property/Materials	\$0	\$490	\$490
5. Rental/Leasing	\$0	\$200	\$200
6. Utilities	\$0	\$550	\$550
7. Other (Indirect Costs)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Budget period totals:	\$224,465	\$90,260	\$314,725

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

ITEM: C

Grantee: Imagine Enterprises

Year: 4 of 4

Project Title: Self-Advocates as Speakers

Project Location: Statewide

Website: <http://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 for Year 1-3:

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, 2017.

Project Accomplishments for Year 1-3:

Year 1: Project SPEAK coordinated efforts with three organizations to serve as training sites for participants and created an information sheet and application process. Project staff created a curriculum that is used to conduct both a three-day and one-day follow up training. There were 15 speakers recruited through Imagine Art, Family to Family and Dickinson ISD. There were presentations made to 10 local organizations, 5 regional organizational meetings and 1 to a statewide meeting.

Year 2: The grantee trained 20 speakers from Alvin ISD, Gulf Coast Self-Advocates and Texas Tech University. There were 19 presentations to local groups, 11 to regional meetings and 16 to state meetings. Curriculum and marketing materials were updated and translated into Spanish.

Year 3: The grantee partnered with Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCIL), Santa Fe ISD, and Costal Bend Center for Independent Living. There were 15 speakers trained in year 3 which will bring the total number of speakers to 50 by the end of the current budget period. To date, there has been 13 local presentations, 5 regional presentations and 6 state presentations for year 3.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Customize project SPEAK for use as both an educational program and a sanctioned extracurricular activity for school districts; develop a business plan to sustain project SPEAK beyond the end of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities grant with possible fee-for-service training materials; augment project SPEAK promotional initiatives; and, nurture the continued development of project SPEAK graduates for presentations at 10 local organizations, 2 state conferences and the Texas legislature.

Staff Recommendations:

Public Policy Considerations: Changed policy at local level and is working on a state policy change. Locally, one student went to the school board and secured a policy change to allow individual choice in electives instead of pre-determined requirements. SPEAKers are asking to be included in the Texas Education Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) criteria. PP staff continue to request information from speakers on needed policy changes, as well as 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

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Total Amounts Expended
Expended Year 1 (13 months) (Consultant: \$25,974)	\$124,999/\$111,493	\$41,767/\$27,633	\$166,766/\$139,126
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$23,844)	\$125,000/\$76,360	\$51,316/\$27,821	\$176,316/\$104,181
Expended Year 3 (8 months) (Consultant: \$22,194)	\$125,000/\$76,602	\$47,742/\$36,433	\$172,742/\$113,035

Amounts Requested for Year Three Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
1. Personnel Services	\$83,415	\$6983	\$90,398
2. Travel	\$3653	\$1472	\$5125
3. Purchased Services (Consultant: \$23,754)	\$37,854	\$29,338	\$67,192
4. Property/Materials	\$78	\$549	\$627
5. Rental/Leasing	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Utilities	\$0	\$3324	\$3,324
7. Other (Indirect Costs)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Budget period totals:	\$125,000	\$41,666	\$166,666

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

ITEM: D

Date: 5/4/16

Grantee: VSA arts of Texas

Year: 4 of 4

Project Title: Opening Minds, Opening Doors: Promoting Self-Advocates as Speakers

Project Location: Travis, Hays, Williamson, El Paso, Bexar, and Harris Counties

Website: None

TCDD RFP Intent: The project intent is to recruit a diverse group of self-advocates who will become public speakers, facilitators or mentors in an effort to increase the number of organizations that include self-advocates as speakers, facilitators and mentors at in-state conferences or trainings.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$125,000 for up to 4 years.

Expected Results: Conferences and trainings will use self-advocates as speakers, facilitators, or mentors.

Project Goals for Year 1–3:

Goal: To increase the number of self-advocates who are speakers, facilitators and mentors at conferences held in Texas.

Project Accomplishments for Year 1–3:

Year 1: Completed two 6-week training course that focused on story-telling, interview practice and using a microphone was piloted with a group of nine self-advocates and held two 5-week writing classes in Austin for 11 continuing participants. A speaker showcase was held in which 45 people were in attendance. A database was created to interested self-advocates, disability professionals and conference providers to use as a tool to recruit potential participants.

Year 2: Recruited seven self-advocates to participate in the 6-week training class held in El Paso. These self-advocates participated at two conferences and provided the keynote address at the Children's Disabilities Information Coalition Symposium. Monthly classes were also held at Volar CIL.

Year 3: Self-advocates from Austin presented at two different webinars, one on resources and advice for parents of children with disabilities and the other on working with personal care attendants. Fourteen self-advocates from the Austin area presented at nine conferences and/or events. A 6-week class was started in Houston in which seven self-advocates participated. An additional eight class meetings were scheduled for continuing and new participants. A self-advocate from El Paso participated in the Our Lives Conference in El Paso along with the project coordinator and project facilitator.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: Update program documents and training curriculum, advertise program and recruit PAC members and self-advocates (from San Antonio); train self-advocates to become speakers, mentors and facilitators and provide ongoing support and technical assistance to these self-advocates; support self-advocates as speakers and presenters at conferences in Texas. VSA will also explore fee-for-service models to sustain the curriculum at the end of the project.

Staff Recommendations:

Public Policy Considerations: VSA Arts speaker’s grantee states an overarching public policy focus on the underlying institutional bias and reports 42 individuals have presented to various forums. Staff requested in the last continuation that we receive specific info about issues, biases and barriers addressed in presentations. This information is vital to informing policy work and promoting the work of this grant. Public Policy will also request a list of speakers so we may support their efforts, collaborate when appropriate, and recommend speakers in advocacy related to institutions and community living.

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

Staff Recommendations: TCDD staff recommends the Council to consider continued funding.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Total Amounts Expended
Expended Year 1	\$125,000/\$125,000	\$41,666/\$41,666	\$166,666/\$166,666
Expended Year 2 (6 months) (Consultants: \$21,652)	\$125,000/\$52,323	\$41,000/\$14,444	\$166,000/\$66,767
Expended Year 3 (9 months) (Consultants: \$25,400)	\$125,000/79,205	\$41,666/19,965	\$166,000/\$99,170

Amount requested for Year 3 budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
1. Personnel Services	\$61,857	\$14,693	\$76,550
2. Travel	\$7362	\$828	\$8190
3. Purchased Services (Consultants: \$25,400)	\$41,838	\$18,774	\$60,612
4. Property/Materials	\$0	\$4389	\$4389
5. Rental/Leasing	\$12,788	\$2707	\$15,495
6. Utilities	\$1155	\$275	\$1430
7. Other (Indirect Costs)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Budget period totals:	\$125,000	\$41,666	\$166,666

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

ITEM: E

Date: 5/4/2016

Grantee: Epilepsy Foundation of Texas (EFTX)

Year: 5 of 5

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

Project Location: Statewide rural communities

Website: 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 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 1–4:

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 300 individuals total (year 4).

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 expanding into schools in the third year, with a small program in the CyFair schools district near Houston. Year four introduced preventative health testing including: blood lipids, glucose, and blood pressure. As of March 2016, the program has served 200 out of a targeted 300 participants and is on track to meet the year 4 goal.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 5: Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Establish project sustainability sources like becoming a Medicaid provider enabling our participants to bill through the state Medicaid, additional grants and sponsors; 2) Maintain our current partnerships and provide services to 361 individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers; 3) Incorporate program with new partners 4) Establish program in Austin area.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: Get FIT is working with a professional firm to get approved as a state Medicaid provider. Preventable conditions account for 70% of our nation’s health care costs. If Get FIT is approved as a Medicaid provider it will be a policy win for people with DD and state and local government. The grantee also acknowledges the need for systems changes in transportation to improve access to health activities and resources such as Get FIT.

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

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council to consider continued funding for this project.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Totals Amount Expended
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$35,000)	\$249,538/\$249,538	\$81,869/\$80,848	\$331,407/\$330,386
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$59,375)	\$249,750/\$249,750	\$95,341/\$83,624	\$345,091/\$333,375
Expended Year 3 (Consultant: \$62,550)	\$248,735/\$250,000	\$106,959/\$85,004	\$355,694/\$335,004
Expended Year 4 (7 months) (Consultant: \$62,550)	\$250,000/\$124,302	\$103,758/\$65,714	\$353,758/\$190,016

Amount Requested for Year Five budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
1. Personnel services	\$132,414	\$71,071	\$203,485
2. Travel	\$2,376	\$221	\$2,597
3. Purchased services (\$107,710 consultants)	\$109,210	\$10,822	\$120,032
4. Property/Materials	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000
5. Rental/Leasing	\$0	\$8,567	\$8,567
6. Utilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
7. Other (Indirect Costs)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Budget period totals:	\$250,000	\$90,681	\$340,681

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

ITEM: F

Date: 05/4/2016

Grantee: Region 17 Education Service Center

Year: 4 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 1-3:

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. The long-term goal is that 1 family member for every 4 students with disabilities will be actively engaged in schools.

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. In year 3, the grantee continued to work with the Academic Beginnings Center in Levelland, the Kelley Dodson Elementary in Denver city and added the elementary campus in Floydada ISD and all campuses in Seminole ISD. So far in year 3, the project conducted a back to school conference in which numerous trainings were provided to more than 2,000 educators. A Hippotherapy (horses) experience was provided for 13 students and 7 parents. A BLOCKfest training was provided with more than 540 parents attending. A total of 54 parents attended the Building Strong Families event.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 4: Goal: Same as above.

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.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: Measuring the effect that family involvement in schools has on the socialization and academic performance of students with disabilities will benefit students, families, and school personnel. PP staff continue to 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

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Totals Amount Expended
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$95,500)	\$300,000/\$300,000	\$35,715/\$33,333	\$335,175/\$333,333
Expended Year 2 (Consultant: \$97,912)	\$300,000/\$300,000	\$33,333/\$33,333	\$333,333/\$333,333
Expended Year 3 (6 months) (Consultant: \$80,000)	\$300,000/\$102,485	\$33,333/\$20,441	\$333,333/\$122,926

Amount Requested for Year Four Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
1. Personnel services	\$162,087	\$0	\$162,087
2. Travel	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
3. Purchased services (\$70,000 consultants)	\$86,750	\$19,758	\$106,508
4. Property/Materials	\$9,755	\$0	\$9,755
5. Rental/Leasing	\$29,383	\$0	\$29,383
6. Utilities	\$25	\$0	\$25
7. Other (Indirect Costs)	\$0	\$13,575	\$13,575
Budget period totals:	\$300,000	\$33,333	\$333,333

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee
Review of Proposed Activities & Budget**

ITEM: G

Date: 05/4/2016

Grantee: Texas Advocates

Year: 2 of 3

Project Title: Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing

Project Location: Austin

Website: None

TCDD RFP Intent: The intent of the Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing RFP is for one group of self-advocates to work with others to make changes so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in their community. TCDD is awarding this grant to support self-advocates with intellectual and developmental disabilities to show others how they can build community capacity and improve system supports.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$100,000 for up to three years.

Expected Results: TCDD expects that this project will help self-advocates with disabilities: 1) learn advanced leadership skills; 2) work together with a trained community organizer and other experts to identify and change a program, policy or practice so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in their community; and 3) keep working together to make the community better after this project is over.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goal: Texas Advocates will speak out for ourselves and organize a powerful group of self-advocates in Greater Austin to create change in their community at their direction, so people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in their community.

Objectives: 1) Texas Advocates will recruit and engage self-advocates to participate in at least 40 individual one-on-one meetings to determine their interests and invite them to join the self-advocacy community organizing group; 2) Texas Advocates will invite self-advocates and conduct one initial large community organizing meeting to organize the self-advocate group, select leaders and identify issues the self-advocates want to learn about; 3) Texas Advocates will support the group to conduct monthly meetings to provide training and expert advice at the direction of the group on topics such as community organizing, developing leaders, building relationships, how to run a meeting, getting people involved, how to create change, negotiation and disability and community issues; 4) Texas Advocates will support the group to use a proven method of strategic planning (PATH/Midwest Academy Strategies) to identify and select the group's short, intermediate, and long term goals and develop a plan to reach their goals.

Accomplishments per goal: A total of 54 one-on-one interviews were completed with self-advocates to learn about their lives, goals, and issues in the community. A total of 29 individuals participated in the initial community organizing meetings and identified issues to address such as housing transportation, activities, jobs, and access. Grant activities were suspended in October 2015 due to staff resignations and per the request of Texas Advocates. The grantee worked through November 2015 to January 2016 to establish the terms of a working relationship with the Arc of Texas while retaining its independence. In February 2016, the grantee submitted a plan to move forward for the remainder of the budget year as well as request for a change of budget period to allow time to complete workplan goals and objectives. TCDD reviewed and approved both documents. Texas Advocates then hired 2 grant staff members and resumed project activities in March 2016.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Texas Advocates will continue to recruit, engage, and support self-advocates and their allies to organize in their own communities; 2) Texas Advocates will continue to assist the self-advocate community organizing group to develop, update, implement, and evaluate their strategic plan; 3) Texas Advocates will support the local self-advocates organizing group to conduct monthly meetings to provide training, identify and learn about the issues, and organize to create systems change in local and state issues, including collaboration with self-advocate groups across the state; and 4) Build the organizational infrastructure to ensure sustainability and long-term community organizing activities for self-advocates.

Council Considerations:

Public Policy Considerations: The Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing project seems eager to succeed in increasing public policy voices with organized and skilled groups acting together. Staff recommended, instead of focusing on strategic planning, that they conduct activities 4 through 7 of the RFP (identify group leaders; invite experts to provide training; and develop a plan to reach the goal) and conduct twice monthly meetings with the individuals already at the table and let them lead and decide — to build durable power.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; Risk Assessment: Considerable.

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

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Total Amount Expended
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$18,621)	\$100,000/\$57,120	\$33,691/\$18,664	\$133,691/\$75,784

Amount Requested for Year Two Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
1. Personnel services	\$81,585	\$0	\$81,585
2. Travel	\$2,881	\$0	\$2,881
3. Purchased services (\$5,880 consultants)	\$10,043	\$22,310	\$32,353
4. Property/Materials	\$3,091	\$0	\$3,091
5. Rental/Leasing	\$0	\$11,250	\$11,250
6. Utilities	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
7. Other (Indirect Costs)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Budget period totals:	\$100,000	\$33,560	\$133,560

2015-7 Leadership Development and Advocacy Training

Organization: Paso Del Norte

Funding Requested: \$75,000

Location of Main Office: El Paso, TX

Match: \$25,000

Strengths Noted by the Review Panel:

- Paso Del Norte serves a high poverty area and understands cultural needs, bilingual needs, and modifications and accommodations for individuals with disabilities.
- The El Paso area faces isolation, poverty and language barriers, and this project will grow the number of advocates and raise public awareness to address these issues.
- Paso Del Norte is collaborating with Volar, which is a strength of the proposal. Both Paso Del Norte and Volar focus on individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Paso Del Norte plans to achieve sustainability through organizational fundraising.
- Paso Del Norte's plan is to utilize Partners in Policymaking, which has never been offered in El Paso before.
- Paso Del Norte's approach meets all of these accepted "best" or "promising" practices: accepted standard of care in providing person- or family-centered services and supports; accepted business practices; and/or other standard practice within an industry.
- This proposal does an excellent job incorporating the principals of self-determination.
- Both organizations are well connected to the disability community, which is advantageous.

Additional Strengths Noted by TCDD Staff:

- The project will be geared to obtaining needed services and supports through self-advocacy or advocacy for others.
- Paso Del Norte intends to recruit training participants from their community partners.
- Paso Del Norte encourages participants to connect with TCDD through social and email outlets.

Concerns Noted by the Review Panel:

- The activities focus on recruiting individuals with disabilities but do not address supporting persons with disabilities. The proposal did not appear to address modifying the curriculum to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and only discussed the translation into Spanish.
- The narrative speaks about using TCDD funding for two part-time project coordinators (one at Paso Del Norte and one at Volar) but more detailed explanation about responsibilities is needed.
- The timelines for the objectives may need to be changed due to the need to hire staff to support the project.

Additional Concerns Noted by TCDD Staff:

- Paso Del Norte's proposed budget needs clarification and revision.

2015-7 Leadership Development and Advocacy Training

Organization: Family to Family (F2FN)

Funding Requested: \$75,000

Location of Main Office: Houston, TX

Match: \$25,000

Strengths Noted by the Review Panel:

- F2FN has a strong network and the ability to carry out the project, but the timeline is ambitious.
- Past F2FN experience indicates the organization understands and is capable of undertaking this project.
- All F2FN staff have a family member with a disability.
- The organization seems to have strong connections to other organizations that can help realize the goals of the project and stretch resources.
- F2FN will continue to invite participation of people with developmental disabilities and their families in a meaningful way. The proposal reflects meaningful input from a range of stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities.
- F2FN will continue to raise public awareness and involvement by people with disabilities and their families as well as involve them both in policy change.
- F2FN has past experience providing similar trainings, and there is an effort to accommodate schedules with Saturday trainings.
- F2FN has a reputation for supporting families and individuals with disabilities.
- This proposal demonstrates inclusion and self-determination. This organization strives to ensure everyone has access and is able to make choices about their lives.

Additional Strengths Noted by TCDD Staff:

- F2FN demonstrates a strong command of public policy issues and demonstrates alignment with the Council's values.
- F2FN is committed to ensuring cultural diversity and the inclusion of self-advocates as trainers.

Concerns Noted by the Review Panel:

- The project timeline will need more specifics in the first and second quarters rather than all activities being ongoing.
- F2FN's evaluation does not appear to be thorough as others' models and may need to be improved.

Additional Concerns Noted by TCDD Staff:

- F2FN's proposed budget needs clarification and revision.

2015-7 Leadership Development and Advocacy Training

Organization: Easter Seals Central Texas

Funding Requested: \$75,000

Location of Main Office: Austin, TX

Match: \$25,000

Strengths Noted by the Review Panel:

- Easter Seals has a broad network, reach and experience and they pull in families and people with disabilities. Coordinating participants to participate legislative event called Lobby Day is a great approach for meaningful involvement. Easter Seals will also provide a stipend for participants in Lobby Day.
- This proposal shows capacity to succeed and has promise. Sustainability may be achieved through outside funding sources.
- Easter Seals demonstrates meaningful collaboration, which allows for this program to have a wide impact and raise public awareness and may lead to broader accomplishments.
- Easter Seals receives meaningful input from a range of stakeholders including people with developmental disabilities. Easter Seals provides person/family centered services and supports.
- Easter Seals has a strong presence across the state with a variety of people with disabilities and their families. The proposal appears to lend itself to full inclusion with the partnership with Vela for assistance to reach out to Hispanic and Spanish-speaking people. The project will translate materials into Spanish over one year.
- Easter Seals will continue to utilize a previously successful approach in advocacy training.
- The partnership with Vela and the innovative approach to "dual" trainings may provide good insight as to whether this approach is one to be further evaluated for its effectiveness. There is an expectation of a larger impact than originally envisioned by TCDD.
- Easter Seals is a large organization with four other offices identified as participating in the project, giving them a large consumer base.
- This Easter Seals project is one of the only projects that clearly describes specific accommodations for individuals with disabilities.
- Additional benefits might include raising public awareness and developing an exceptionally strong collaborative effort with a non-disability organization.

Additional Strengths Noted by TCDD Staff:

- Easter Seals has a command of legislative issues.

Concerns Noted by the Review Panel:

- The project needs more accurate phasing of objectives by quarter as the project comes together because starting all of the project objectives on April 16, 2016 is not realistic.
- The proposal never mentions the Parent Training and Support staff member, and the Communications person may not be the translator. The roles need to be better defined.
- Additional details about the Easter Seals' training program are recommended.

Additional Concerns Noted by TCDD Staff:

- Easter Seals' proposed budget needs clarification and revision.
- Staff recommend a greater emphasis on people with developmental disabilities leading trainings.
- During class formation, Easter Seals should ensure participant diversity rather than reviewing for diversity after class completion.