

Background:

The Project Development Committee will review proposed projects to implement the TCDD State Plan. The enclosed documents provide information to assist with that discussion.

- **State Plan Projects List** — The FY 2017 – FY 2021 State Plan requires specific projects to implement that plan. This list is inclusive of projects that must be developed to address goals and objectives in the plan and provides the current status of the projects.
- **Executive Summaries** — TCDD staff prepared an executive summary for the following proposed project that meets state plan requirements:

1. **Public Policy Fellows**

Staff will also present research and suggestions related to a possible sibling network project, which the Project Development Committee will discuss using the provided review guide.

Please review the Executive Summary closely and, if you have any questions, please contact Joanna Cordry, Planning Director at (512) 437-5410 or joanna.cordry@tcdd.texas.gov

Project Development Committee — Agenda Item 7**Expected Action:**

The Project Development Committee will consider the Executive Summary and may recommend Council approval for funding.

Council — Agenda Item 5**Expected Action:**

The Council will consider recommendations from the Project Development Committee.

Projects that must be developed to address State Plan Objectives

Projects in progress

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.3	Develop at least five new programs successfully support individuals with developmental disabilities to be included in post-secondary education.	In review by Executive Committee
1.7	Pilot at least one model that provides community-based, person-centered activities for people who are not employed and not in school.	Research being conducted by staff
2.4	Collaborate with the Texas DD Network Partners to educate people about and increase the use of alternatives to guardianship.	Executive Summary approved
3.3	Provide financial support for at least one advanced leadership development and advocacy skills training program. (Partners in Policymaking)	Request for Proposals for contractor 7/7/16
3.5	Demonstrate how people with developmental disabilities can provide peer supports to other people with developmental disabilities.	Executive Summary approved
3.10	Create a youth leadership training program.	Request for Proposals in progress
3.12	Provide fellowships for at least four people.	Proposal in review by Executive Committee; Project Development Committee reviewing Executive Summary for additional fellowships

Objectives required to be implemented each year

Objective number	Objective	Status
3.7	Support people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy training (required objective)	Grassroots Community Organizing project in progress until 2018
3.8	Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy network run to increase their capacity to pursue their mission. (required objective)	Must start by 2019
3.13	Support the participation of people living in rural areas and people who self-identify as having a racial or ethnic minority background in TCDD leadership and advocacy projects.	

Objectives to be implemented by fiscal year 2021

Objective number	Objective	Status
1.5	Create training and information for people who have developmental disabilities and families on financial literacy, SSI/SSDI and benefits.	
1.7	Pilot at least one program to provide community-based person-centered supports for people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs.	
1.9	Implement at least three projects to address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s). Two in progress	
1.10	Pilot at least on practice to address the needs of people with developmental disabilities who are aging and their caregivers.	
1.11	Pilot at least practice that supports organizations that serve the general public to improve how they include and are responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities.	
2.5	Collaborate with the DD Network Partners to promote the use of person-centered practices.	
2.6	Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers experienced by individuals who are Spanish-speaking.	Possibly a staff activity
3.4	Provide financial support for at least four general leadership development and advocacy skills training programs.	Three approved but yet not started
3.6	Demonstrate how people with developmental disabilities living in the community can mentor or provide advocacy training to people in institutions.	
3.11	Create at least one sibling network.	Project Development Committee to discuss 8/4/16

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State Plan Guiding Principles

The following principles were kept in mind in developing the following goals and objectives:

- Evolution versus revolution of the 2012-2016 State Plan, building on strategies that further advance the work of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD).
- Alignment with the mission of the Council and purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act).
- Consistency with the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis of TCDD as an organization.
- Ease of comprehension.
- Consistency with proposed measures and reporting requirements set by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).
- Consistency with input from self-advocates, family members, and allies.
- Consistency with person-centered practices.

1. Create and support promising practices that enable people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities and to have control over their own lives by 9/30/2021.

(Definition: Promising Practices: Programs and strategies that have some scientific research or data showing positive outcomes in delaying an untoward outcome, but do not have enough evidence to support generalizable conclusions.)

- 1.1. Demonstrate at least three models that support people with disabilities to have employment of their choice by 9/31/2018.
- 1.2. Implement a program to provide training and information to people who have developmental disabilities and their families so they can continue receiving SSI/SSDI and health benefits while increasing their income and assets through gainful employment by 1/1/2018.
- 1.3. Develop at least five new programs that demonstrate success at supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to be more fully included in post-secondary education by 5/31/2021.

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- 1.4. Pilot at least one new model that provides community-based, person-centered activities for people with developmental disabilities who are not employed and not in school by 9/30/2021.
- 1.5. Implement a program to provide training and information to people who have developmental disabilities and their families on financial literacy and to better understand SSI/SSDI and health benefits by 1/1/2021.
- 1.6. Demonstrate at least three new models that support individuals with disabilities to improve or maintain their health by 3/31/2018.
- 1.7. Pilot at least one new community-based person-centered practice that ensures that people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs, including mental health needs, receive appropriate and timely services by 9/30/2021.
- 1.8. Each year of the plan, provide support to stakeholders to participate in transportation planning activities that increase mobility and availability of accessible transportation.
- 1.9. Implement at least three projects that address specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who identify with a specific minority culture(s) by 9/30/2021.
- 1.10. Pilot at least one practice that addresses the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are aging and their caregivers by 9/30/2021.
- 1.11. Pilot at least one practice that supports organizations, agencies, groups, or individuals that provide services to the general public to fully include and be responsive to the needs of people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2021.

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- 2. Improve and/or expand community-based systems to better support people with developmental disabilities or families of children with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities by 9/30/2021.**
 - 2.1. Each year of the plan, participate in at least ten workgroups to promote systems that will sustain the policies and programs that demonstrate success in supporting people with developmental disabilities or families of people with developmental disabilities to be fully included in their communities.
 - 2.2. Each year of the plan, collaborate with at least five other organizations to improve community capacity to support individuals with developmental disabilities who are at risk of institutionalization or who desire to leave institutions.
 - 2.3. Each year of the plan, collaborate with at least three other organizations to promote access to timely, appropriate medical and/or behavioral health services that serve people with complex needs.
 - 2.4. Collaborate with the Texas Developmental Disabilities Network Partners (the Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development, the University of Texas Center for Disability Studies, and Disability Rights Texas) to educate people with developmental disabilities and their families about, and increase the use of, alternatives to guardianship by 9/30/2021.
 - 2.5. Collaborate with the DD Network Partners (Texas A&M Center on Disability and Development, Disability Rights Texas, and the University of Texas Center for Disability Studies) and others to promote the use of person centered practices by 9/30/2021.
 - 2.6. Collaborate with at least three community-based organizations to reduce linguistic and cultural barriers that prevent individuals who are Spanish-speaking from receiving services by 9/30/2021.
 - 2.7. Each year of the plan, advocate for legislative/policy change to remove barriers to full-time or part-time employment for people with developmental disabilities.
 - 2.8. Each year of the plan, advocate for legislative/policy change to improve educational outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.

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- 3. Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems, and community supports.**
- 3.1. Maintain information about self-advocate presenters who developed speaking skills through TCDD- funded projects by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.2. Provide financial support for at least four general leadership development and advocacy skills training programs for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and allies by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.3. Provide financial support for at least one advanced leadership development and advocacy skills training program for people with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, and allies by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.4. Provide financial support for people with developmental disabilities to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training programs to people with developmental disabilities each year by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.5. Demonstrate at least one program through which people with developmental disabilities provide peer supports to other people with developmental disabilities by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.6. Demonstrate at least one program through which people with developmental disabilities living in the community mentor or provide leadership and advocacy training to individuals living in institutions by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.7. Demonstrate at least one program through which people with developmental disabilities conduct community organizing to achieve goals they have selected by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.8. Collaborate with at least one statewide self-advocacy organization run by people with developmental disabilities to create opportunities to increase their ability to pursue their mission by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.9. Provide financial support for self-advocates and family members to participate in cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions each year by 9/30/2021.
 - 3.10. Create at least one leadership development and advocacy skills training program for youth with disabilities by 9/30/2021.

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- 3.11. Create at least one sibling network by 9/30/2021.
- 3.12. Provide TCDD Fellowships to at least four people to develop the requisite skills, knowledge and experience to engage in policy activities so that people with people with developmental disabilities have greater control over their own lives by 9/30/2021.
- 3.13. Each year of the plan, conduct at least one activity to support the participation of people living in rural areas and people who self-identify as having a racial or ethnic minority background in TCDD leadership and advocacy initiatives.
- 3.14. Publish information at least quarterly to support advocacy and involvement in public policy development each year of the plan by 9/30/2021.

4. Identify and engage in current and emerging issues according to the Council’s priorities and mission “to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.”

- 4.1 Each year of the plan, provide written and/or verbal public policy input on behalf of TCDD regarding issues that impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- 4.2 Each year of the plan, organize and conduct communications activities to increase connections to organizations and individuals each year.
- 4.3 At least once each year of the plan, review emerging issues and progress on state plan goals to determine if amendments are needed to the state plan.
- 4.4 Each year of the plan, evaluate and/or address opportunities to develop or incorporate new promising practices that would improve TCDD’s ability to achieve the Council’s mission.

Funding Proposal Executive Summary TCDD Policy Fellows Program

Background

Many professional advocates who have been collaborating successfully with people with developmental disabilities and their families on disability-related policy issues are nearing retirement. Unfortunately, the opportunities to be mentored by these seasoned, long-time experts will decrease in the near future. This loss of institutional knowledge and tremendous talent is occurring not only in Texas' state health and human services agencies, but also the state's advocacy organizations. Very frequently there are only a handful of bureaucrats and advocates who have the technical expertise to analyze the potential impact of public policy, a deep understanding of the history of the disability advocacy movement, and recognition of the importance of self-determination and self-advocacy. Many current advocates had the opportunity to learn directly from and alongside those who have shaped the disability advocacy movement, and these experienced advocates have a great deal to share with individuals who are just now preparing for careers in public policy.

TCDD authorized the provision of funding for up to four TCDD Policy Fellows (two of which have been funded as of 7/11/16). To support the development of additional fellows, TCDD must authorize funding to mentor younger policy-focused professionals to effectively work together with self-advocates to draft the policies and procedures of the future.

State Plan Goal

Goal 3 Increase the access that individuals with developmental disabilities and families of individuals with developmental disabilities have to information, training, and support to advocate for themselves and/or to collaborate with allies to impact public policy, service systems, and community supports.

Objective 3.12 Provide TCDD Fellowships to at least four people to develop the requisite skills, knowledge and experience to engage in policy activities so that people with people with developmental disabilities have greater control over their own lives by 9/30/2021.

Expected Outcome

Policy fellows will develop their effectiveness at working within the policy-making processes at the state and community levels. Fellows will apply a theoretical framework to analyzing public policy and will gain a deep level of understanding of policy issues important to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to inform their analysis. By the end of their fellowship, they will be able to work at the national, state and community levels and identify the major social, economic, and health conditions facing persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each fellow will collaborate with persons with intellectual disabilities to develop cultural competence while they develop their ability to review current policies and programs; assess opportunities and challenges associated with current policies and note implications and issues for development of future policies. They will develop knowledge and skills relating to

public policy issues as they pertain to diverse, unique needs of marginalized populations. Fellows will develop an understanding of national approaches to addressing public policy issues.

Project Description

TCDD intends to support opportunities for experienced policy professionals to train and mentor less experienced policy professionals through a fellowship program. TCDD expects that TCDD Public Policy Fellows will develop the skills and knowledge to work effectively at the state and community levels.

TCDD will provide funding to increase the capacity of individuals who are beginning their public policy career in Texas to engage effectively in developmental disability policy advocacy. Texas nonprofit advocacy organizations would be eligible to receive a grant to hire, train, and mentor a developmental disability policy fellow for up to two years. The fellows will be recent graduates of law, social work, public policy or other related graduate programs. The high value placed on real-world personal experiences means that self-advocates, parents and siblings of persons with disabilities would be strongly encouraged to apply for fellowships.

The fellows would learn about the many ways that public policy can influence systems change, including statutory, and regulatory actions and organizational practice with a foundation in the Council's values. The Public Policy Fellows would also likely make a meaningful contribution to their organization's mission, and they may be asked to provide training to other advocates across the state through presentations and webinars.

TCDD would fund 10 different projects, each supporting one fellow for two years. The last project would be completed in the sixth year. This would result in a total of 10 fellows: two fellows in year one; four fellows in year two; four fellows in year three; four fellows in years four and five; and two fellows in year six. Years 2017, 2019, and 2021 include legislative sessions.

Proposed Funding Amount

Up to \$135,000 for year one; \$270,000 for year two; \$270,000 for year three, \$270,00 for year four; \$270,000 for year five; and \$135,00 for year six. TCDD match requirements will apply.

Proposed Duration

TCDD would provide funding for up to six years.

Other Considerations

If the funding is authorized, TCDD staff recommend allowing organizations to apply at any time during the year. The Executive Committee could review proposals and make funding decisions twice a year for applications submitted by the designated dates posted in the Request for Proposal.

Project Development Committee

Idea Discussion Guide

Questions to be considered when discussing a new project idea:

1. What is the issue or gap in the system that needs to be addressed?
2. What group or groups of people with disabilities would benefit from addressing this issue?
 - a. Consider: Geographic area(s); age(s); disability type(s); race/ethnicity; people who speak different languages; income; education
3. What state plan objective does this address?
4. What public policy priority does this address?
5. How has this issue been addressed to date?
 - a. Previous or current TCDD Grant?
 - b. Effort from other organization or state agency? Who?
 - c. What was the result?
 - d. How have other states addressed this?
6. How would TCDD build on current and/or previous efforts? (Describe specific activities)
 - Advocacy --Telling others about issues, needs, and possible solutions
 - Capacity Building--Helping communities and other groups build their resources
 - Systems Change--Changing the way government programs, state agencies, and other organizations do business every day to improve support for people with disabilities
7. Who is ultimately responsible for this issue in our system- long term?
 - a. Individuals with DD, Families, Service Providers, Community organizations, State agencies, leaders/policy makers
8. What disparity or disproportionalities exist related to this project?
9. Is addressing this issue feasible?