

## Unsolicited Request for Continuation

Tab 4

### Background:

Council procedures for unsolicited proposals now call for the Executive Committee to consider unsolicited requests for extensions from current grantees. One request was received this quarter asking for full funding for one additional year of project activities. That request, and an Executive Summary from staff, are enclosed for the Committee's consideration from:

1. TIRR/ILRU Accessible New Housing Project

### Executive Committee

#### Agenda Item VII.

### Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will review this unsolicited request for an additional year of funding and determine appropriate action.

### Council

#### Agenda Item IX. C.

### Expected Action:

The Council will consider any recommendation brought forward by the Executive Committee.

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Project Ending Request**

**Date:** 02/10/10  
**Grantee:** ILRU  
**Project Title:** Accessible New Housing Project  
**Project Location:** Houston

**ITEM:** 1  
**Year:** Completing Year 5 of 5 as of 6-30-10

**TCDD RFP Intent:** *To establish either the EasyLiving Home<sup>cm</sup> or a similar program that addresses the expected outcomes and meets the intent of the RFP to promote construction of first level accessible (visitable) homes, and fits the unique characteristics of Texas including the significant cultural and geographic differences.*

**State Plan Goal and Objectives:**

**Goal 7:** People with developmental disabilities can secure accessible, affordable, community Integrated housing in the communities in which they choose to live.

**Objective 1:** Collaborate with other organizations and agencies to increase the number of affordable, accessible, community-integrated housing units in Texas, by September 30, 2011.

**Project Accomplishments (5 years):**

Conducted 60 presentations and 20 training sessions; trained 2120 people in visitable housing; disseminated materials to over 2500 people; and, marketing outreach to millions of people (e.g., press releases, radio program, and web site and print ads). Recruited 34 member builders located in 19 counties in central and east Texas. Certified 46 homes with the price range of these homes ranging from \$130,000 to \$1 million.

**Statement of need:** Texas continues to need affordable, accessible housing, and for builders and developers of “lower-end” homes to participate in the “Accessible New Housing” program.

**Activities Proposed for 1-Year Extension:** Project will target lower end (homes ranging from \$50k to \$100k) builders and developers to adopt tenets of accessible housing. Create criteria and outreach to offer the seal of approval to existing homes. Develop and offer a credited course to Real Estate Professionals about visitability/accessibility. Teach students about aXess Homes and visitability.

**Proposed outcomes:** 12 builders/developers actively using accessible housing standards; outreach and certification of at least 25 low-income homes; create criteria and outreach to offer the seal of approval to at least 50 existing homes; partner with the Texas Association of Realtors (TAR) to offer a credited course to real estate professional; and, promote/teach visitability across Texas schools to elementary, secondary and high school students (potentially reaching a minimum of 213,270).

**Duration of proposal:** 12 months.

**Areas:** Statewide.

**Public Policy Implications:** TCDD's current public policy priorities include increasing the stock of affordable housing in Texas. This proposal does not address this policy issue in a substantive manner. Currently, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs provides architectural barrier removal for homeowners and renters across the state. In addition, other local organizations such as public housing authorities and Independent Living Centers provide architectural barrier removal. Therefore, if a homeowner purchases an inaccessible home, there are programs available to make that home accessible. The more pressing policy problem in Housing is that people with disabilities are priced out of homeownership.

**Budget Impact:** TCDD funds are available; approving funds for this request would not impact the priorities for funding other activities already approved.

**Staff comments/Observations:** The project has met the intent of the Council's original RFP to develop a certification program that specifies first level accessible criteria in new home construction. The EasyLiving Georgia program ended and notified Texas to terminate all state affiliations and no longer use the EasyLiving name. The Texas project refocused, renamed itself, and created new promotional tools that give the project potential to be more inclusive, such as certifying low-income and existing homes (that was not permissible under the previous project). Although the proposed activities would likely increase outreach efforts, increase name recognition, and develop new partnerships; TCDD staff do not believe the proposed activities will have a significant impact on the proposed outcomes or increase the probability of sustaining the project.

<b>Budget Detail Summary</b>			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Amount expended in year 1	198,500	79,244	277,744
Amount expended in year 2	199,622	83,955	283,577
Amount expended in year 3	199,621	86,659	286,280
Amount expended in year 4	199,622	94,999	294,621
Amount expended in year 5	199,622	90,386	290,008
Total budget for 6/1/05 – 5/31/10	996,987	435,243	1,432,230

<b>Extension Period through May 2011</b>	
Total budget requested for additional 12 month (6/1/20 – 5/31/11)	199,622