APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: Proyecto: Acceso 2021 Alpha Resource Center

Applicant Organization: Alpha Resource Center

Awarded Amount: $175,000

Funding Announcement Name: Promoting Service Access and Equity Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Community Connector, Outreach & Engagement, Training & Education Access to Services for Hispanic/Latino Non-English Speakers Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their family members who are Hispanic and primarily Spanish speakers will have increased knowledge of resources, supports, and skills to navigate systems, access, and utilize regional center and generic services.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title	**Applicant Response**	
What is the Project Title?	Proyecto: Acceso 2021	
2. Awarded Amount	**Applicant Response**	
	$175,000	
3. Organization Type	**Applicant Response**	
Please check the box that describes your organization	Community Based Organization (CBO), 501(c)(3)	2
4. Description of Organization/Group	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Provide a brief description of the organization/group (organization type, group mission, etc.). Explain what experience your organization has managing a program similar to the proposal and state the outcomes of that program.	Alpha Resource Center is a private non-profit organization providing lifespan services to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their family members. Founded by parents in the 1950's, current services include an adult day program, community-based services, resource libraries, working art studio and gallery, youth social recreation opportunities and family resource center. Family Resource Center services are provided from birth through life and include parent to parent support, system navigation, resource, and referral with follow-up, learning opportunities, and advocacy. Alpha Resource Center empowers individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities throughout Santa Barbara County by supporting families, creating opportunities, and fostering belonging. Alpha Resource Center is an Early Start funded family resource center and currently manages Proyecto: Acceso, a Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) funded grant focusing on service access and equity. Alpha also holds a contract with Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC) to provide information and resource support to individuals served by TCRC and their family members. Alpha was a subcontractor for a disparity grant awarded to TCRC in 2017-18. Outcomes for the 2017-18 project were achieved or exceeded in all but one area during the 18-month funded period. Experience with the 2017-2018 project prompted Alpha to submit the proposal, Proyecto: Acceso in 2019, with full support of TCRC and other community partners. The primary objective is *individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their family members who are Hispanic and primarily Spanish speakers will have increased knowledge of resources, supports, and skills to navigate systems, access, and utilize regional center and generic services.* Despite revisions due to the pandemic, Proyecto: Acceso is on target for meeting or exceeding all goals.	
5. Applicant in Good Standing	**Applicant Response**	
Is the applicant in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration?	Yes	1
6. Subcontractors in Good Standing	**Applicant Response**	
Are the applicant's subcontractors in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration?	Yes	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Grant Reapplication Information		
Grant Reapplications Only		
1. Grant Number	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) What is the Grant Number of previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	19-C18	
2. Project Title	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) What is the Project Title of previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Proyecto: Acceso	
3. Project Start & End Dates	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) What are the Start & End Dates of the previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Start Date: 03/26/2020, End Date: 03/26/2021	
4. Project Duration	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) What is the Total Project Duration (in months) of the previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	12	
5. 2016/2017 Award	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
6. 2016/2017 Expenses	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was expended in FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
7. 2016/2017 Remaining	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
8. 2017/2018 Award	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2017/2018. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
9. 2017/2018 Expenses	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants) Enter the amount of funding that was expended in FY 2017/2018. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
10. 2017/2018 Remaining	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2017/2018. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
11. 2018/2019 Award	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2018/2019. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
12. 2018/2019 Expenses	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the total amount of funding that was expended, or is anticipated to be expended, in FY 2018/2019. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
13. 2018/2019 Remaining	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2018/2019. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
14. 2019/2020 Award	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2019/2020. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	$164,836.87	
15. 2019/2020 Expenses	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplicants only) Enter the total amount of funding that was expended, or is anticipated to be expended, in FY 2019/2020. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	$164,836.87	
16. 2019/2020 Remaining	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2019/2020. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	$74,208.87	
17. Total Awarded	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Combine the amounts included in FY 2016/2017, FY 2017/2018, FY 2018/2019, and FY 2019/2020 for the total amount awarded for the project. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	$164,836.87	
18. Initial Proposed Number of People Served	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) Include the initial number of people projected to be served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	500	
19. Actual Number of People Served	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) Include the actual number of people served. Explain why this number is different from the projected impact number. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Actual number of people served March 2020 through September 2020: **298 unduplicated persons** Number of people impacted by outreach materials March 2020 through September 2020: **400+** Number of people reached through social media: **6000+** Projected impact number: **500** Proyecto: Acceso is halfway through the 12 month project timeline. Number of unduplicated persons served + number impacted by information received via outreach and social media exceeds projected number.	
20. Regional Centers in Catchment Area	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas that the project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Tri-Counties Regional Center	
21. Cities Served	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplications Only) List the cities your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Cuyama, Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, Los Alamos, Santa Ynez, Isla Vista, Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria	
22. Counties Served	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) List the counties your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Santa Barbara County	
23. City of Los Angeles	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) If your project has served the City of Los Angeles, list the zip code(s) and/or community(ies) your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
24. Activities to Date	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) Provide a detailed explanation of project activities to date. Include what the project has accomplished to date. From the start of the project to the date of reapplication, what are the key accomplishments? Have all activities been completed? If no, why not? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	All proposed activities in the current funded project, "Proyecto: Acceso" are on target to be achieved. At the date of this reapplication, some activities have surpassed the anticipated target outcome.

COVID-19 halted most face-to-face outreach and demanded increased technology and utilization of phone, text messaging, zoom and other social media. To date, over 6,000 persons have been reached by Spanish language posts via Facebook from April – September, 2020.

Project activities focused upon community outreach by Promotoras with an emphasis on communities throughout Santa Barbara County where persons who are Hispanic, indigenous, and who are non-English speakers congregate. Over 400 individuals have received information on community resources in Spanish. Information and graphics highlighted where to call if there are reasons for concern about a child's development or if they have or work with a child of any age identified as having a disability or developmental challenges. Due to shelter in place, community outreach events were delayed or cancelled. By June activities increased with safe sharing of materials at food distribution centers, oral health drive through events, and in local produce fields and apartment complexes where farmworkers and their families reside.

Recognizing that many in the Mixteco communities have limited English and Spanish oral and written abilities, outreach materials have been updated with more simplified language and increased use of graphics for those who are non-readers. With vetting of community partners, materials were updated using 2 formats; simplified trifold brochure and a one-page handout/flyer for mass distribution and posting at non-traditional locations such as "lavenderías" (laundromats), "inglesias" (churches), and small neighborhood "mercados" (markets) | 2 |

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
25. Project Impact & Outcome (Reapplications Only) Provide a detailed explanation of project impacts and outcomes to date. Attach data (summary of pre-tests and post-tests), participant success stories to demonstrate project outcomes and impacts. Provide outcomes of your project's impact in serving the target communities. Using your attached data, provide a brief statement of key findings. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	**Applicant Response** Alpha's Proyecto: Acceso team provided an immediate response to COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Realizing that individuals and their family members served by the regional center would have specific needs due to special health care needs and/or their disability, a plan of action was promptly created to respond to needs and provide support. The following data reflect individuals or family members who received direct services from Alpha through **Proyecto: Acceso March 2020 through September 2020:** **298 (unduplicated) individuals/families who identify as Hispanic/Latino** **173 Spanish speaking only** **77 English only speakers** **43 bilingual English/Spanish** **4 Mixteco** **1 Mixteco/Spanish speaking, and** **224 of the 298 served are individuals served by Tri-Counties Regional Center** In partnership with other agencies Alpha worked to acquire diapers, wipes, PPE and grocery store gift cards. Local restaurant friends of Alpha partnered with us to deliver free, hot meals to families who have children with special needs. Knowing that many of families served by the regional center do not have vehicles or were self-isolating to protect their vulnerable children in their home, it was necessary to develop a plan to provide contactless deliveries. The homes and offices of staff quickly became warehouses and staging areas to create packs of diaper, wipes, PPE and resources for delivery. Staff began calling families who we knew may be in most need. A majority of calls were made to those families we had worked with in the past who are Spanish speaking who we knew have been resistant to asking for help in the past and utilizing public assistance. In addition, we worked closely with TCRC service coordinators, who provided referrals. In response to the fear, feeling of isolation and growing anxiety among the families that we work with, Alpha's team created a bilingual warmline. An online Padlet of resources was developed, family support groups via Zoom and Facebook in both English and Spanish were hosted, social media platforms were increased to enhance communication. Text messaging became a valuable source of connection for providing individualized support and resources.	1

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	March 2020 to date, Alpha has made 79 contactless deliveries of diapers, wipes, PPE, and other needed supplies and resources to 345 individuals overall. Thanks to the TCRC Clients Help Fund, 78 grocery store gift cards were provided to families, helping to feed over 271 individuals. 25 hot meals were delivered to homes feeding 105 individuals. As a result of strong partnerships, collaboration, and outreach, we were able to connect with many families and providers who were not previously aware of the breadth of our programs and services.	
26. Project Objectives	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplications Only) What are the projects objectives in addressing disparities and what remains to be addressed/completed? Explain why these objectives have not been completed during the current grant period. Provide a brief description of the key lessons learned from your current project, if any. What were some of the challenges that prevented your project from meeting your objectives/measures? What are some strategies your organization plans to implement to address challenges, if any? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	In reviewing FY (Fiscal Year) 2018-2019 data, "Total Annual Expenditures and Authorized Services by Language" in the Tri-Counties Regional Center catchment, English speakers are 72% more likely to receive or be authorized to receive services than those consumers who are Spanish speakers. Broken down by language, total expenditures ($259,692,445) and authorized services ($382,607,454) reflect a significant gap with 85%/English and 13%/Spanish. In addition, there is no regional center data reflecting the Mixteco population. It remains difficult to measure success of targeting outreach in areas where members of this indigenous population work and live.

Qualitative and quantitative data can adequately measure impact, so without time and tools to assess regional center data (referrals from Mixteco community) over a longer term, it's difficult to accurately determine impact at this time. An assumption can be made that the more the community is aware of the resources, the more they will access them. Ongoing outreach is important and with extension of targeted efforts in communities where non-English speakers live, trust can be developed to ensure that when those who are not informed or who may be fearful reach out to Alpha and the Promotoras, they can be assisted and supported in accessing services.

While most activities have exceeded projected numbers, staff share concerns about those families who are isolated or impacted by the "digital divide." Child find efforts need to be enhanced and communities need to have greater education on the benefits of early identification, telehealth, and remote learning. Referrals to Early Start have decreased since March 2020. TCRC reports families in Early Start opted out of services and there is no formal procedure in place to follow up with these families to encourage reactivation or reapplication for services.

In addition to continued **outreach and information sharing**, Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will focus on **engagement** though leadership building by forming an Alpha family advisory council with members from Spanish speaking communities. Increased Spanish language learning opportunities are proposed in the areas of parent-to-parent mentoring, serving on advisory committees, becoming board members, and providing public input and testimony to have their voices heard. **Child find** efforts will be enhanced through dissemination of "Resources for Children"/"Recursos de Ninos". Special emphasis will focus on re-referral to Alpha for those families exiting Early Start at age 3. TCRC, school, and CBO partnerships will broaden opportunities for co-hosted virtual, and when possible, face to face, events focused on learning about available resources, how to access them, who to call when help is needed and how to access and use technology. | |
| **27. Project Transition** | **Applicant Response** | |
| (Reapplications Only) If awarded, how will your current project transition into the 2020/21 proposed project? | Transition will be seamless. With bilingual, skilled staff and Promotoras already secured current efforts will continue and be expanded upon to ensure progress in addressing concerns using lessons learned with growing trust in the community as well as | 3 |

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
How does your proposed project complement your current project? Does your proposed project expand or continue your current project, if so how? What activities, measures, or target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change. If not applicable, select Not Applicable.	collaborative partnerships. Materials have been revised and vetted and are ready for dissemination. Social media audiences are growing and more have become familiar with use of virtual learning. MICOP (Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project) is becoming better established in Santa Maria. Collaboration between Alpha and MICOP is expected to increase greatly. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will continue outreach efforts with the Promotores Network and will provide non-English speakers with increased system navigation and learning opportunities by skilled staff. Promotoras will continue to work withing their strength of outreach in communities. Alpha staff will provide systems navigation, support, and follow-up. Child find activities will focus on all ages. The currently funded funded project did not focus on birth to age 3. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will place emphasis on providing learning opportunities for families with children at age 3 entering the regional center and special education systems. Families with children aged 2.6 to 3 years in Early Start will be contacted by Alpha staff to transition readiness. The decrease in Early Start referrals and number of families opting out of services requires targeted outreach to alert families of the importance of early identification, intervention, and the value of teleintervention. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will provide families with children of all ages who have distanced themselves out of fear or barriers in access, the support they need to re-engage. Partnering with TCRC, a services and provider fair is proposed to help communities become better informed of services that are available and how to access them. Alpha and TCRC will host 2 "meet and greets" where individuals and family members will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from the regional center and facilitated by trusted staff with a "what's working and what can be better" approach. Parents continue to share that they do not know who their service coordinator is or their service coordinator "doesn't call them back". Authorized services are not accessed, often due to challenges with completing applications or lack of providers. Families need to know they can reach out and ask for help with things are not working. Learning opportunities will continue with historically favorite topics, such as "Getting Organized" and "Transition to Adulthood." Additional learning opportunities will promote leadership with a focus on providing public testimony, speaking to community leaders and board members, communicating orally and in writing with providers, and increasing skills and confidence in navigating systems. With the population in Santa Barbara County equally split between Hispanic/Latino (44.8%) and White alone (45.3%), leadership from families impacted by disability is needed to create better access to equitable services. An Alpha Family Advisory Council with Spanish speaking family members will be established to provide program guidance and enhanced evaluation. Alpha's website, www.AlphaSB.org, will have increased information posted in Spanish to increase awareness of available, culturally responsive services.	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS

General Application

Proposal Summary

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
1. Individuals Impacted Enter the projected number of individuals impacted.	**Applicant Response** 2000	
2. People Served What is proposed number of people projected to be served?	**Applicant Response** 300	
3. Duration of project What is the duration of the project? Enter Start & End Dates.	**Applicant Response** Start Date: 03/01/2021, End Date: 03/31/2022	
4. Duration of project (months) What is the total duration of project in months?	**Applicant Response** 12	
5. Regional Centers List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas.	**Applicant Response** Tri-Counties Regional Center	
6. Cities Served List the city or cities your project proposes to serve.	**Applicant Response** Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Cuyama, Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, Santa Ynez, Isla Vista, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria	
7. Counties Served List the county or counties your project proposes to serve.	**Applicant Response** Santa Barbara County	
8. City of Los Angeles If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes and/or communities your project will serve.	**Applicant Response** Not Applicable	
9. Community Based Organizations Will you be working with one or more Community Based Organization?	**Applicant Response** Yes	
10. Regional Center Data If you plan to use regional center data for your project, indicate what steps you will take (or already have taken) to acquire it. For example, completing a data agreement, completing a data request, meeting with RC to discuss data availability/timelines, etc.	**Applicant Response** Data used is based upon FY 2018-2019 Regional Center POS Data, primarily Total Annual Expenditures and Authorized Services by Language, Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC). Meetings with the TCRC Multi-Cultural Specialist are ongoing with project manager. Members of the Alpha team have communication as needed with Early Start and Children's Team Managers and service coordinators. Early Start meetings are held 4 times per year. Feedback from TCRC Purchase of Service meetings, past and present is utilized.	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
11. First Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**	
Select your first project type.	Community Connector (Example: Promotora or Navigator)	
12. Second Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**	
Select your second project type (if applicable).	Engagement and Outreach (community events, etc)	
13. Third Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**	
Select your third project type (if applicable).	Parent Education (online or in person trainings, etc)	
14. Multiple Organizations	**Applicant Response**	
Does your project include partnership with one or more organizations either as a co-applicant or subcontractor? If "yes", please upload a letter of support from each organization, that includes an explanation of their role in the partnership.	Yes	
15. Leverage & Strategies	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Describe how your organization will leverage and build upon strategies, collaborations, and lessons learned to continue to address the identified disparities after completion of the project. How will your project continue its work after the grant funding has concluded?	Proyecto: Acceso 2021 focuses on outreach, connecting, and leadership opportunities. While Alpha provides outreach, Promotores provide in-reach. Both activities inform and educate on services and support available. For individuals and family members already served by systems to those who are not aware of what is available, having knowledge of where to go for help benefits the entire community. Promotores are becoming more skilled at accessing systems and supports for those impacted by disability or who are at risk. These skills will be shared as needed with all they encounter, long after funding for this project has ended. Individuals and family members, who are more knowledgeable about resources and who get the help they need, will be better equipped to advocate in the future. If help is needed, they will know where to call. With mentoring and leadership skill-building, individuals and family members will have greater confidence in sharing their concerns, voicing their experiences, helping others, and partnering to explore creative and innovative service systems that are responsive to their needs and preferences.	
	Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will continue to partner with TCRC to leverage their goals as outlined in TCRC Strategic Performance Plan 2019-2021 of: • *"building personal connections and trusting relationships to help individuals and families navigate a myriad of service systems and generic and regional center funded services";* • *"ensuring equitable access to services for all individuals and families and will continue to build local capacity to provide culturally proficient services and supports";* and • *"increase it's presence in the community to familiarize people with the role of regional center, available services, and how to access them."*	
	Collaborative partnerships strengthened during these times of crisis have already proven to better inform agencies and community partners of the width and breadth of Alpha's services. This has provided greater funding and will be a reminder in the future when the effects of the pandemic have lessened. More often when a delivery is made, families will say, "we heard about you, but we never called; we didn't know you could help". Regional center service coordinators have increased referrals, based on the essential items we can provide the families they work with, and this has prompted more than one service coordinator to say, "*we didn't know you did that*". This is widespread knowledge that wasn't as recognized in previous years of outreach. Enhance partnerships provide mutual opportunities for professional development, trust and relationship building that will be sustained long after the project ends.	
	Building capacity is proving that the need is not lacking for skilled, bilingual parent support and system navigation. The Alpha team responded immediately to the needs of the community in March 2020 without hesitation. The requests for assistance, especially from the non-English speaking population has increased significantly as is reflected in data. This provides evidence to future funders that the services Alpha provides are responsive and necessary.	
Target Population		
1. Target Groups Served	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Select all groups the project will serve. If you select "Pacific Islander" or "Other" use comment section to list all groups.	Hispanic	
Applicant Comment	Those who identify as Hispanic/Latino and who prefer Spanish as a primary language, bilingual Spanish/English or who are non-English speakers.	
2. Number of Target Group Served	**Applicant Response**	
For each target group selected in previous question, list number served.	Over 2000 individuals will be impacted by increased knowledge through dissemination of outreach materials in English and Spanish with simplified language and graphics. Aggregated counts of individuals impacted can only be estimated based upon locations of outreach and in-reach events. 300 individuals will be served directly through 1:1 or small group learning opportunities provided in Spanish. Impact of social media outreach to 8000 + can only be estimated by those who are reached.	
3. Languages	**Applicant Response**	
Select all Languages the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list all languages.	Spanish	
Applicant Comment	Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will focus on those who identify as Hispanic/Latino, not White, non-English speakers. Primary will be Spanish speakers and project will include outreach and services to the Mixteco communities.	
4. Age Groups Served	**Applicant Response**	
Select all Age Groups the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list groups.	Birth up to Three (Early Start) , Three to 21 , 16 to 21 , 22 and older , Three to Five	
Applicant Comment	Families with children 2.6 - 3 years will be the focus in the 0-3 age range to provide enhanced services in the area of transition to regional center, Part B of IDEA, and other generic resources. All other activities will be inclusive to all age groups.	
Project Application		
Project Application		
1. Project Summary	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, catchment area, and project design. Specifically describe what your project will accomplish and how it will benefit the community served.	Target ages: 2.6 years through adulthood Population: Individuals/family members who identify as Hispanic, non-English speakers. Catchment area: Tri-Counties Regional Center, Santa Barbara County Proyecto: Acceso 2021 focuses on children 2 years 6 months who are exiting Early Start, ages 3 through adulthood. Target population are those who identify as Hispanic and who are primarily Spanish speakers in Santa Barbara County with an emphasis on those who are served by Tri-Counties Regional Center or who may be eligible for regional center services. **Outreach** activities will provide information and engagement with communities who are typically underserved due to language, poverty, fear and mistrust of engaging with public agencies, or discomfort in challenging authority figures. **Engagement** and knowledge of resources will be increased by Santa Barbara County Promotores Network sharing information as trusted entities within communities where many Spanish speaking families reside. Efforts will include farmworker communities and areas where indigenous Mixteco families live and work. Proyecto: Acceso (funded 2020) has built Alpha capacity to better support families served by TCRC by increasing part-time staff who are parents of children served by TCRC, who are bilingual English/Spanish, and who are skilled in **system navigation**. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will allow this work to continue and will increase staff by .5 full time equivalent position to support families through navigating systems and access to services. The new position will ensure qualitly adata collection and reporting. These resource coordinators serve as "community connectors". Online **learning opportunities** and direct 1:1 remote services (in-person when permitted) will provide information on community resources, tools for accessing both generic and regional center services, increased knowledge of TCRC vendored providers, tips for positive parenting a child with special needs, and leadership training. **Professional development** will enhance cultural responsivity and understanding of implicit bias and racial equity in service systems. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will ensure Hispanic community members, many who are non-English speakers, will have increased knowledge and support in accessing regional center and generic services and the confidence to better advocate for themselves and their family member(s) through the provision of culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate, and family-friendly information; direct support and assistance with follow-up; and access to learning opportunities.	
2. Organization Experience	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
What experience does the organization/group have working with the target population?	Alpha Resource Center is a private non-profit organization providing lifespan services to individual with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their family members. Founded by parents in the 1950's, current services include adult day program, community-based services, resource libraries, working art studio and gallery, youth social recreation opportunities and family resource center. Family Resource Center (FRC) services are provided from birth through life and include parent to parent support, system navigation, resource, and referral with follow-up, learning opportunities, and advocacy. FRC staff include 3 resource coordinators who are bilingual/bicultural English/Spanish speakers and 5 parents of children served by the regional center and have accumulated over 112 years of navigating within systems serving persons with developmental disabilties. Alpha Resource Center empowers individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities throughout Santa Barbara County by supporting families, creating opportunities, and fostering belonging. Alpha Resource Center is an Early Start funded family resource center and currently manages Proyecto: Acceso, a DDS (Department of Developmental Services) funded grant focusing on service access and equity. Alpha also holds a contract with Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC) to provide information and resource support to individual served by TCRC and their family members. Alpha was a subcontractor for a disparity grant awarded to TCRC in 2017-18. Outcomes for the 2017-18 project were achieved or exceeded in all but one area during the 18-month funded period. Experience with the 2017-2018 project prompted Alpha to submit the proposal, Proyecto: Acceso in 2019, with full support of TCRC and other community partners. The primary objective is: *Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their family members who are Hispanic and primarily Spanish speakers will have increased knowledge of resources, supports, and skills to navigate systems, access, and utilize regional center and generic services.* Despite revisions due to the pandemic, Proyecto: Acceso is on target for meeting or exceeding all goals.	
3. Underserved Target Populations	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RC POS data or other data as supporting evidence of the disparity.	Proyecto: Acceso 2021 focuses on TCRC Total Annual Expenditures and Authorized Services by Language for FY 2018-2019. Data indicate that clients served by TCRC who speak Spanish are likely to receive only half of the services that those who speak English. Per capita *expenditures* all ages for Spanish speakers total $8,483 and expenditures for English speakers total $15,888. For per capita *authorizations* all ages, services authorized for Spanish speakers total $12,293 versus those authorized for English speakers at $23,495. This trend is evident in clients served by TCRC who are age 3 years to 21 and 21+, however for those in Early Start (birth-3) expenditures and authorizations for Spanish speakers are greater than for English speakers. This significance may be indicative of the more family centered approach to service delivery in Early Start versus service delivery, regional centers caseload and staff turnover after children turn three. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 builds upon current outreach efforts and expands services to families who are transitioning from Early Start to ensure families do not get lost in the change of service coordinators, Early Start to regional center "status 2" services, and other generic resources. In recent surveys conducted by DDS/WestEd and the Family Resource Centers Network of CA, families expressed the need for more information and support during this the time of transition. In addition, data indicates a serious decrease in Early Start referrals to regional centers since March 2020 and many families "opted" out of services. Locally, there is no policy in place for follow-up to the families who declined services during COVID-19. The impact remains to be seen, but based upon rigorous research as highlighted by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) in a July 2011 article by the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center *The Importance of Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families* [https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/pubs/importanceofearlyintervention.pdf] is clear: "High quality early intervention services can change a child's developmental trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families, and communities and intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when it is provided earlier in life rather than later". Census 2020 California Hard-to-Count Fact Sheet, Santa Barbara County indicates that 86% of the population age 5 years or older who prefer Spanish "do not speak English very well". This reflects the need for more outreach, more 1:1 assistance to explain resources, and increased information sharing in Spanish, as well as the need for more information using graphics for those who do not read or have a written language. This is strongly reflected in the growing Mixteco communities. Regional centers do not have data related to those who speak indigenous languages. Data is difficult to access with outreach to these communities using aggregated counts, however when 1:1 contacted is made, services and impact are able to be gathered. In 2019 Alpha provided services to 710 individual families and 51% of services were provided in Spanish. The successful outreach provided by the Promotores in the current Proyecto: Acceso (funded March 2020-March 2021) increases the need for the provision of accurate services by skilled bilingual staff. Service systems are becoming more complex, as indicated by the 2,141 services provided by Alpha in 2019. 51% (1,091) of these services were provided in Spanish and 67% (1,427) were provided to those who identify as Hispanic/Latino or other Spanish origin.	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
4. Input from Community	**Applicant Response**	
How did your organization use input from the community and/or target population to design the project? What methods did your organization use to allow the community to advise you in designing the project? Were there any changes to your project design as a result of community input?	A majority of public input is gathered by evaluating internal data and assessing trends. This is in addition to what is shared by family members at monthly support groups and from participants in workshops and learning opportunities. Family members report being confused and overwhelmed by the processes for accessing services and service coordinators routinely refer to Alpha when consumers are denied eligibility for public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Family members report that they don't know who there service coordinator is or that when they call their calls are not returned. This has increased due to the pandemic. Alpha continues to work in partnership with TCRC to serve as connectors when communication breaks down between individuals/family members and their service coordinators. In 2019, Alpha provided a total of 2,141 services, including 1:1 assistance and training to 710 unduplicated individuals/families. Service requests related to navigating and accessing community resources totaled 1,780. This program information was gathered by callers, primarily parents, stating they "needed help or were having problems" with accessing public services, including assessments, special education, supplemental security income, regional center, or health. Alpha's data has consistently reflected services provided are about even between those who identify as Hispanic/Latino (51%) and those who identify as White, not Hispanic/Latino. Alpha participates in meetings of the Network of Family Resource Centers Santa Barbara County, CenCal Health Family Advisory Committee, Santa Barbara County SELPA Community Advisory Committee, Early Start Partners, Early Childhood and Family Wellness Coalition, and 2 school district stakeholders groups addressing the significant disproportionality of services to students who are Hispanic/Latino. Alpha's participation provides the opportunity to learn from family members and providers to address trends and barriers to services. All program activities are developed and driven by family input, data, and lessons learned. Alpha is responsive the the needs of the community in general and specific to those with intellectual/developmental disabilities or those who may be at risk of I/DD and their family members. Current and future program design is based upon Alpha's commitment to be responsive to the needs of the community during the pandemic.	
5. Improve Access	**Applicant Response**	
How will your project improve equity, access and reduce barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and is sustainable?	Proyecto: Acceso 2021 focuses on providing system navigation, education and outreach to communities throughout Santa Barbara County with emphasis on areas typically underserved where those who identify as Hispanic/Latino and non-English speakers work and live. Alpha's skilled staff is made up of parents of children of all ages served by the regional center and other systems. With multiple years of experience and training in family strengthening and support, the Alpha team provides parent support and system navigation to over 700 family members annually. They key component of service is 1:1 assistance and follow-up. Alpha provided individualized support to meet the family's needs and address their concerns at the level of which the family needs at each given time. Experience has proven that	

| | some families may access services by a warm hand-off referral and follow-up and others may require greater support with help with calling, speaking with providers; completing forms; physical access; and numerous step-by-step explanation to better understand systems and processes. When needed, staff provides case management in response to complex situations involving access to services and public benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or special education. Staff serves as a connector to community resources in times of crisis. It is not uncommon for parents to send staff pictures via text messaging of Individual Education Plan (IEP) documents, notices from the Social Security Administration, or applications for CalFresh for "translation" and guidance or assistance in responding or completing.   What makes this unique is the connection of parent to parent support and the follow-up that is provided, often long after the immediate needs are met. These services are provided by skilled parents "who have been there". When callers learn that Alpha staff are "parents too", a bond is made. Through the process of receiving assistance, trust is established, and families know who they can reach out to in times of need. Many of these parents tell their friends, other families at their child's schools and in the community. They become active in support groups and learning opportunities. One call to Alpha can build a lifetime connection.

The Santa Barbara Promotores Network are experts in "in-reach". Typically referred to as outreach, Promotoras work where they are trusted _within_ the communities they live to share information, support, and help ensure community members have knowledge and the help they need to access services. The Promotores Network has numerous project partners to help gather communities together and share information. For example, in the midst of COVID-19 they conducted a successful, safe drive through providing oral health screenings to children. Community resources were shared along with oral care kits. In addition, resource sharing and COVID-19 health tips were provided at 2 events where farmworkers live and work. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 will continue similar outreach activities using updated and revised (2020) Resources for Children Brochures and 1 page information sheets. Promotoras get the word out; Alpha helps connect; families get what they need; trust is established; families tell others.

Individuals/family members will have increased knowledge about access to services and greater confidence in advocating on behalf of themselves, family members or others. Proyecto: Accesso 2021 will provide 1:1 education and training, virtual learning opportunities and, when safe, public events sharing information about accessing available resources, services through regional center and generic resources, and leadership opportunities. Support groups and learning opportunities will include topics such as "Resources for Children in Santa Barbara County", "Getting Organized" , "Transition from Early Start", "Transition to Adulthood", "Providing Public Input", and "Serving on Boards and Advisory Councils". In partnership with TCRC a (virtual or face to face if safe) provider resource fair will be held to guide participants in accessing TCRC services while having the opportunity to meet local providers. In addition, 2 meet and greets will be held to support greater communication better communication between TCRC, those served and communication members. Learning opportunity participants will be provided materials and follow-up to support learning and encourage participation. For example, in 2020 during COVID, those participating in virtual trainings received deliveries of related training materials that would otherwise have been provided if a face-to-face event was held. Those who participated in "Getting Organized" received file boxes, binders, and office supplies to help them organize materials when attending meetings, doctor's | |

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	them organize materials when attending meetings, doctor's appointments, and applying for resources. Parents participating in "Tips for Taking Care of You" received a packet of tips and resources related to self-care for both children and adults. Packets included materials to encourage mental wellness as well as PPE and other essential items if needed. It should be noted that family voices drive program activities. Event topics may change based upon more immediate needs or trends of incoming inquiries. An example of program pivoting has been changing virtual meeting times to accommodate school remote learning. In November 2020, a special virtual event "Nurture in Nature" was postponed until 2021 because parents expressed how tired they were of Zoom meetings, Zoom school, and they just wanted to talk, laugh, and share during a virtual support group. If and when new barriers or needs arise, Alpha's program will respond while maintaining program or project integrity and mission. If families cannot come to us, we safely deliver to them. When individuals and family members speak, we listen and work together to successfully respond. Sustainability will be measured by: • Increased community knowledge of who to call and where to go for help; • Building confidence in accessing and partnering with providers as individuals; • Supporting family members served by the regional center system in advocating for themselves as individuals or on behalf of their children of all ages, and; • Engaging more Hispanic/Latino non-English speakers as advisors to develop creative and efficient services and supports • Enhanced professional development in the areas of racial equity in services, systems, and implicit bias.	
6. Support RC's Recommendations	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
How does this project support the RC recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in their catchment area? If you are a RC, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce your identified disparities? How will your project collaborate with other organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?	Proyecto: Acceso 2021 continues current efforts that support the 2019-2021 TCRC Strategic Plan specific to the areas of Family Support, Cultural Proficiency, and Community Outreach. In the area of Family Support, TCRC's overall objective is to "support individuals and families in strengthening relationships, providing increased opportunity to access generic resources and develop creative services." Proyecto: Acceso 2021 strengthens collaborative relationships by connecting individuals/families to regional center and other community resources; by providing mentoring to help build communication, collaboration, and engagement of all partners who work with and serve individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their family members; and by increasing knowledge and access through 1:1 and group training and group support, assistance and follow-up. TCRC uses person centered practices to increase the capacity of regional center staff and service providers to provide culturally proficient services and supports. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 supports these efforts by exploring different ways to engage individuals/families and build trusting partnerships and provide clear, easy to understand information about TCRC services and supports while working toward equitable service access with culturally and linguistically services. Project activities provide individualized services delivered by skilled parents of children served by the regional center and through outreach by Promotores in communities where Hispanic/Latino non-English speakers typically work and live. TCRC's strategic area of Community Outreach strives to have greater presence in the community to increase awareness of TCRC services and supports and how to access them. Proyecto: Acceso 2021 utilizes the Santa Barbara County Promotores Network to provide outreach to the hardest to reach populations where they are trusted members of the community. Outreach materials are easy to read, with graphics, to connect families with children who have disabilities, who may or not be served by TCRC. Those who are concerned about their child's development can reach out to Alpha Resource Center where skilled professionals provide parent-to-parent support, information, warm hand off referral, and follow-up throughout referral processes. While families go through intake, assessments, or navigate various processes, Alpha provides a constant source of guidance and support. Collaboration will continue to be enhanced with other community-based organizations, including health care providers, and Santa Barbara Special Education Local Plan Area. Alpha and Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) are committed to working together to share resources and better serve the Indigenous populations in Santa Barbara County. Sustainability is leveraged by increased community knowledge of who to call and where to go for help; engaging more Hispanic/Latino non-English speakers as advisors to develop creative and efficient services and supports; and to build confidence in accessing and partnering with providers as they advocate for themselves as individuals or on behalf of their children of all ages. Ongoing professional development in the areas of equity, and implicit bias ensures long range impact after the project ends.	8

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
7. Project different or unique	**Applicant Response**	
How is the proposed project unique or different from a currently funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and goals) in the proposed regional center catchment area? If the project is similar to a currently funded grant listed on the Department's website, how is the proposed project different?	Currently there are no other funded activities serving Santa Barbara County in the Tri-Counties Regional Center catchment area. Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) has a project, coincidentally also, called Proyecto: Acceso that serves Ventura County. The stated intent of MICOP is to extend services to the entire TCRC catchment. In the past year, MICOP has established an office and has been providing more services in northern Santa Barbara County. Alpha and MICOP have been working together and a goal is for this partnership is to enhance the ability and capacity of both organizations. One unique difference among many Promotora or "connector" projects around the state is that Alpha's Proyecto: Acceso and Proyecto: Acceso 2021 builds upon the strength of the Promotores Network in the provision of in-reach and outreach. When Promotoras meet families who have concerns about their child's development or who may be served by TCRC, they refer to Alpha Resource Center for systems navigation and parent-to-parent support. Alpha then provides needed assistance and system navigation where the emphasis is on warm handoff referrals and follow-up to ensure families have the support they need to successfully access the services they are seeking. While some Promotoras designated for the project have some experience with a family member impacted by disability, Alpha's team has accumulated years of training and service in all systems affecting families who have children with special needs. Alpha's team is primarily made up of parents served by TCRC and parent-to-parent support brings a common bond that opens the door to a trusting relationship. Often, once the concerns, needs, or initial "problem" is addressed, families are more comfortable participating in parent support groups and learning opportunities. A lasting relationship is developed and they tell other families they know about services, supports, and resources. Experience, expertise, partnerships, and relationships help expedite navigation through complex systems and during times of crisis. The Promotoras are well recognized and trusted within their communities. They often provide that first step to access and the Alpha team supports the family through the process. In addition, TCRC service coordinators often refer to Alpha for help when problems arise with generic resources like special education, social security, in-home support services, and finding providers. TCRC was awarded a contract in fiscal year 2017-2018 and worked in partnership with Alpha and the Santa Barbara County Promotores Network. DDS also funded a TCRC project focused on translating materials (FY 2018-19).	
8. Activities & Measures to Achieve Goal	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Clearly and specifically state how the schedule of activities and measures demonstrate the operational details and steps that the project will take to achieve its stated goals, activities, and measures. **Note: Before answering this question, applicant may want to complete the Activities Template located in the tab directly above.**	With the currently funded Proyecto: Acceso (funded March 2020) already successfully underway, Alpha Resource Center and the Santa Barbara County Promotores Network are prepared to begin all proposed activities immediately upon funding. Proyecto: Acceso has provided a foundation for a seamless transition. Alpha has been responsive to the needs of the community during the pandemic and is successfully achieving current project goals. Recruitment will begin upon notice of award to build capacity to skilled staff who are already executing many similar measures outlined in Proyecto: Acceso 2021. Alpha utilizes a comprehensive data base to track and report activities. Technology is already being used in place of face to face interaction. Skilled utilization of emote platforms for virtual support and learning opportunities are the norm. Safety protocols have been established and are utilized. Project management are prepared to meet additional reporting requirements and to work in partnership with TCRC, community partners, and DDS. 2020 lessons learned leave the Alpha and Promotores teams confident in continuing the work ahead under any circumstance.	
9. Measures	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Are your proposed measures appropriate to track project goals and activities, provide insight into the effectiveness of the overall design of the project and demonstrate how the impact on the community will be evaluated?	Proyecto: Acceso 2021 proposed measures identify each activity provided to target population and the result of the activity. **Outreach** activities, including the use of social media will measure the number of materials and information disseminated to the public with the goal of ensuring **more people have greater knowledge of available resources and supports**. The result or impact may be measured by increased calls or referrals to Alpha over time. The "ripple effect" of outreach is difficult to identify in short term, since much is predicated on information sharing and word of mouth. **Website visits and social media postings** will identify increased range of **information reached by individuals**. Effective **individualized system navigation** will be measured through participant survey and success in **obtaining access or resolution of the problem** which initiated the call. The efficacy of **support groups** are measured by **participation, engagement and parent comments to ensure families feel supported.**. **Learning opportunities, events, and training** are measured by numbers attending, but more importantly based upon persons reporting **increased knowledge and confidence**. **Family Advisory Committee** members will provide **evaluation, insight and guidance** of program and project success. **Partnering and increased collaboration** measures the success gained by **sharing responsibility and leveraging resources** to better meet the needs of the community. Alpha and **TCRC service coordinator collaboration** adds to sharing of knowledge and supporting individuals/family members as a **united team working together to resolve issues** of concern or accessibility. Targeted outreach to families in Early Start transitioning at age 3 builds a bridge of support where **families will report having increased knowledge** during this critical time. **Professional development** will help staff to **increase skills, knowledge, and understanding** of the impact of implicit bias on individuals, families, access, and equity of services. All proposed measures have indicators to reflect effectivity. Measurement tools include surveys, feedback, and participant data. **Alpha is prepared to meet DDS requirements and recommendations per "Required Measures of Project Impact for Promotora/Community Connector Projects".**	
10. Budget Narrative	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Note: Before uploading your Budget Narrative, applicants should complete the Budget Template located in the tab directly above. After you complete the Budget Template, please return to this question to upload your Budget Narrative. The project budget is consistent with stated projected goals and activities, and clearly and concisely explains how the proposed expenditures support the overall project design. The project budget costs are clearly associated with the project activities and goals. The project budget does not include non-allowable costs. The overall project budget is appropriate to the outcomes proposed. Please attach your Budget Narrative document. An example of a Budget Narrative can be found in Attachment C.		2
Proposal Certification		
Certification		
1. Applicant & Regional Center Discussion	**Applicant Response**	
If you are a CBO, have you discussed your proposal with the RC(s)?	Yes	1
2. Applicant Certification	**Applicant Response**	
By submitting this application, the Applicant is certifying the truth and accuracy of the proposal. The applicant also certifies that if you have subcontracting organizations, each participating organization has reviewed your project and agrees to their assigned activities, measures, and the budget. (Select Yes or No and enter you name in the comment box.)	Yes	
Applicant Comment	Patricia Moore, Program Manager Joshua Weitzman, Executive Director	