APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: Engaging Neurodiverse Groups through Allyship, Growthmindset and Empowerment - "ENGAGE with PRAGNYA"

Applicant Organization: PRAGNYA

Awarded Amount: $250,000

Funding Announcement Name: Promoting Service Access and Equity Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

PRAGNYA proposes building a comprehensive program that would improve equity of access to services that provide the much needed support for the Neurodiverse (Developmentally Different) community, who are currently registered as consumers at the local Regional Centers (SARC, RCEB, GGRC), however have not been able to maximize their POS dollars, largely the Asian, African American and Hispanic communities and also to several other individuals with developmental differences, in the South Asian community (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Srilankan, Filipino, Vietnames) who may be eligible for services but are currently not in receipt of RC services. Based on the analysis of the "Disparity Reports" published by the Regional Centers served by SARC, RCEB and GGRC catchment areas, we understand that the disparity in "access to services based on ethnicity and race" is due to two major reasons : a) The lack of awareness of available services due to either cultural / language barriers b) The seemingly complicated nature of navigating the system. We believe that our existing approach and content developed to serve the culturally diverse community, has the potential to scale and benefit consumers in the aforementioned areas. Our proposed project design, which stems from the experience and input of families we serve, strives to approach this issue of promoting equity of access to services in the following manner : Enhance community awareness and engagement through outreach activities (e.g., informational presentations, fairs, consumer mixers, family roundtable events etc,). Educate and Train self–advocate/family on topics related to service access, the regional center system, leadership development, business development, advocacy, independent facilitation, and developmental disabilities, while increasing cultural and linguistic competency with implicit bias training for professionals working with these consumers. Identifying community leaders, family members, and self–advocates and training them to become Community Connectors, who would provide individualized support to assist families with service access (e.g., Promotora, Peer/Parent Mentor, Independent Facilitator). Further, with the projects that we have proposed, PRAGNYA would enable RCs to tap into otherwise untapped communities of potential consumers in the South Asian diaspora (Filipino, Vietnamese , Indian, Pakistani, Bangaladeshi, Nepalese, Srilankan), and the underserved Hispanic and African American groups to educate them on services, supports and benefits that they may be eligible to receive. PRAGNYA is looking to continue serving more of the neurodiverse community by scaling existing activities of integration and acculturation and introducing new programs of outreach and engagement. Driving all of this, would be PRAGNYA's vision of integrating our neurodiverse/ Developmentally Different individuals into mainstream society with support from trained Allies in the community, which would further the principle of the HCBS Final Rule.

APPLICANT QUESTION	
Applicant Eligibility	
Applicant Information	
1. Project Title	**Applicant Response**
What is the Project Title?	Engaging Neurodiverse Groups through Allyship, Growthmindset and Empowerment - "ENGAGE with PRAGNYA"
2. Awarded Amount	**Applicant Response** $250,000
3. Organization Type	**Applicant Response**
Please check the box that describes your organization	Community Based Organization (CBO), 501(c)(3)
4. Description of Organization/Group	**Applicant Response**

APPLICANT QUESTION	
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.	PRAGNYA is a California based 501c(3) non-profit organization, working to engage and support the developmentally different (neurodiverse) community by integrating them into mainstream

While there is limited awareness in mainstream society about Developmental Differences(neurodiversity), there is little knowledge on how to engage and integrate neurodiverse individuals in

At PRAGNYA, we have experience working with a multicultural group of individuals and families that range from Asians, South Asians, Pacific Islanders, Middle Eastern, Caucasian, South Ea

Having established a good track record of engaging, educating and increasing neurodiversity awareness and acceptance in the South East Asian (Filipino, Vietnamese, Indian, Pakistani, Bar

During the course of our work, since our inception in 2017, we have worked closely with regional centers like San Andreas (SARC), Regional center of the East Bay(RCEB) in various capac

One of our co-founders, Kavita Sreedhar, is an active member at the Regional Advisory Council, in the central coast region, member of the CAC in the South East SELPA, the Special Educa

The other co-founder of PRAGNYA, Kishan S is the co-chair of the SDAC at SARC and also a member of the Disparity Task Force led by SCDD, Central Coast.

As a community Based Organization, PRAGNYA takes an active role on the Disparity Task Force for the Central Coast region. We are also involved in detailed discussions with the Diversity

Both our Founders, Kavita and Kishan, are certified Person Centered planners, and Independent Facilitators, who have served collectively over 35 families/Individuals into the self-determinat ACCULTURATION"

Our activities include the:

1. Outreach to the community:
We create diverse, unique real world experiences and events, bringing together the developmentally different (neurodiverse individuals) and their neurotypical ally peers (children to children,

As trained Person Centered planners and IFs, we have also conducted Self Determination Selectee Mixers for the consumers of the SARC and RCEB, to encourage them to share, learn an

Further, on a much larger scale, we have organized over 20 community events that foster Neurodiversity Acculturation, where our neurodiverse individuals get to interact with, engage and cc

Neurodiversity Awareness and acceptance has begun to grow surely and significantly in our local community among the mainstream population. The lack of judgement, the sincere efforts to

2. Family / Consumer Support, Training and Coaching:
At Pragnya, we train the Neurotypical community in the Ally Support Program, which trains them in wisdom, communication and leadership skills which inturn, empowers them to become cir

Neurodiverse individuals have begun to connect, look forward to, advocate and even take the lead in connecting with their neurotypical allies. Word had spread organically among the studen

The success of PRAGNYA's programs at empowering and enhancing the quality of life through acceptance and non-judgement has started to show among some of our neurodiverse individu

3. Community Connector:
The vision of Pragnya is to spread the awareness about neurodiversity within society and the mission is to build a group of Allies who will stand in support of their neurodiverse peers. We tra

As mentioned above, our founders are trained Person Centered Planners and Independent Facilitators, who championed the first of its kind SDP Selectee Mixer at the San Andreas Regional

The purpose of these coaching sessions, workshops and mixers was to empower the Family/Self Advocates with information to effectively navigate services and support each other through

Pragnya has empowered 35 families of individuals with developmental differences, providing them with information about regional centers and getting them to, in turn, reach out to their socia

PRAGNYA has also been contracted to coach consumers from the Regional Center of East Bay in the Self determination process, providing them guidance and tools to navigate the system

Pragnya is also in the process of training 6 neurodiverse young adults into becoming "Neurodiversity Acculturation" Self Advocates. |

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

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

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.	Not Applicable

2. Project Title	**Applicant Response**
(Reapplications Only) What is the Project Title of previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable

APPLICANT QUESTION	
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.	Not Applicable
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.	Not Applicable
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**
(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**

APPLICANT QUESTION	
(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.	Not Applicable
15. 2019/2020 Expenses	**Applicant Response**
(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.	Not Applicable
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.	Not Applicable
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.	Not Applicable
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.	Not Applicable
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.	Not Applicable
20. Regional Centers in Catchment Area	**Applicant Response**

APPLICANT QUESTION	
(Reapplications Only) List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas that the project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable
21. Cities Served	**Applicant Response**
(Reapplications Only) List the cities your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable
22. Counties Served	**Applicant Response**
(Reapplications Only) List the counties your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable
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.	Not Applicable
25. Project Impact & Outcome	**Applicant Response**
(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.	Not Applicable
26. Project Objectives	**Applicant Response**

APPLICANT QUESTION	
(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.	Not Applicable
27. Project Transition	**Applicant Response**
(Reapplications Only) If awarded, how will your current project transition into the 2020/21 proposed project? 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.	Not Applicable

General Application
Proposal Summary

1. Individuals Impacted	**Applicant Response**
Enter the projected number of individuals impacted.	500
2. People Served	**Applicant Response**
What is proposed number of people projected to be served?	350
3. Duration of project	**Applicant Response**
What is the duration of the project? Enter Start & End Dates.	Start Date: 03/01/2021, End Date: 02/28/2023
4. Duration of project (months)	**Applicant Response**
What is the total duration of project in months?	24
5. Regional Centers	**Applicant Response**
List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas.	Golden Gate Regional Center San Andreas Regional Center Regional Center of the East Bay
6. Cities Served	**Applicant Response**

APPLICANT QUESTION	

List the city or cities your project proposes to serve.	1. **RCEB:**
	   ◦ **Contra Costa:** Antioch,Brentwood,Clayton,Concord,Town of Danville,El Cerrito,Hercules,Lafayette,Martinez,Town of Moraga,Oakley,Orinda,Pinole,Pittsburg,Pleasar
	   ◦ **Alameda:** Alameda,Albany,Berkeley,Castro Valley,Dublin,Emeryville,Fremont,Hayward,Livermore,Newark,Oakland,Pleasanton,San Leandro,San Lorenzo,Sunol,Unic
	   ◦ **Santa Clara:** City of Mountain View,City of Palo Alto,City of San Jose,City of Santa Clara,City of Saratoga,City of Sunnyvale,City of Campbell,City of Cupertino,City o
	2. **SARC:**
	   ◦ **Santa Cruz:** Aptos,Ben Lomond,Boulder Creek,Brookdale,Capitola,Davenport,Felton,Freedom,Los Gatos,Mount Hermon,Santa Cruz,Scotts Valley,Soquel,Watsom
	   ◦ **San Benito:** Hollister,Paicines,San Juan Bautista,Tres Pinos
	   ◦ **Monterey:** Aromas,Big Sur,Bradley,Carmel,Carmel By The Sea,Carmel Valley,Castroville,Chualar,Gonzales,Greenfield,Jolon,King City,Lockwood,Marina,Monterey,M
	   ◦ **Marin:** Belvedere Tiburon,Bolinas,Corte Madera,Dillon Beach,Fairfax,Forest Knolls,Greenbrae,Inverness,Lagunitas,Larkspur,Marshall,Mill Valley,Nicasio,Novato,Oler
	3. **GGRC:**
	   ◦ **San Francisco:** San Francisco
	   ◦ **San Mateo:** Atherton,Belmont,Brisbane,Burlingame,Daly City,El Granada,Half Moon Bay,La Honda,Loma Mar,Menlo Park,Millbrae,Montara,Moss Beach,Pacifica,Pe

7. Counties Served	**Applicant Response**
List the county or counties your project proposes to serve.	Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey - SARC Alameda, Contra Costa - RCEB Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo - GGRC

8. City of Los Angeles	**Applicant Response**
If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes and/or communities your project will serve.	Not Applicable

9. Community Based Organizations	**Applicant Response**
Will you be working with one or more Community Based Organization?	Yes

10. Regional Center Data	**Applicant Response**
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.	We have already shared the Project report of ENGAGE with PRAGNYA with GGRC, RCEB, SARC Executive teams and diversity specialists. Upon being awarded the grant, we

11. First Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**
Select your first project type.	Engagement and Outreach (community events, etc)

12. Second Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**
Select your second project type (if applicable).	Family/consumer support services (coaching, enhanced CM)

13. Third Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**
Select your third project type (if applicable).	Community Connector (Example: Promotora or Navigator)

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.	No

15. Leverage & Strategies	**Applicant Response**

APPLICANT QUESTION	
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?	PRAGNYA's tenet of improving access to services is **"engagement"**. Through a sustained and concerted series of efforts in : • Reaching out to existing consumers and bringing on board new consumers who need the supports and fostering a sense of community through regular engagement activities, providir • Providing the consumer and the service provider community access to ongoing coaching via **VLOGs and instructional BLOGs** • Building an **"Allyship Network"** via training and empowerment of CBOs and community leaders in the Neurotypical world, who will continue to **empower and mentor other families** we believe that we would be able to **sustain the efforts** initiated through the **ENGAGE with PRAGNYA** project. **Leveraging Technology to foster community connections**, build social media support groups, archiving and providing a **library of training resources online** and strategically expandin

Target Population

1. Target Groups Served	Applicant Response
Select all groups the project will serve. If you select "Pacific Islander" or "Other" use comment section to list all groups.	African American , Filipino , Hispanic , Indian , Vietnamese , Other (list) , Pacific Islander (list)
Applicant Comment	Under the "other" category, we are including South asian minority communities such as Nepalese, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, Afghanis, Srilankans, and mixed race families who a
2. Number of Target Group Served	Applicant Response
For each target group selected in previous question, list number served.	Indians : 150 African Americans: 50 Hispanic : 50 Filipino : 25 Fijians : 10 Vietnamese : 15 Other : South Asian : Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Srilankan, Nepalese, Afghani : 50
3. Languages	Applicant Response
Select all Languages the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list all languages.	Spanish , Tagalog , Vietnamese , Other (list) , Indian
Applicant Comment	Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, Punjabi, Marathi, Oriya, Nepalese, Sinhalese, Pashto, Persian
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	

Project Application

Project Application

1. Project Summary	Applicant Response
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.	PRAGNYA proposes building a **comprehensive program** that would **improve equity of access to services** that provide the much needed support for the **Neurodiverse** (Developmentally Based on the analysis of the "Disparity Reports" published by the Regional Centers served by SARC, RCEB and GGRC catchment areas, we understand that the disparity in "access to ser a) The lack of awareness of available services due to either cultural / language barriers b) The seemingly complicated nature of navigating the system. We believe that our existing approach and content developed to serve the culturally diverse community, has the potential to scale and benefit consumers in the aforementioned areas. Our proposed project design, which stems from the experience and input of families we serve, strives to approach this issue of **promoting equity of access to services** in the following ma A. Enhance **community awareness and engagement** through outreach activities (e.g., informational presentations, fairs, consumer mixers, family roundtable events etc,). B. **Educate and Coach self-advocate/family** on topics related to service access, the regional center system, leadership development, business development, advocacy, independent I C. Identifying community leaders, family members, and self-advocates and training them to become **Community Connectors,** who would provide individualized support to assist familie Further, with the projects that we have proposed, PRAGNYA would enable RCs to tap into otherwise untapped communities of potential consumers in the South Asian diaspora (Filipino, Viet PRAGNYA is looking to continue serving more of the neurodiverse community by scaling existing activities of integration, acculturation and introducing new programs of outreach and engage
2. Organization Experience	Applicant Response

APPLICANT QUESTION	
What experience does the organization/group have working with the target population?	PRAGNYA is a California based 501c(3) non-profit organization, working to engage and support the developmentally different (neurodiverse) community by integrating them into mainstream
	While there is limited awareness in mainstream society about Developmental Differences(neurodiversity), there is little knowledge on how to engage and integrate neurodiverse individuals in
	At PRAGNYA, we have experience working with a multicultural group of individuals and families that range from Asians, South Asians, Pacific Islanders, Middle Eastern, Caucasian, South Ea
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	PRAGNYA has also been contracted to coach consumers from the Regional Center of East Bay in the Self determination process, providing them guidance and tools to navigate the system
	Pragnya is also in the process of training 6 neurodiverse young adults into becoming "Neurodiversity Acculturation" Self Advocates.
3. Underserved Target Populations	Applicant Response

APPLICANT QUESTION	
Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RC POS data or other data as supporting evidence of the disparity.	Based on the comparative analysis of the "2018-19 POS Reports" published by the Regional Centers in the Northern California Catchment areas (SARC, RCEB and GGRC) and based on d

Based on the comparative analysis of the "2018-19 POS Reports" published by the Regional Centers in the Northern California Catchment areas (SARC, RCEB and GGRC) and based on d

We analyzed the "Per Capita Expenditures" for the existing consumers in our target population, and we found that it is much lower in the Asian and the Hispanic ethnic communities as oppos

In comparison to the per capita expenditure of a white consumer ($33,388) at SARC, a Hispanic consumer's per capita expenditure is only $12,594 (37.72% of what is spent on a white cons

At the RCEB, the per capita expenditure of the Hispanic community is $9,136 (31% of the white consumer's per capita expenditure ($29,071)) and it is $11,914 for Asian members (41% in c

We also identified that consumers with no POS are higher among the Hispanic and Asian communities at all the three Regional Centers

SARC - Hispanic 16.42%, Asian - 17.95%

RCEB - Hispanic 27.15%, Asian - 30%

GGRC - Hispanic 21.21%, Asian - 17.27%

which is much higher than other ethnicities.

We understand that approximately 1% of the entire population is diagnosed with ASD in the United States [cite: https://www.neurodiversityhub.org/]. However, SARC,RCEB and GGRC serve

The other aspect to also consider while analyzing the data for disparity is the representation of the ethnic minorities in the general community and how that compares to those being served b
It is hence, that our project, ENGAGE with PRAGNYA will include activities to attempt to reduce this disparity in not only existing consumers but also those who are yet to enter the RC syster

Regional Center	Asian	
	Total Representation in the population	Representation in the population served by RC
SARC	27.94%	19.08%
RCEB	24.97%	18.4%
GGRC	28.31%	24.3%

Learning from the various data points we gathered in the course of our discussions with the disparity leads at the SARC and RCEB, participation in our regional Disparity Task Force(Central

A. The lack of awareness regarding available services attributed to various cultural, language and economic barriers
B. The seemingly complicated nature of navigating the system, which is RC or DDS.

Based on our own experiences, we believe that a considerable portion of the community remains underserved because of the following barriers :

- Economic Barrier

  These fall into two broad categories :

  Immigrant and low income populations who lack the knowledge and resources to find out about RC services and how to access them.

  High income families, largely consisting of highly skilled Tech industry workers in our target RCs, who are in a "bubble", alienated from the knowledge of system services and support

- Geographical Barrier

  Isolation or seclusion is often a result of geographical inaccessibility to the RCs.

- Cultural Barrier
  - Pride in reaching out and asking for help or support which is a byproduct of cultural influences
  - Shame or guilt which is an unfortunate state of being among many upon the delivery of the diagnoses of the Developmental or intellectual difference.
  - Denial and non-acceptance of the diagnoses
  - "Fixer" mentality which leads to a never-ending, silent search for the "miracle cure"

- Technology Barrier

  Neurodiverse (ID/DD) individuals who do not reside with close family members or have natural circles of support to train and empower them into using technology to connect (ZOOM,

At PRAGNYA, we have seen families facing these issues first-hand and have successfully helped them overcome these barriers, through our unique Allyship based approach. With this proje

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?	Pragnya as an organization has been shaped by the members of the community we serve. We have cultivated an organic outreach to the neurodiverse (developmentally different) communit

Pragnya as an organization has been shaped by the members of the community we serve. We have cultivated an organic outreach to the neurodiverse (developmentally different) communit

Pragnya have moved beyond traditional communication methods and utilized social media platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook, to connect with a wider community. A significant percenta
Meets.

As part of the Regional Advisory Committee for the Central Coast, and active participants in the Disparity Task Force for the Central Coast and Equity of Access Teams led by diversity leads

- Cultural and linguistic nuances,
- technological and economic isolation
- lack of information or misinformation among immigrant populations

are just some of the several reasons that our team identified as areas of concern that will be addressed by our projects.

Positive feedback and increasing interest from diverse cultures has driven us to aim for "large scale" neurodiversity acculturation* and expand our reach across cultural barriers to serve the

(*cultural understanding between the neurotypical and neurodiverse community)

5. Improve Access	Applicant Response

APPLICANT QUESTION	
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?	Through our project, ENGAGE with PRAGNYA which entails a Mindful approach in developing a culturally appropriate engagement strategy, employing the skills of the Ally Support Program, *Engagement/Outreach:* • Organizing mixers will **create awareness** and address the inequity in access to services due to lack of awareness • Organizing cultural events for community outreach involving the neurodiverse and neurotypical population will **reduce the social stigma, increase acceptance** and encourage familie • The corporate outreach will **increase awareness** in families who are currently NOT registered with RCs and are unaware of the **services and supports RCs offer.** • Having a dedicated **Tech platform** to enable the self advocates/families to search for services and also help create a support system for families that may need direction/mentoring to *Family/Consumer Coaching and Skill building* • By training the neurotypical members using the ally support program of our organization we ensure that they are capable of providing **adequate support** to the neurodiverse members • By training families/consumers (neurodiverse) in developing **skills of leadership**, **negotiation, advocacy, cultural competency, computer and financial literacy** we believe that the • By offering training in the navigation of support services, using in using technological tools to access and stay connected to the RCs and services, ENGAGE with PRAGNYA will **reduc** *Community connector:* • PRAGNYA will hire a trained professional trained in **navigating the support services** who can **support the families and self advocates** in finding the care they need • PRAGNYA will also train the allies in guiding and **mentoring families/individuals** in finding supports and services • By partnering with local community organizations like temples, healthcare professionals PRAGNYA will help newly diagnosed families/consumers to **become aware of the services a** Based on the above undertaking, we believe that we will be able to improve access to services and supports through the RCs not only for the existing consumers, (those with lower POS am Driving all of this, would be PRAGNYA's vision of integrating our developmentally different (neurodiverse) individuals into mainstream society with support from trained allies in the community
6. Support RC's Recommendations	**Applicant Response**

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?	Based on the Expenditure and POS reports published by the RCs, some common areas of opportunity for reducing disparity and improving equity of access are as follows:
	
	    A. Provide training to consumers to be able to learn about the services RCs offer
	    B. Engage Community Based organizations to mentor and educate consumers
	    C. Identify service providers to offer services to the Developmentally disabled/ different community.
	    D. Follow and implement the HCBS rule.
	
	A. Based on the requirement for proposed training of RC consumers, PRAGNYA's **"project focus area of Engagement and outreach"** would effectively improve engagement and improv
	
	    Below is a high level overview of the PRAGNYA's "**Engagement and Outreach**" effort :
	
	    a. PRAGNYA will organize and host mixers, informational presentations, community town halls, Family roundtables for existing consumers of the RCs from the identified communities (Asi
	
	    b. A specific area of focus will also be to identify self advocates who are underserved within the current system and provide them the opportunity and **Coaching support** through the "Allys
	
	    c. Another outreach initiative of PRAGNYA's project would be to reach out to local community groups of special needs families and parents to create awareness regarding the RC supports
	
	B. In order to achieve the objective of engaging CBOs to educate consumers, PRAGNYA's **"Community Connector"** project initiative would take on a grassroots approach to empower fam
	
	    a. PRAGNYA's "Community Connector" will conduct an orientation/ training for HealthCare professionals and first point of contact for families of neurodiverse individuals regarding "Neurod
	    b. Another "connector" initiative would be to reach out to Corporations via the Ally Support Program of PRAGNYA and conduct Employee info-sessions regarding Neurodiversity Acceptanc
	    c. Community Organizations such as temples, gurdwaras, local prayer groups at mosques, churches, spiritual organizations etc. are also part of the proposed PRAGNYA connector initial
	
	C. The objective of the RCs in identifying service providers to serve the "developmentally different" (neurodiverse) community is addressed by all three of the proposed project objectives of P
	
	    As members of the Self Determination Advisory committee at SARC, Person centered Planners and leaders of the Statewide, Independent Facilitator network, PRAGNYA co-founders hav
	
	The Home and Community Based Services final rule is directly implemented through PRAGNYA's existing program of developing, **educating and training** neurotypical allies in mainstream
	supports and services not only made available through the Regional Centers and DDS but also through society in general, thereby achieving the vision of PRAGNYA resonating the principle

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?	While there have been many attempts made at including Neurodiverse individuals (ID/DD) into mainstream society, successful integration is yet to happen. For any form of Integration to hap through our Allyship Support Program and our Person Centered Practices. ENGAGE with PRAGNYA focuses on taking a comprehensive trifold approach of • targeting and proactively reaching out to underserved consumers • empowering families/consumers through coaching • building allies in the local community to form natural circles of support for the neurodiverse members of our community. ENGAGE with PRAGNYA will adopt a wrap-around approach (a grassroots outreach to consumers as well as a top-down culturally and linguistically appropriate delivery of services) to succ with a "roadmap" to navigate the support services system(DDS/RCs/School Districts etc.) and family and consumer support organizations such as PRAGNYA. We believe that through mindful engagement and empathetic dialogue, "connections" can begin to form and a sense of community would begin to emerge, not only among the neurodiverse The impact we have been able to create in the lives of both neurotypical and neurodiverse families that we currently serve, and the person-centered thinking that drives all of the activities we In the catchment areas we currently focus on serving (RCEB, SARC and GGRC) there are few organizations that take on a holistic, comprehensive, linguistically and culturally sensitive, wra As we successfully are able to capture and raise awareness amongst the initially identified RCs, the project has the ability to scale and reach more counties and communities.
8. Activities & Measures to Achieve Goal	**Applicant Response**

APPLICANT QUESTION	
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.**	Through our project, ENGAGE with PRAGNYA, we believe that we will be able to improve access to services and supports through the RCs, not only for the existing consumers, (those with
	One of our early milestones is to create an online platform to host all the workshops and informational sessions for the community to connect and share. We will create informational brochu
	We intend to conduct a number of various events and workshops as listed below across 3 Regional Center catchment areas over the span of 2 years as part of outreach and coaching obje
	We plan to organize a total of 12 Mixers and Fairs in the three catchment areas for the Consumers of Regional centers to engage the underserved and untapped neurodiverse (ID/DD) popul
	We will be organizing 12 Inclusive Culturally relevant Community Integration Events that would bring together the community as a whole to learn about Neurodiversity and also serve as a poi
	We will also be organizing 12 Informational presentations within the Community in the catchment areas of SARC, RCEB and GGRC, and also organize 6 sessions at corporate campuses to
	One area of focus for ENGAGE WITH PRAGNYA is to empower the Family/self advocate to be able to learn the process and navigate the system and to be able to access the appropriate se
	An informed Consumer / Family is an empowered consumer and in order to achieve that, we plan to organize 51 Workshops and talks by experts on Navigation of RC Support and Services;
	We also intend to partner with various community based organizations and health care providers to build a support system for families to navigate through services. Through our support and
	Please refer to the Activities Section in this Grant application for more details.
9. Measures	**Applicant Response**
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?	The project measures have been carefully chosen to accurately track the impact and present a comprehensive picture. Tracking the number of consumer mixers and fairs, videos and blogs
	In addition to tracking the number of events, the participation in these events can also be tracked to measure community impact. The data collected from these events, can further be used to
	Pre and post surveys for workshops are a useful tool to evaluate the impact of instructional intervention. It can assess the participants' perception of changes in their knowledge and skills, pe
	Tracking the timeliness, participation and impact of project activities by means of surveys will validate the effectiveness of the overall design of the project and its sustainability.
10. Budget Narrative	**Applicant Response**
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.	
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
2. Applicant Certification	**Applicant Response**

APPLICANT QUESTION	
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	Kavita Sreedhar