

APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: Equitable Access to Regional Center Services for Children and Youth in Foster Care through Parent Education and Youth Self-Advocate Empowerment

Applicant Organization: So Central Prevention Coalition

Awarded Amount: \$250,000

Funding Announcement Name: Promoting Service Access and Equity Grant



PROJECT SUMMARY

This project addresses the disparities in POS experienced by children and youth in foster care through a two-prong complementary approach: 1) Foster parent education: educate foster parents regarding the pathways to securing educational and medical rights. This will enable them to legally advocate for the foster children and youth's RC and generic services. 2) Foster Youth empowerment and education: provide the RC services-eligible Foster Youth ages 14 and over a) individual peer-mentoring by Peer Ambassador Teams (each team consists of a Peer Ambassador Self-Advocate and Peer Ambassador Former Foster Youth); b) youth empowerment group training to prepare them to become self-advocates and active stakeholders in the Regional Services system.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title What is the Project Title?	Applicant Response Equitable access to Regional Center services for children and youth in foster care	1
2. Awarded Amount	Applicant Response \$250,000	
3. Organization Type Please check the box that describes your organization	Applicant Response Community Based Organization (CBO), 501(c)(3)	
4. Description of Organization/ Group 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.	Applicant Response South Central Prevention Coalition (SCPC) was established in 1994 as a project of Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and was originally funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In 2000, SCPC received funding from the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Coalition's Office of National Drug Control Policy Executive Office of the President of the United States, administered by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). A significant component of the SCPC's programming is focused on youth and young adults in foster care, in collaboration with the foster care agency, Dangerfield Institute of Urban Problems. SCPC has developed and implemented successful Substance Use Disorder prevention programs that empowered hundreds of foster youth to avoid substance use.	2

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>The mission of SCPC is to provide an array of comprehensive services that contribute to the creation of a healthy South Los Angeles for residents impacted by substance use disorders, trauma, violence and other physical, mental, and environmental health disparities. All SCPC's programs are evidence-based models designed to mitigate health and healthcare disparities in relevant settings such as out-of-home placement sites, public housing sites, faith centers, and public schools. The effectiveness of the SCPC's approach resides in the ability to increase self-efficacy and self-determination among community members to shape and model cultural and community norms, working with the youth to motivate them with a vision of changing their trajectories.</p> <p>Anna (Aziza) Lucas-Wright, MEd, SCPC's Executive Director, Project Lead / Principal Investigator on this proposed work, has been engaged in community work with group homes for almost 30 years. She is a Community Faculty member and Vice-Chair of the Department of Preventative and Social Medicine in the College of Medicine at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, as well as the Executive Director for the South Central Prevention Coalition. She has an established track record of research and program development collaborations with local academic and research institutions such as USC, UCLA, and RAND. Her work has primarily centered on under-resourced communities in South Los Angeles. Joining the project in the role of Consultant and Content Area Expert is Dr. Sharrica Miller, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Guardian Scholar mentor at California State University Fullerton. Dr. Miller grew up in foster care and will bring her personal and professional expertise to the project.</p> <p>Loving Hands Children's Home directed by Janiese Finney, RN, BSN, PHN, is a non-profit organization with two main programs: a home for medically fragile children, and Youth Empowerment for youth and young adults in foster care. A popular and highly successful interactive youth empowerment program is focused on teaching at-risk and older foster youth valuable independent living skills. When youth are granted access to information and resources and are able to share regular positive interactions with trusted adults, there is a significant decrease in the likelihood of drug and/or alcohol abuse, crime and under age pregnancy. The Youth Empowerment program also gives Loving Hands the opportunity to assist in addressing hunger, and other important issues related to poverty and homelessness. The Youth Empowerment Program is part of the Community Outreach and Mentor Programs that teach independent living skills and grant youth necessary resources that aid them in daily living. With each course taught, Loving Hands purchases and donates items that coincide with each lesson. This includes food, donated clothing items and supplies. The program offers foster youth a safe and reliable means to develop positive and significant relationships and secure needed resources.</p> <p>Children's Hospital Los Angeles Foster Hub Clinic: The Foster Care Hub at CHLA is a partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Children and Family</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>Services (DCFS) that provides medical, developmental, mental health and care coordination for children in foster care. The CHLA Foster Hub Clinic provides medical and developmental check ups, mental health assessments, and other services to children and youth who have been placed in foster care. The Clinic's Interim Director, Dr. Gouri Kolhatkar, is participating in our project as Content Expert, and has over 16 years of experience providing culturally and linguistically tailored healthcare for children and youth in foster care. She will serve as a Content Area Expert on the project.</p> <p>USC UCEDD at CHLA: The USC UCEDD at CHLA provides clinical services, professional training, technical support and educational opportunities to CBOs serving low-income communities of color who are the primary recipients of the USC UCEDD's services. The USC UCEDD is a leader in designing and implementing culturally tailored and linguistically competent programs to meet the needs of under-resourced communities of color in Los Angeles County and beyond. Wesley Witherspoon, BS, will serve as Content Expert and Peer Mentor / Coach for the 10 Peer Ambassadors in the program. Mr. Witherspoon holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and is the Consumer Advocate at USC UCEDD at CHLA. He serves on the State Council for Developmental Disabilities for California, and also served as the Chair of the Employment First Committee with SCDD, as well as on the Legislative Public Policy Committee. Olga Solomon, PhD, the USC UCEDD's Research Scientist, will lead program evaluation on the proposed project.</p>	
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	5
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	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(Reapplications Only) What is the Project Title of previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
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	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
11. 2018/2019 Award (Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2018/2019. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
12. 2018/2019 Expenses (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.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
13. 2018/2019 Remaining (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.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
14. 2019/2020 Award (Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2019/2020. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
15. 2019/2020 Expenses (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.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
16. 2019/2020 Remaining (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.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
17. Total Awarded (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.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
18. Initial Proposed Number of People Served	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(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	
(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	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(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 (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.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
27. Project Transition (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.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
General Application		
Proposal Summary		
1. Individuals Impacted Enter the projected number of individuals impacted.	Applicant Response 3528	1
2. People Served	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
What is proposed number of people projected to be served?	20	
3. Duration of project	Applicant Response	
What is the duration of the project? Enter Start & End Dates.	Start Date: 03/01/2021, End Date: 02/28/2022	
4. Duration of project (months)	Applicant Response	
What is the total duration of project in months?	12	
5. Regional Centers	Applicant Response	
List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas.	<p>Our project will operate in the catchment areas of NLARC, SCLARC, and WRC.</p> <p>NLARC and SCLARC serve the highest percentage of African Americans compared to their total population, and the highest number of children and youth in foster care in LA County.</p> <p>WRC has a relatively high POS for children and youth in foster care, and a unique programmatic expertise in serving them that we plan to marshal for our project.</p>	
6. Cities Served	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
List the city or cities your project proposes to serve.	<p>NLACRC: Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Santa Clarita, Lake Terrace, Lancaster, Reseda, Sun Valley, Palmdale, parts of Thousand Oaks, Valley Glen, San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Antelope Valley. Within the city of Los Angeles it serves East Valley, San Fernando, and West Valley. Northern LA County, including the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys Zip codes: 90290, 91040, 91042, 91301-91307, 91310, 91316, 91320, 91321, 91324-91326, 91330, 91331, 91335, 91340, 91341-91345, 91350, 91352, 91355, 91356, 91359-91362, 91364, 91367, 91401-91413, 91423, 91601-91609, 93020-93022, 93062, 93065, 93243, 93510, 93532, 93534-93536, 93539, 93543, 93550, 93551, 93553, 93555, 93563</p> <p>SCLARC: Bell, Bell Gardens, Carson, Compton, Downey, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Maywood, Paramount, South Gate, Watts South Central Los Angeles Regional Center – 213-763-7800 Southern LA, including the communities of Compton, Gardena, and Downey Zip codes: 90001-90003, 90007, 90008, 90011, 90016, 90018, 90037, 90043, 90044, 90047, 90058, 90059, 90061, 90062, 90201, 90220-90224, 90240-90242, 90255, 90262, 90270, 90723, 90280</p> <p>WRC: Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Inglewood, Santa Monica Westside Regional Center – 310-258-4000 West LA, from Malibu in the north to Gardena in the south Zip codes: 90003, 90008, 90024, 90025, 90034, 90035, 90044, 90045, 90047, 90049, 90056, 90064, 90066, 90067, 90210-90212, 90230, 90245, 90247-90250, 90260, 90265, 90272, 90278, 90291, 90301-90305, 90401- 90405</p>	
7. Counties Served	Applicant Response	
List the county or counties your project proposes to serve.	Los Angeles County	
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.	We listed the zip codes for each RC's catchment areas under Question 6	
9. Community Based Organizations	Applicant Response	
Will you be working with one or more Community Based Organization?	Yes	
10. Regional Center Data	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
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 plan to meet with the RCs' Cultural Specialists to advise us on how the RCs may be able to assist us, while maintaining confidentiality, to reach out to foster parents and foster youth ages 14 and older to let them know about our project. We also plan to present our project outcomes and recommendations at the end of Year 1 to the RCs and the DDS during a Community Symposium.	
11. First Project Type Selection	Applicant Response	
Select your first project type.	Family/consumer support services (coaching, enhanced CM)	
12. Second Project Type Selection	Applicant Response	
Select your second project type (if applicable).	Parent Education (online or in person trainings, etc)	
13. Third Project Type Selection	Applicant Response	
Select your third project type (if applicable).	Workforce Capacity and Development (staff training, 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	3
15. Leverage & Strategies	Applicant Response	
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?	<p>The overarching goal of the proposed project is to increase access to RC services and generic services for children and youth in foster care through</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Foster parent</u> education about RC and generic services, and on-going supports; 2) <u>Foster Youth with I/DD</u> peer-mentoring in self-advocacy on RC and generic services and supports, and on-going supports. <p>The collaborations that will be created in the course of this transformative project are anticipated to break through the organizational 'silos' of agencies serving foster children and youth. The Peer Ambassador model is similar in organization to the Promatora / Parent Navigator programs, and can be widely implemented. Foster Parent and Peer Ambassador programs will be manualized to encourage replication in other catchment areas. A source or sustainability can be the AUCD network, with funding potentially available through Association for Community Living and HRSA.</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
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 , Hispanic , Pacific Islander (list) , Native American	
Applicant Comment	These racial and ethnic groups are over-represented in the foster children and youth population	
2. Number of Target Group Served	Applicant Response	
For each target group selected in previous question, list number served.	8 African American 8 Latinx 2 Pacific Islander 2 Native American	
3. Languages	Applicant Response	
Select all Languages the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list all languages.	Other (list)	
Applicant Comment	The program will be conducted in English	
4. Age Groups Served	Applicant Response	
Select all Age Groups the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list groups.	Three to Five , Three to 21 , 16 to 21 , 22 and older	
Applicant Comment	Foster parents in the program will care for foster children of any age Foster Youth will be ages 14 and older	
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.	<p>Population:</p> <p>Children of color continue to be over-represented in the foster care system in California. African American/Black children make up 23% of foster children but only 6% of the general child population. Sixty five percent of foster youth in California age out of foster care without being reunited or connected to a family, compared to 51% nationwide. Aging out of foster care is especially precarious for youth with developmental disabilities significant enough to make them eligible for Regional Center services. In the Regional Center system, however, foster children and youth face two types of barriers to RC services: as members of racial and ethnic groups that have experienced pervasive disparities in POS; and being under the care of foster parents and / or agencies without the medical and educational rights to advocate on their behalf.</p> <p>Catchment area:</p> <p>Our project will operate in the catchment areas of NLACRC, SCLARC, and WRC. NLACRC and SCLARC serve the highest percentage of African Americans compared to their total population,</p>	1

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>and the highest number of children and youth in foster care in LA County. WRC has a relatively high POS for children and youth in foster care, and a unique programmatic expertise in serving them that we plan to marshal for our project.</p> <p>Project Design:</p> <p>The project is lead by an established, highly regarded non-profit CBO "South Central Prevention Coalition", in partnership with "The Loving Hands Children's Home" and the Foster Hub Clinic at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The USC UCEDD at CHLA faculty will carry out program evaluation.</p> <p>Consistent with the Community Partnered Participatory Research Framework, a Community Advisory Board (CAB) will be constituted to convene once per quarter. It will include one representative who is a Community Content Expert from the following stakeholder groups: Foster Parents, Kin Caregivers, Birth Parents, Foster Children and Youth with IDD, and professionals from the DDS, RCs (Disparity and Cultural Specialists), DCFS, Pediatricians, Foster Parent licensing agencies, and Self-Advocacy and Disability Rights groups. The CAB will provide guidance regarding relevance, cultural tailoring, and other feedback to the project team.</p> <p>This project addresses the disparities in POS experienced by children and youth in foster care through a two-prong complementary approach:</p> <p>1) Foster parent education: educate foster parents regarding the pathways to securing educational and medical rights. This will enable them to legally advocate for the foster children and youth's RC and generic services.</p> <p>2) Foster Youth empowerment and education: provide the RC services-eligible Foster Youth ages 14 and over</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) individual peer-mentoring by Peer Ambassador Teams (each team consists of a Peer Ambassador Self-Advocate and Peer Ambassador Former Foster Youth);</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) youth empowerment group training to prepare them to become self-advocates and active stakeholders in the Regional Services system.</p> <p>The deliverables are:</p> <p>1) Community Dissemination Symposium where the Foster Parents, the Foster Youth participants, and the Peer Ambassadors (PA-SA and PA-FFY) will be discussing their experiences, accomplishments, and 'lessons learned' in Year 2, having been in the program for close to 24 months.</p> <p>2) Manualized Curriculum for Foster Parents on RC</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>and generic services</p> <p>3) Manualized Curriculum for Foster Youth ages 14 and older on Self-Advocacy for RC and generic services</p> <p>Our project addresses the problem of POS disparities for children and youth in foster care from two complementary directions:</p> <p><u>Foster Parents and Agencies:</u></p> <p>1) Needs assessment via Key Informant Interviews with 10 foster parents and 10 social workers from foster care certifying agencies, to identify a range of needs and challenges hindering their ability to advocate for RC services for Foster Youth under their care. These KIIs will be carried out remotely and audio-recorded, then thematically analysed.</p> <p>2) Monthly remote support groups and peer mentoring for 10 foster parents</p> <p>3) Training and resources for 10 foster parents of children and youth eligible for RC services.</p> <p><u>Foster Youth with I/DD ages 14 and older who are eligible for RC services</u></p> <p>1) Recruit 5 Self-Advocates with I/DD who successfully advocate for themselves to receive RC services; 5 Former Foster Youths who successfully aged out of the foster care system.</p> <p>Points of recruitment will be : RCs, SCDD, and certifying foster agency and project staff with content area expertise and linkages to the Foster Youth and Self-Advocate communities.</p> <p>2) Provide training and on-going supervision / guidance to become Peer Ambassadors (PA-SA and PA-FFY).</p> <p>Co-training of the PA-SAs and PA-FFYs will assure a bi-directional learning and collaboration within the dyads, supported by the SCPC and Loving Hands trained staff.</p> <p>3) Configure 5 Peer Ambassador dyads (one PA-SA and one PA-FFY per dyad) to mentor 4 Foster Youth with I/DD (see Program Participation Table).</p> <p>4) Recruit 20 Foster Youth with I/DD ages 14 and older who are receiving or are eligible for RC services.</p> <p>5) Assign Foster Youth program participants to a Peer Ambassador dyad.</p> <p>6) Facilitate access to Youth Empowerment workshops conducted by Loving Hands Children's Home (Laniase</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>Finney). A series of Youth Engagement workshops have been developed and successfully implemented by Loving Hands Children's Home for the Foster Youth population. For this project, the content and format of presentation will be tailored to facilitate accessibility for participants with I/DD. We will develop additional, person-centered content for Foster Youth with I/DD on self-advocacy and RC services.</p> <p>Measurement strategy</p> <p><u>Quantitative:</u></p> <p>We will use a measurement strategy that is similar to the SCPC's previously successful methodology. This methodology has been developed for the</p> <p>SCPC's 10-year contract with LA County Department of Public Health. We will measure three variables:</p> <p>1) Increase in knowledge:</p> <p>Knowledge attainment and understanding by all participants (Foster parents and Foster Youth with I/DD) will be measured by pre-</p> <p>and post- surveys for training and mentoring session.</p> <p>2) Behavioral change relative to goal attainment:</p> <p>- Foster parents will be identifying what kinds of goals they need to pursue to improve access and quality of RC and generic services for their Foster Children</p> <p>and Youth under their care</p> <p>- Foster Youth will be identifying what kinds of goals they need to pursue to improve their access and quality of RC and generic services.</p> <p>3) Self-efficacy regarding ability to effectuate positive change:</p> <p>- Foster parents' confidence in knowing what, with whom, and how to request and advocate for RC and generic services for the Foster Children</p> <p>and Youth under their care</p> <p>- Foster Youth's confidence in knowing what, with whom, and how to self-advocate for RC and generic services</p> <p><u>Qualitative:</u></p> <p>Thematic analysis using analytic software NVivo will be carried out to identify a range and thematic saturation of topics in the audio-recorded Key</p> <p>Informant Interviews with 10 foster parents and 10 social workers from foster care certifying agencies. The KIs will be carried out remotely via a</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>teleconferencing platform. The analysis will identify a range of needs and challenges hindering these adults' ability to advocate for RC and generic services for Foster Youth under their care.</p>	
<p>2. Organization Experience</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<p>What experience does the organization/group have working with the target population?</p>	<p>South Central Prevention Coalition (SCPC) was established in 1994 as a project of Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and was originally funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In 2000, SCPC received funding from the Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Coalition's Office of National Drug Control Policy Executive Office of the President of the United States, administered by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). A significant component of the SCPC's programming is focused on youth and young adults in foster care, in collaboration with the foster care agency, Dangerfield Institute of Urban Problems. SCPC has developed and implemented successful Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) prevention programs that empowered hundreds of African American and Latinx youth, some of whom were and have been foster youth, to mitigate substance use disorders in this vulnerable population.</p> <p>Over the last three years, the leadership of SCPC has been re-directed a significant portion of its programming and services to address the needs of youth in foster placement. This proposed project extends this previous work to address the needs of foster youth eligible for or receiving Regional Center and generic services. SCPC understands the efficacy of Peer Mentors / Ambassadors to mobilize under-resourced youth in communities facing social and economic disparities.</p> <p>A foundational program for this proposed project is the Central Avenue Youth Empowerment Council (CAYEC), previously dedicated to the goal of addressing and mitigating the ravages of SUDs. It was a 4-prong approach: 1) information dissemination among peers; 2) inter-generational information dissemination (among extended family and the larger community); 3) environmental activism to help create additional safety nets against selling and serving alcohol and other substances to youth; 4) facilitation of research strategies (surveys and questionnaires) to acquire baseline needs assessment for these strategies. In summary, SCPC's CAYEC implemented advocacy strategies that strengthened and motivated the self-efficacy needed for the inter-generational healing to support the youth community. The members of CAYEC were trained and mentored to become Peer Leaders and trusted change agents in their communities, coupled with their training as community researchers in survey methodology to identify the range of community needs relevant to SUDs.</p> <p>Loving Hands Children's Home is a non-profit organization with two main programs: a home for medically fragile children, and Youth Empowerment for youth and young adults in foster care. A popular and highly successful interactive youth empowerment program is focused on teaching at-risk and older foster youth valuable</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>focused on teaching at-risk and older foster youth valuable independent living skills. When youth have needed access to information and resources and are able to share regular positive interactions with trusted adults, there is a significant decrease in the likelihood of drug and/or alcohol abuse, crime and under age pregnancy. The Youth Empowerment program also gives Loving Hands the opportunity to assist in addressing hunger, and other important issues related to poverty and homelessness. The Youth Empowerment Program is part of the Community Outreach and Mentor Programs that teach independent living skills and grant youth necessary resources that aid them in daily living. With each course taught, Loving Hands purchases and donates items that coincide with each lesson. This includes food, donated clothing items and supplies. The program offers foster youth a safe and reliable means to develop positive and significant relationships and secure needed resources.</p> <p>Since June 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic 40 foster youth ages 12 - 26 have participated in the Youth Empowerment Life Skills workshop series.</p> <p>Prior to COVID-19 pandemic, Loving Hands served between 30 to 60 foster youth per month at various group homes and other off-site locations.</p> <p>Some of the life skills taught during Youth Empowerment Workshops include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent living basics • Economic well-being, banking & money management • The importance of credit • Home economics, grocery shopping and meal preparation • College prep and applications, higher education resources • Work force readiness and resume building • Peer pressure and decision making • Sexual Responsibility <p>Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Foster Hub Clinic: The Foster Care Hub at CHLA is a partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Children and Family Services (DCFS) that provides medical, developmental, mental health and care coordination for children in foster care. The CHLA Foster Hub Clinic provides medical and developmental check ups, mental health assessments, and other services to children and youth who have been placed in foster care. The Clinic’s Interim Director, Dr. Gouri Kolhatkar, is participating in our project as Content Expert, and has over 16 years of experience providing culturally and linguistically tailored healthcare for children and youth in foster care.</p>	
3. Underserved Target Populations	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RC POS data or other data as supporting evidence of the disparity.</p>	<p>According to the POS by Residence data for 2018/2019, there are currently 3,528 children and youth in foster care who are receiving services in the 7 RCs in Los Angeles County. North LA County RC serves the largest number of foster children and youth (1,033) while FD Lanterman RC serves the smallest number (161).</p> <p>Compared to the POS Expenditure for RC consumers living at home, POS expenditure for children and youth in foster care is almost 4 times less at ELARC (\$2,267 vs. \$8,693) and 3 times less at WRC (\$3,875 vs. 11,499), however, in all RCs in LA County the disparities in PoS between those living at home and those living in a foster home is significant.</p> <p>There are also significant disparities across RCs in POS expenditure, with ELARC having the lowest POS for the children and youth living in a foster home (\$2,267) and SGPRC having the highest (\$6,742).</p> <p>Of note, 104 individuals receiving RC services at the RCs in LA County are homeless or transient. The majority of them are ages 22 and over, which is likely contributed by RC services – eligible foster youth aging out of the child welfare system without effective supports or connections. There are also striking disparities in POS expenditure for the homeless / transient consumers across RCs in LA County: NLACRC having the lowest per capita POS expenditure (\$4,574) while WRC has the highest (\$38,937).</p>	
<p>4. Input from Community</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>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?</p>	<p>We carried out Key Informant Interviews with two RC service coordinators who have expertise working with foster parents, with a combined 30 years experience of service withing RC structure.</p> <p>Additional KIs were conducted with members of the project team whose profiles include currently providing services to individuals with IDD; an accomplished professional and academic who has a background as a former foster youth; an Interim Director and clinicians of the CHLA Foster Hub Clinic; and an accomplished Self-Advocate with experience in advocacy in clinical care and policy.</p>	
<p>5. Improve Access</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>We will improve equity, access, reduce barriers to services in way that's commensurate with the multi-layered needs of children and youth in foster care, and the foster parents caring for them. For both groups (foster children / youth and foster parents) we aim to strengthen their varied competencies needed to navigate the RC and generic services system to receive equitable services. Our project is designed so that we are able to track the project participants' development of the needed competencies related to self-efficacy and self-advocacy.</p>	
<p>6. Support RC's Recommendations</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>SCPC from its inception was designed to work collaboratively with all community stakeholders institutions. We have successfully collaborated with school districts, law enforcement, neighborhood councils, liquor store merchants, and the faith community to advance our mission. We have submitted a letter of introduction and invitation to the three RCs (NLACRC, SCLARC, and WRC) within our mutual catchment area and are looking forward to collaborating with them to meet our mutual priorities.</p> <p>We know that RCs are interested in promoting equity and reducing disparities, some very substantial , in their catchment areas. We are in agreement that 'a village' construct offers a great promise to reach our intended goals on behalf of our communities. Our two-decade experience in implementing culturally and linguistically-tailored programs within the under-resourced population well us positions us to work synergistically with RCs to attain equity and reduce disparities in POS.</p>	
<p>7. Project different or unique</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>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?</p>	<p>Most if not all DDS-funded Disparity Fund projects have focused on communities defined by racial and / or ethnic characteristics. As far we we know, there has not been a DDS Disparity Fund project focusing <u>specifically</u> on equitable access to RC and generic services for children and youth in foster care. This is a very serious, difficult to address, problem, and especially so during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Los Angeles County RCs there are over 3000 children and youth in foster care eligible for RC services; and over 100 homeless individuals, most of whom over the age of 22, eligible for services. The DDS is in a unique position to 'move the needle' on this problem, and our team is highly qualified and up to the task.</p>	
<p>8. Activities & Measures to Achieve Goal</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>We are providing a schedule of activities in the attached table, divided by the activities for the foster youth and the foster parents. With the exception of Key Informant Interviews for the foster parents, before and after each activity, there will be a pre- and post-measure designed to evaluate the impact of a specific dimension of the program. Our measurement strategy is logical and comprehensive, yielding robust data corpus, yet not overwhelming to the participants. We follow the 'best practices' in program development and evaluation.</p> <p>This project addresses the disparities in POS experienced by children and youth in foster care through a two-prong complementary approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Foster parent education: educate foster parents regarding the pathways to securing educational and medical rights. This will enable them to legally advocate for the foster children and youth's RC and generic services. 2) Foster Youth empowerment and education: provide the RC services-eligible Foster Youth ages 14 and over <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) individual peer-mentoring by Peer Ambassador Teams (each team consists of a Peer Ambassador Self-Advocate and Peer Ambassador Former Foster Youth); b) youth empowerment group training to prepare them to become self-advocates and active stakeholders in the Regional Services system. <p>The deliverables are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Community Dissemination Symposium where the Foster Parents, the Foster Youth participants, and the Peer Ambassadors (PA-SA and PA-FFY) will be discussing their experiences, accomplishments, and 'lessons learned' 2) Manualized Curriculum for Foster Parents on RC and generic services 3) Manualized Curriculum for Foster Youth ages 14 and older on Self-Advocacy for RC and generic services <p>Our project addresses the problem of POS disparities for children and youth in foster care from two complementary directions:</p> <p>- Foster Parents and Agencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Needs assessment via Key Informant Interviews with 10 foster parents and 10 social workers from foster care certifying agencies, to identify a range of needs and challenges hindering their ability to advocate for RC services for Foster Youth under their care. These KIIs will be carried out remotely and audio-recorded. then 	<p>1</p>

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>thematically analyzed</p> <p>2) Monthly remote support groups and peer mentoring for 10 foster parents</p> <p>3) Training and resources for 10 foster parents of children and youth eligible for RC services.</p> <p><u>- Foster Youth with I/DD ages 14 and older who are eligible for RC services</u></p> <p>1) Recruit 5 Self-Advocates with I/DD who successfully advocate for themselves to receive RC services; 5 Former Foster Youths who successfully aged out of the foster care system. Points of recruitment will be : RCs, SCDD, and certifying foster agency and project staff with content area expertise and linkages to the Foster Youth and Self-Advocate communities.</p> <p>2) Provide training and on-going supervision / guidance to become Peer Ambassadors (PA-SA and PA-FFY). Co-training of the PA-SAs and PA-FFYs will assure a bi-directional learning and collaboration within the dyads, supported by the SCPC and Loving Hands trained staff.</p> <p>3) Configure 5 Peer Ambassador dyads (one PA-SA and one PA-FFY per dyad) to mentor 4 Foster Youth with I/DD (see Program Participation Table).</p> <p>4) Recruit 20 Foster Youth with I/DD ages 14 and older who are receiving or are eligible for RC services.</p> <p>5) Assign Foster Youth program participants to a Peer Ambassador dyad.</p> <p>6) Facilitate access to Youth Empowerment workshops conducted by Loving Hands Children's Home (Janiese Finney). A series of Youth Empowerment workshops have been developed and successfully implemented by Loving Hands Children's Home for the Foster Youth population. For this project, the content and format of presentation will be tailored to facilitate accessibility for participants with I/DD. We will develop additional, person-centered content for Foster Youth with I/DD on self-advocacy and RC services.</p> <p>Measurement strategy</p> <p><u>Quantitative:</u></p> <p>We will use a measurement strategy that is similar to the SCPC's previously successful methodology. This methodology has been developed for the SCPC's 10-year contract with LA County Department of Public Health. We will measure three variables:</p> <p>1) Increase in knowledge:</p> <p>Knowledge attainment and understanding by all participants (Foster parents and Foster Youth with I/DD) will be measured by pre- and post- surveys for training and mentoring session.</p> <p>2) Behavioral change relative to goal attainment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster parents will be identifying what kinds of goals they need to pursue to improve access and quality of RC and generic services for their Foster Children and Youth under their care - Foster Youth will be identifying what kinds of goals they need to pursue to improve their access and quality of RC 	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
	<p>and generic services</p> <p>3) Self-efficacy regarding ability to effectuate</p> <p>positive change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster parents' confidence in knowing what, with whom, and how to request and advocate for RC and generic services for the Foster Children and Youth under their care - Foster Youth's confidence in knowing what, with whom, and how to self-advocate for RC and generic services <p>Qualitative:</p> <p>Thematic analysis using analytic software NVivo will be carried out to identify a range and thematic saturation of topics in the audio-recorded Key Informant Interviews with 10 foster parents and 10 social workers from foster care certifying agencies. The KIs will be carried out remotely via a teleconferencing platform. The analysis will identify a range of needs and challenges hindering these adults' ability to advocate for RC and generic services for Foster Youth under their care.</p>	
<p>9. Measures</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Our proposed measures are both simple to use, and at the same time comprehensive in the quality of data they allow to collect. We have successfully used this set of measures in previous projects, and have found a good balance of rigor and simplicity. We are measuring program impact at specific time points in Year 1 and Year 2, aiming to capture changes in self-efficacy and knowledge of the RC and generic services.</p>	
<p>10. Budget Narrative</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
<p>Proposal Certification</p>		

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Certification		
1. Applicant & Regional Center Discussion	Applicant Response	
If you are a CBO, have you discussed your proposal with the RC(s)?	Yes	3
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	Anna Lucas Wright, MEd	