

APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: Peer Connections Cafe
Applicant Organization: Far Northern Regional Center
Awarded Amount: \$200,858
Funding Announcement Name: Promoting Service Access and Equity Grant



PROJECT SUMMARY

This two phased project consists of aiding Regional Center Latinx clients access technology in order to access tele-services and virtual Peer Connections Cafes. The cafes will be available in English, Spanish and Mien to target our Latinx and South East Asian clients. The cafes will have themes relevant to people with Developmental Disabilities and will offer opportunities to foster peer to peer discussion on these themes as well as foster mentor/mentee relationships. It is the hope of Far Northern Regional Center that this project will help clients be better informed of the services available to them and to feel encouraged to request the Regional Center services they need.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title	Applicant Response	
What is the Project Title?	Peer Connections Cafe	
2. Awarded Amount	Applicant Response	
	\$200,858	
3. Organization Type	Applicant Response	
Please check the box that describes your organization	Regional Center (RC)	
4. Description of Organization/Group	Applicant Response	
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.	As part of the Regional Center System, Far Northern Regional Center continues to take steps towards fulfilling our mission to provide services and supports that allows people with Developmental Disabilities to live productive lives as welcomed members of their community. We hope that the Peer Connections project fosters peer leadership and advocacy to our community while informing our clients and their families about the Regional Center System and the services we can offer to them.	
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?	Regional Center (RC)	
6. Subcontractors in Good Standing	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
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?	Regional Center (RC)	
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	
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	

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

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>17. Total Awarded</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>18. Initial Proposed Number of People Served</p> <p>(Reapplications Only) Include the initial number of people projected to be served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>19. Actual Number of People Served</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>20. Regional Centers in Catchment Area</p> <p>(Reapplications Only) List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas that the project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>21. Cities Served</p> <p>(Reapplications Only) List the cities your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>22. Counties Served</p> <p>(Reapplications Only) List the counties your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>23. City of Los Angeles</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>24. Activities to Date</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
(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	
(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	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
General Application		
Proposal Summary		
1. Individuals Impacted	Applicant Response	
Enter the projected number of individuals impacted.	1200	
2. People Served	Applicant Response	
What is proposed number of people projected to be served?	1200	
3. Duration of project	Applicant Response	
What is the duration of the project? Enter Start & End Dates.	Start Date: 02/28/2021, 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.	The area of the project will be with in the Far Northern Regional Center catchment area, which includes the following counties: Butte, Shasta, Modoc, Trinity, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas, Tehama and Siskiyou.	
6. Cities Served	Applicant Response	
List the city or cities your project proposes to serve.	Our project will start by serving the bigger cities in the Far Northern Regional Center area which include Redding, Chico and Red Bluff. However, we hope that our project reaches beyond these cities, as our initial Peer Connection cafe meetings will have to be virtual due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.	
7. Counties Served	Applicant Response	
List the county or counties your project proposes to serve.	We hope that Peer Connections serves all nine counties in our catchment area: Shasta, Tehama, Lassen, Plumas, Trinity, Glenn, Butte, Modoc and Siskiyou.	
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	1
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 will be using our most current Regional Center POS Data, which was presented October 10,2020. Please see the attached documentation to see the POS data we will be basing this project on. It must also be noted that as of October 2020, Far Northern Regional center is serving 99 South East Asian clients and 1056 Latinx clients, which is why the project hopes to target 1200, to account for our current number of clients served and to accommodate an increase to our South East Aisan and Latinx populations in the next two years.	
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).	Parent Education (online or in person trainings, etc)	
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.	Yes	
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?	Far Northern Regional Center has held parent focus groups in Glenn, Butte and Tehama counties. We hope to use these groups, as a stepping stone in starting our Peer Connection Cafes. Our cafes will also serve as a place to increase education about the Regional Center System and the services available to consumers of the regional center. We hope that by hosting these virtual and in-person cafes and educating our families and clients, our Latinx and SouthEast Asian populations will feel more comfortable and encouraged to utilize the services available to them. As a Regional Center, we hope to continue hosting these cafes after the grant and invite local CBOs to participate in these throughout the 9 counties in our Regional Center catchment area to further develop trust and knowledge to our Far Northern community.	1
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.	Hispanic , Hmong , Mien	
Applicant Comment		

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
2. Number of Target Group Served	Applicant Response	
For each target group selected in previous question, list number served.	Far Northern Regional Center serves 99 Hmong and Mien clients and 1056 Hispanic/Latinx clients.	
3. Languages	Applicant Response	
Select all Languages the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list all languages.	Mien , Spanish , Other (list)	
Applicant Comment	We will offer Mien, Spanish and English cafes. If we find a subcontractor or staff that will assist with Hmong language cafes, we will also offer cafes in that language.	
4. Age Groups Served	Applicant Response	
Select all Age Groups the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list groups.	22 and older , 16 to 21 , Three to 21 , Three to Five , Birth up to Three (Early Start)	
Applicant Comment	We hope to serve all age groups served by Far Northern Regional Center. If we see interest for specific peer or parent groups that would like to host their own cafes for their age group(i.e. early start vs. school age parents might have different topics of interest), we will reach out and partner with local CBOs, such as the local head starts, to host those peer connection cafes.	
Project Application		
Project Application		
1. Project Summary	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>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>	<p>Our project consists of two phases, the first one will be to increase access to technology to our target population, and the second one will be setting up and running the Peer Connection Cafes virtually throughout our nine counties(Shasta, Tehama, Siskiyou, Trinity, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Glenn and Butte).</p> <p>The first and ongoing phase consists of partnering with one of our vendors, We Care A Lot Foundation(WCALF), who is vendedored to assist clients in learning how to use and obtain technology through their "Get Connected" program. Currently, this program assists our clients to access technology in order to attend virtual day programs or other telehealth services, which prior to COVID-19 was accessed in-person. However, this vendor has no bilingual staff to assist our clients that are bilingual or whose first language is not English. WCALF has agreed to hire one Spanish speaking bilingual tech staff, with the position funded through this grant, to assist our Hispanic clients get connected to technology to better access current tele-services and to teach them how to access the platform(such as zoom) with ongoing tech support available on a case by case basis for current services and the Peer Connection Cafes. This first phase will be the main focus of this project from the start of the project on 03/01/2021 through the end of the project 02/28/2023 due to the need of assistance and education with Technology noted by our Spanish speaking bilingual service coordinators.</p> <p>Our second phase will start in the Summer of 2021, to allow for WCALF to connect with as many families and clients as possible. Upon the training of the Project Manager and the two Senior Service Coordinators of the World Cafe and the Be Strong Families curricula, Far Northern Regional Center will start scheduling and running virtual Peer Connection Cafes once a month. The cafes will initially be targeting our most populated areas, which consist of Shasta, Tehama and Butte Counties, however, due to the virtual nature of the Cafes, it will be available to our clients in all of our catchment area. These Cafes will also be offered in Spanish and Mien, to accommodate our monolingual Latinx and Mien clients and families. While rolling out the cafes, we hope to find parent leaders and CBOs who will assist us in running Hmong cafes.</p> <p>Each cafe will have at least 3 FNRC staff who will play the roles of host and discussion facilitators. These roles are needed as each cafe will have a different theme(i.e. Parenting a Child with disabilities, accessing services in the time of COVID, beating the COVID blues, etc.), as this will also give an opportunity for FNRC staff to talk about Regional Center services in relation to the theme of the cafe.</p> <p>In conclusion, between both of our phases we hope to target our Latinx and South East Asian populations, increase their confidence in using technology as well as fostering peer leadership, informing our population of the Regional Center and the services offered, which in turn will encourage more clients and their families to self-advocate and increase their use of Regional Center services with the Peer Connection Cafes.</p>	
<p>2. Organization Experience</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<p>What experience does the organization/group have working with the target population?</p>	<p>Far Northern Regional Center has continuously served people with Developmental Disabilities, and has created bilingual case management positions for 20 years. Earlier this year, Far Northern Regional Center has divided the Diversity and Inclusion project into three roles: One Resource Development and Quality Assurance Specialist, one Spanish Speaking Senior Service Coordinator and one Mien speaking Senior Service Coordinator. The staff that have these positions have a combined 25 years of working with people with Developmental Disabilities within the Latinx and South East Asian communities with Far Northern Regional Center.</p>	
<p>3. Underserved Target Populations</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<p>Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RC POS data or other data as supporting evidence of the disparity.</p>	<p>As evidenced by the POS data attached, our Latinx and South East Asian clients consist of about 1/8th of our total Regional Center population, however, when compared to our caucasian families, a gap continues to be evident in the per Capita spending of our POS. Although our vendored promotora programs have assisted in bridging the gap with our Latinx and South East Asian families, we would like for the gap to continue to close by using the Peer Connection Cafes to foster peer leadership and self-advocacy to request and know the Regional Center services available to them.</p>	
<p>4. Input from Community</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<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>From our previous Disparity reports as well as from feedback from Board Members during our Public meeting for our POS Data report, we heard from our community that a space for families and clients to meet and discuss their experiences in relation to their developmental disability and their experiences. Furthermore, the COVID-19 Pandemic has isolated our clients socially, and we believe that this project will assist in connecting our clients and families to each other, in an environment that fosters formal and informal mentor/mentee relationships.</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>The Peer Connection Cafes will foster discussion between clients, families and Far Northern Regional Center staff that will lead to education of Regional Center Services and fostering of relationships between clients and families. It is the belief of Far Northern, that by fostering these discussions and increasing our clients' access to technology, our clients will be encouraged and motivated to self-advocate and request for services they need.</p>	
<p>6. Support RC's Recommendations</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<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>As an RC, Far Northern recognizes that there is a disparity in the knowledge of and use of POS services with our Latinx and South East Asian Communities. Part of the disparity is also due to the lack of bilingual and bicultural staff with our vendors, which causes mistrust and refusal in the use of the services the vendors offer. By inviting and offering one of our bigger vendors to have a bilingual staff in their team, we hope to bring more trust between our Latinx community and the services being offered by WCALF (We Care A Lot Foundation), as well as encourage WCALF to start looking for more bilingual staff outside of this grant. Furthermore, by fostering a safe space for our clients and their families to meet and discuss their concerns and their experiences through the Peer Connection Cafes, we hope to form peer leaders and self-advocates who are knowledgeable of the Regional Center system and who will encourage their peers to advocate and use Regional Center services.</p>	
<p>7. Project different or unique</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<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>This project is unique to our area, as not only will we be assisting in the education of technology, but we will also be merging two strong models, the World Cafe and Be Strong Families models, to accommodate our Regional Center community, which have unique needs and experiences and encourage the creation of Mentor and Mentee relationships within our community.</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>The activities and measures described in the activities template detail the timeline of this project over two years. The measures listed will assist in keeping track of clients interested and attendees in our cafes. Furthermore, if our clients feel comfortable sharing their names at each cafe in addition to having the number of clients served through the "Get Connected" program, we will be able to compare our POS data and see if the cafes and the activities in it will encourage our clients to access more Regional Center services.</p>	
<p>9. Measures</p>	<p>Applicant Response</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>The post-face surveys and contact with parent groups will help Far Northern gauge the interest and level of discussion happening at the Peer Connection Cafes. This will then guide us in modifying the cafe themes and discussions to better serve our attendees.</p> <p>The tracking of clients receiving assistance from the bilingual tech from We Cafe A Lot Foundation, will let us know the number of families that were underserved due to the lack of knowledge or access to technology. Furthermore, the tracking will assist us in doing targeted marketing to those clients to encourage them to attend the cafes.</p>	
<p>10. Budget Narrative</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
<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>		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: inline-block; background-color: #cccccc; line-height: 20px;">1</div>
Proposal Certification		
Certification		
1. Applicant & Regional Center Discussion	Applicant Response	
If you are a CBO, have you discussed your proposal with the RC(s)?	Not Applicable	
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	Sara Grijalva	