APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name:	Adapting the PUENTE Program for Sustainment and Scale Up
Applicant Organization:	San Diego Regional Center
Awarded Amount:	$222,260
Funding Announcement Name:	Promoting Service Access and Equity Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

The goal of the proposed project is the implementation and evaluation of the adapted PUENTE program, with a focus on scale out and sustainment, in order to address disparities in service linkage for ethnic/racial minorities and rural subgroups. The PUENTE Program was designed to empower parents of youth 11 to 16 years old served by San Diego Regional center (SDRC) to identify and access needed services through access to a psychoeducational curriculum delivered by Promotora/Lay health workers who have lived experience with children with development disabilities served by SDRC. The PUENTE program is currently undergoing adaptation and enhancement based on feedback from stakeholders at multiple levels (Disparities Funds Project 19-SDRC-01, 2019 – 2020 funding). The proposed project involves training new and existing promotoras in the enhanced/adapted program, continuing implementation of PUENTE in existing regions, and expanding PUENTE to new areas of San Diego, include Imperial County and North Inland regions. Both Imperial County and North Inland San Diego have been identified via SDRC POS data as home to many Latinx families who are underutilizing services. The expanded delivery of a tailored PUENTE program will empower and mobilize Latinx families served by SDRC to improve service utilization, thus ultimately decreasing the disparities in spending between Latinx and non-Latinx White populations.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title What is the Project Title?	**Applicant Response** Adapting the PUENTE Program for Sustainment and Scale Up	
2. Awarded Amount	**Applicant Response** $222,260	
3. Organization Type Please check the box that describes your organization	**Applicant Response** Regional Center (RC)	
4. Description of Organization/Group	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Provide a brief description of the organization/group (organization type, group mission, etc.). Explain what experience your organization has managing a program similar to the proposal and state the outcomes of that program.	**PUENTE Collaborative: A multi-agency community academic partnership** The San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) leads the "PUENTE" community-academic partnership with researchers at the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC) (who are faculty at UC San Diego and San Diego State University) and the Exceptional Family Resource Center. The PUENTE group was formed to address ethnic disparities in access to DDS services in San Diego and Imperial counties through prior funding from the DDS disparities funding program. **Partnering Organizations** San Diego Regional Center (SDRC). SDRC's catchment area include San Diego and Imperial counties and serves approximately 30,000 individuals in the past year. Approximately 38% of SDRC clients are Latino. SDRC has five offices, one located in each geographic region of the SDRC catchment area (Central/Main, Imperial County, East County, South Bay, North County). The mission of the SDRC is to serve and empower persons with developmental disabilities and their families to achieve their goals with community partners. SDRC serves as the primary applicant for the PUENTE program. It is led by Ron Plotkin, PhD and coordinated by the cultural specialist. Other members include: Kathy Cattell (Regional Manager, South Bay), Joab Gonzalez (Program Manager, Imperial Valley), Therese Davis (Resource Coordinator), and Terri Cook-Clark (Early Start Manager). *Child & Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC).* CASRC is a consortium of over 100 researchers and staff from multiple academic institutions in Southern California (UC San Diego, San Diego State University, University of San Diego, Rady Children's Hospital). CASRC is physically located at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego. CASRC's mission is to improve the quality, effectiveness, and implementation of community-based behavioral health services for children, adolescents, and families through research, collaboration, and training the next generation of researchers and practitioners. Center projects include federally funded research grants and local and state program evaluation contracts. CASRC investigators involved in PUENTE include Lauren Brookman-Frazee, PhD (CASRC Associate Director, Professor, UCSD, and Lead of the PUENTE Evaluation and Quality Monitoring Team) and Sarah Rieth (Assistant Professor, SDSU, and Lead of the PUENTE Implementation Team). The PUENTE evaluation support staff are also located at CASRC. *Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC).* EFRC is one of 14 Family Empowerment Centers in CA and participates on the statewide Family Empowerment Disability Council. Its mission is to provide support, information and education for families of children with disabilities and the professionals who assist these families. By offering emotional support and factual information, EFRC enables families to help their children reach their fullest potential. Through local, state and federal partnerships and projects, EFRC is active in advocacy, research, policy and practice initiatives. EFRC is administratively housed at SDSU and physical located near SDRC and CASRC. Diane Storman (Health Manager; PUENTE Promotora Supervisor) is the primary PUENTE leader at EFRC. The PUENTE Promotoras and the Assessment Specialist are housed at EFRC. **Linked BRIDGE Collaborative** The BRIDGE and BRIDGE Out Collaborative was the original launching point for the PUENTE Project. The BRIDGE Collaborative consists of a transdisciplinary group of community providers, parents, funding agency representatives and researchers working together to develop a community plan to assist families of children with disorders of relating and communicating from the earliest stages. It has been meeting monthly since 2007 and is currently led by Drs. Sarah Rieth and Lauren Brookman-Frazee from CASRC. In the past 5 year, the BRIDGE Collaborative has identified and expanded mission and formed the "BRIDGE Out" subcommittee focused on reducing disparities. The mission of "BRIDGE Out" is to build a community dedicated to engagement in care and access to resources for all individuals with developmental challenges and their families through overcoming barriers, building trust and strengthening empowerment. BRIDGE Out meets quarterly and the PUENTE program is a standing discussion items for collaborative meetings.	
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.	19-SDRC-01	
2. Project Title	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) What is the Project Title of previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Adapting the PUENTE Program for Sustainment and Scale-Up	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
3. Project Start & End Dates	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) What are the Start & End Dates of the previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Start Date: 02/29/2020, End Date: 02/27/2021	
4. Project Duration	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) What is the Total Project Duration (in months) of the previously awarded project? If not applicable select Not Applicable.	12	
5. 2016/2017 Award	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplications Only) Enter the amount of funding that was awarded in FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
6. 2016/2017 Expenses	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Enter the amount of funding that was expended in FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
7. 2016/2017 Remaining	**Applicant Response**	
(Reapplicants only) Subtract the Total Expenses from the Total Award to determine the amount remaining from FY 2016/2017. If not applicable select Not Applicable.	Not Applicable	
8. 2017/2018 Award	**Applicant Response**	
(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.	$232,149.00	
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.	$232,149.00	
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.	$0.00	
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.	$232,149.00	
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.	40	

19. Actual Number of People Served

(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.

Applicant Response

The initial number of people proposed to be involved in the adaptation process for PUENTE was 40 people. To date, we have involved five promotoras, ten caregivers, and two SDRC key staff. Out 40 people proposed to involve, we have involved 17 people. We have had some delays involving people due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our work is still in process and with the grant end date of February 2021, we foresee we will be able to reach our target of 40 people involved. The breakdown and status of the people involved is below:

Region	# Promotoras invited	# Promotoras interviewed to date	# Caregivers invited	# Caregivers interviewed to date	# key SDRC Staff invited	# key SDRC Staff interviewed to date	# service coordinators invited	#service coordinators interviewed to date	Persons invited total	Persons interviewed total
South Bay (urban)	4	4 (100%)	19	11 (58%)	1	1 (100%)	9	0 (0%)	33	15
Imperial Valley (rural)	2	1 (50%)	1	1 (100%)	1	1 (100%)	3	0 (0%)	7	4
TOTAL	6	5 (83%)	20	12 (60%)	2	2 (100%)	12	0 (0%)	40	19

20. Regional Centers in Catchment Area

(Reapplications Only) List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas that the project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.

Applicant Response

San Diego Regional Center

21. Cities Served

(Reapplications Only) List the cities your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.

Applicant Response

San Diego, National City, Chula Vista, Imperial, El Centro, Calexico

22. Counties Served

(Reapplications Only) List the counties your project has served. If not applicable select Not Applicable.

Applicant Response

San Diego and Imperial Counties

23. City of Los Angeles

(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.

Applicant Response

Not Applicable

24. Activities to Date | **Applicant Response**

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.	Primary activities to date have focused on collecting feedback from key stakeholders to inform the adaptation process. Though we experienced significant delays due to the COVID 19 pandemic, thus far we have completed the following: 1) Conducted qualitative focus groups and interviews with current and former Promotoras who delivered PUENTE during initial implementation. One focus group was conducted with four current and former Promotoras from South Bay. We were ablet to reach one of the promotoras from Imperial Valley and completed one interview with the former Promotora. The focus group and interview were held via Zoom to accommodate to in person meeting limitations related to COVID-19 County public health orders. 2) Conducted focus groups and semi-structured qualitative telephone interviews with caregivers who received PUENTE during initial implementation. Two focus groups were conducted with South Bay caregivers via Zoom to accommodate to in person meeting limitations related to COVID-19 concerns. Three qualitative interviews have been conducted with caregivers from South Bay and one qualitative interview with a caregiver from Imperial Valley. 3) Conducted qualitative interviews with current and former key SDRC staff who supported the SDRC caseworkers who referred families to PUENTE during initial implementation. One interview was conducted with the former SDRC Cultural Specialist from South Bay. One interview was conducted with the current SDRC Program Manager from Imperial Valley. Below is the breakdown of the type of interviews and focus groups conducted to date. <table><tr><th>Qualitative Method</th><th>Promotoras</th><th>Caregivers</th><th>Key SDRC Staff</th></tr><tr><td>Semi-structured Interview</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Focus Groups</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Total Activities</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>2</td></tr></table> 4) Conducted Rapid Assessment Process (RAP) analysis of qualitative data from focus groups and interviews to characterize barriers/facilitators and recommended adaptations.	
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.	To gauge the impacts, outcomes, and key lessons learned from the SDRC-19-01 project, we gathered qualitative feedback from multiple community stakeholders. Promotoras, caregivers, and Regional Center staff involved in the project were asked to participate in a series of focus groups and guided interviews. Our focus group and interview questions spanned three major themes: 1) assessing program benefits, 2) understanding barriers and facilitators, and 3) gathering strategies for engaging future families. From the Promotora focus groups and interviews, we gathered perceptions of the impact of the PUENTE program. Promotoras thought that the PUENTE program was beneficial for all kinds of families, especially those who did not speak English and/or had many questions about their child's needs and services. One Promotora shared that, "families that might benefit the most are the ones that don't know about the resources available. Regional Center helps, but they don't push you to use the resources. Families are waiting on a social worker to tell them what to do, parents do not know how to look for these programs on the internet because they don't know that they exist. Promotoras need to help families identify these services." We gathered key lessons from the Promotoras about barriers and facilitators to participation in PUENTE. Some barriers that Promotoras identified were the family's schedule and situations. Promotoras identified facilitators as allowing for flexibility with scheduling, building a strong connection with the family, and being persistent and understanding throughout the program. The Promotoras made various recommendations to increase participation in PUENTE. . Among them, there were recommendations to set expectations for the caregivers and highlight the benefits of taking the time to complete the program during the PUENTE intake. Other recommendations were to customize the intervention depending on the family's needs and learning styles (e.g., adding more visual aids, removing inappropriate examples). Regarding family engagement, Promotoras suggested switching families to another Promotora if they are not engaging with their assigned Promotora. They also suggested adding more explicit support for caregivers in PUENTE, specifically mental health support. The caregiver focus groups and interviews yielded important information about the positive impacts of PUENTE. Caregivers felt that the program allowed them to better understand their child and their child's rights. Caregivers highly valued the parent-to-parent relationship between themselves and the Promotoras. They noted that Promotoras carefully explained services to them, listened to them, and gave them hope. One caregiver shared that, "Ellas [las Promotoras] te dan esa esperanza de que si vas a poder" ("They [the Promotoras] give you hope that you will be able to make it"). Some of the barriers that caregivers shared during the focus groups and interviews were difficulties making time for the PUENTE program (e.g., sessions with Promotora, completing homework). However, caregivers recommend setting aside the time to participate. When asked what they would say to future families interested in the program, one caregiver shared that, "Les diría que el programa le ayuda a abogar por sus hijos, a saber que tienen que ser fuerte, tienen que luchar, aunque otra gente no los entienda, nada de lo que digan las otras personas la derrumben, y que tiene que hacer a sus hijos fuertes." [I would tell them that the program will help them advocate for their child, to know that they have to be strong, they have to fight, even if others don't understand them, nothing that others say can let her feel down, and that she has to make her child strong.] The biggest facilitator was the flexibility and understanding offered by the Promotora. The caregivers had various recommendations for adaptations to PUENTE. They all mentioned the need for the program to be more tailored towards adolescents and emerging adults. Additionally, caregivers mentioned the need for including all caregivers (fathers, grandparents) and other family members (siblings) in the program. Key stakeholders, 2 SDRC staff members, were also interviewed for their opinions and recommendations for PUENTE. According to these stakeholders, one key lesson learned was the need for continuous training for Promotoras about the array of services that SDRC offers. One key stakeholder noted that this training could spread information into the community about all the services offered through SDRC. This key stakeholder shared that, "I think training is key .... making sure that everybody knows pretty much all the services that we offer." The SDRC stakeholders felt that it is important to set expectations at the program's beginning, specifically regarding service coordinator workload. The SDRC members recommended that PUENTE training emphasize that the Promotoras will be taking the lead on the intervention and not increasing the service coordinator's work. Another recommendation was that PUENTE should highlight the program's importance as a pilot program that will inform systemic change. One of the last recommendations was to find ways to address the turnover of Promotoras. The key stakeholder shared the difficulties that arose when there were no Promotoras available in the Imperial Valley region. One suggestion has been to connect Imperial Valley families with Promotoras from San Diego that are fully trained in the resources that are specific to the region.	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
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** The objectives of Year 1 were to systematically adapt and refine PUENTE. Completion of the caregiver semi-structured interviews and the SDRC service coordinator focus groups with those who referred families to PUENTE during the initial implementation is pending. Once these activities are complete, we will have a comprehensive list of barriers/facilitators and recommended adaptations to adapt the PUENTE curriculum for the sustainment and scale-up of the program. Although there have been some setbacks in completing the program's activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still on track to complete the project's objectives by the time this current grant ends on February 28th, 2021.	
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** The current project (SDRC-19-01) focuses on the systematic adaptation of the PUENTE program following the initial pilot implementation in one local community. In Year 1, feedback is being systematically gathered from stakeholders at multiple levels (promotoras, family participants, Regional Center staff) through a series of focus groups and guided interviews. The primary products of the current project are (1) an adapted parent manual and (2) an enhanced promotora training program that address the necessary changes and additions identified through the process. The proposed new project involves the implementation and evaluation of the adapted PUENTE model in two new regions, as well as updating the current implementation region to the adapted model. This work was originally proposed as part of a 2-year project in the previous application cycle, but 19-SDRC-01 was funded for one year, thus significantly curtailing the work possible. The proposed application/current project aims to fund the continued work from 19-SDRC-01. The proposed project is both a continuation (current region) and expansion (two new regions) of the current project. Measures to be collected and reported in the proposed project include service capacity (number of promotoras for each region), referral and service use information (number of referrals in each region, number of families initiating services) and family outcomes before and after receiving PUENTE (e.g., caregiver self-efficacy, Caregiver depression, changes in POS before and after participating among others). Service expenditures will also be tracked and compared PUENTE family participants. The focus on implementation is unique to the new project, and a necessary expansion of the previous work in order for the community to benefit from the systematic PUENTE adaption that is currently underway.	
General Application		
Proposal Summary		
1. Individuals Impacted Enter the projected number of individuals impacted.	**Applicant Response** 53	
2. People Served What is proposed number of people projected to be served?	**Applicant Response** 45	
3. Duration of project What is the duration of the project? Enter Start & End Dates.	**Applicant Response** Start Date: 02/28/2021, End Date: 02/27/2022	
4. Duration of project (months) What is the total duration of project in months?	**Applicant Response** 12	
5. Regional Centers List all Regional Centers in the project catchment areas.	**Applicant Response** San Diego Regional Center	
6. Cities Served	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
List the city or cities your project proposes to serve.	Specific cities within San Diego and Imperial Counties will depend on residences of families and promotoras involved. Targeted regions include cities such as: San Diego, Chula Vista, National City, Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Imperial, El Centro, Heber, and Calexico.	
7. Counties Served	**Applicant Response**	
List the county or counties your project proposes to serve.	San Diego and Imperial Counties	
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?	No	
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.	Consistent with our current process, the PUENTE team will discuss and generate all data requests from SDRC.	
11. First Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**	
Select your first project type.	Community Connector (Example: Promotora or Navigator)	
12. Second Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**	
Select your second project type (if applicable).	Parent Education (online or in person trainings, etc)	
13. Third Project Type Selection	**Applicant Response**	
Select your third project type (if applicable).	Family/consumer support services (coaching, enhanced CM)	
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	2
15. Leverage & Strategies	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Describe how your organization will leverage and build upon strategies, collaborations, and lessons learned to continue to address the identified disparities after completion of the project. How will your project continue its work after the grant funding has concluded?	The end product of the proposed project is a tested PUENTE model that is replicable, scalable and addresses potential barriers to implementation that were identified in the first pilot project (2016- 2018) and addressed by adaptations made with current funding (19-SDRC-01). The PUENTE service is currently offered as a vendored service with Regional Center through our local Exceptional Family Resource Center, meaning the adapted model will be self-sustaining once the adaptation, enhancements, and testing are complete. The model will continue to address the goal of supporting and empowering Latinx and Spanish-speaking families in accessing and utilizing available services for individuals with ID and ASD, thus potentially addressing the disparities identified in Regional Center spending. Further, we will leverage the existing partnership and process of vendorization of the PUENTE program in San Diego to offer technical assistance to other Regional Centers interested in adopting the PUENTE model.	

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	
Applicant Comment	The PUENTE program is specifically designed to target Latinx families.	

2. Number of Target Group Served	Applicant Response	
For each target group selected in previous question, list number served.	A total of 45 Latinx/Hispanic families will receive PUENTE in the proposed implementation. A total of 8 promotoras will receive booster or initial training in delivering the PUENTE model to families (also Hispanic individuals, based on the goal of cultural connection and shared lived experience).	

3. Languages	Applicant Response	
Select all Languages the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list all languages.	Spanish	
Applicant Comment		

4. Age Groups Served	Applicant Response	
Select all Age Groups the project will serve. If you select "Other" please list groups.	Three to 21	
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.	The goal of the proposed project is the implementation and evaluation of the adapted PUENTE program, with a focus on scale out and sustainment, in order to address disparities in service linkage for ethnic/racial minorities and rural subgroups. The PUENTE Program was designed to empower parents of youth 11 to 16 years old served by San Diego Regional center (SDRC) to identify and access needed services through access to a psychoeducational curriculum delivered by Promotora/Lay health workers who have lived experience with children with development disabilities served by SDRC. The PUENTE program is currently undergoing adaptation and enhancement based on feedback from stakeholders at multiple levels (Disparities Funds Project 19-SDRC-01, 2019 – 2020 funding). The proposed project involves training new and existing promotoras in the enhanced/adapted program, continuing implementation of PUENTE in existing regions, and expanding PUENTE to new areas of San Diego, include Imperial County and North Inland regions. Both Imperial County and North Inland San Diego have been identified via SDRC POS data as home to many Latinx families who are underutilizing services. The expanded delivery of a tailored PUENTE program will empower and mobilize Latinx families served by SDRC to improve service utilization, thus ultimately decreasing the disparities in spending between Latinx and non-Latinx White populations.	

2. Organization Experience	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
What experience does the organization/group have working with the target population?	**PUENTE Collaborative: A multi-agency community academic partnership** San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) leads the "PUENTE" community-academic partnership. SDRC is wholly committed to serving individual with developmental disabilities and has the institutional expertise to fulfill that mission. SDRC is working in concert with researchers at the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC), who are faculty at UC San Diego and San Diego State University, and the Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC). The PUENTE group was formed to address ethnic disparities in access to DDS services in San Diego and Imperial Counties through prior funding from the DDS disparities funding program. Additionally, SDRC's partners from the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC) have experience in areas that are highly relevant to the PUENTE project (community partnered services and implementation research, disparities research, cultural adaptations, developmental disabilities, training). **Partnering Organizations:** **San Diego Regional Center (SDRC).** SDRC's catchment area include San Diego and Imperial counties and serves approximately 30,000 individuals in the past year. Approximately 38% of SDRC clients are Latino. SDRC has six offices, one located in each geographic region of the SDRC catchment area (Central/Main, Imperial County, East County, South Bay, North County, Carmel Valley).The mission of the SDRC is to serve and empower persons with developmental disabilities and their families to achieve their goals with community partners. SDRC serves as the primary applicant for the PUENTE program proposal. It is led by Ron Plotkin, PhD. Other members include: Kathy Cattell (Regional Manager, South Bay), Joab Gonzalez (Program Manager, Imperial Valley), Therese Davis (Resource Coordinator), and Terri Cook-Clark (Early Start Manager). ***Child & Adolescent Services Research Center* (CASRC).** CASRC is a consortium of over 100 researchers and staff from multiple academic institutions in Southern California (UC San Diego, San Diego State University, University of San Diego, Rady Children's Hospital). CASRC is physically located at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego. CASRC's mission is to improve the quality, effectiveness, and implementation of community-based behavioral health services for children, adolescents, and families through research, collaboration, and training the next generation of researchers and practitioners. Center projects include federally funded research grants and local and state program evaluation contracts. CASRC investigators involved in PUENTE include Lauren Brookman-Frazee, PhD (CASRC Associate Director, Professor, UCSD, and Lead of the PUENTE Evaluation and Quality Monitoring Team) and Sarah Rieth (Associate Professor, SDSU, and Lead of the PUENTE Implementation Team). The PUENTE evaluation support staff are also located at CASRC. ***Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC).*** EFRC is one of 14 Family Empowerment Centers in CA and participates on the statewide Family Empowerment Disability Council. Its mission is to provide support, information and education for families of children with disabilities and the professionals who assist these families. By offering emotional support and factual information, EFRC enables families to help their children reach their fullest potential. Through local, state and federal partnerships and projects, EFRC is active in advocacy, research, policy and practice initiatives. EFRC is administratively housed at SDSU and physical located near SDRC and CASRC. Diane Storman (Health Manager; PUENTE Promotora Supervisor) is the primary PUENTE leader at EFRC. The PUENTE Promotoras and the Assessment Specialist are housed at EFRC. **Project Leadership:** Dr. Ron Plotkin is a member of the Executive Office at SDRC and is the lead in this initiative. Dr. Plotkin has over 40 years of clinical and leadership experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Dr. Brookman-Frazee is a Professor of Psychiatry at UC San Diego. She is also the Associate Director of the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center, Research Director at the Autism Discovery Institute at Rady Children's Hospital, and Co-Director of the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. Her research examines methods to promote the implementation of evidence-based interventions in community service systems caring for children and reduce disparities in access to quality care. The overarching goal of Dr. Brookman-Frazee's community-partnered research is to improve the effectiveness of community services for children with mental health and developmental challenges. She is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in autism and related challenges. She leads the "BRIDGE Out" community academic partnership that is focused on reducing disparities in access to and quality of services for individuals with developmental challenges. https://profiles.ucsd.edu/lauren.brookman-frazee Dr. Sarah Rieth is an Associate Professor of Child and Family Development at San Diego State University and an investigator at the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center. Her research focuses on intervention for children with ASD and their families and the delivery of high-quality intervention in diverse community settings. Dr. Rieth is a licensed clinical psychologist and specializes in training others and delivering intervention for children with ASD, ages 12 months to 10 years. She leads the "BRIDGE" community academic partnership that established the close partnership between SDRC and CASRC researchers and has increased community capacity for evidence-based early intervention. https://education.sdsu.edu/directory/cfd/sarah-rieth	
3. Underserved Target Populations	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RC POS data or other data as supporting evidence of the disparity.	We used mixed quantitative and qualitative methods to identify the target population for the initial PUENTE program. Based on the success and fit of the program with the community, the target population will remain the same in refined PUENTE program (under development in currently funded 19-SDRC-01 project) in terms of age and diagnosis, in order to maximally impact identified disparities. Furthermore, we will expand the target population in terms of geographic region based on demand and perceived need to additional regions of San Diego and Imperial counties (SDRC's catchment areas). *Analyses of POS data* As part of the previous Disparity Funds project (17-C, funded 2015 - 2017), SDRC administrative claims data from fiscal years 2014-2015 were extracted for analysis. Purchase of service (POS) data for 27,343 SDRC clients were used to characterize service utilization patterns, including differences in service use by ethnicity as well as disability group from birth to adulthood. Specific disability categories included intellectual disability (ID), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and co-occurring medical issues. Across all SDRC clients and expenditures, results showed significant differences in POS for Latino and Non-Latino/White clients (F(3,27,332)=107.47, p<.01), with lower POS for Latino clients. Follow-up analyses aimed to understand patterns to these disparities revealed a significant 3-way interaction between ethnicity, age, and disability types, indicating a differential pattern of disparities across different age ranges. Post-hoc analyses revealed significant differences in POS between Non-Latino/White clients and Latino clients with ID that emerge between the ages of 14-18:11 and for clients with ASD that emerge between 16-18:11 years of age, with lower POS for Latino individuals in both groups. A similar pattern was observed for individuals with both ASD and ID, ID and medical issues and ASD and medical issues beginning at ages 19-21:11. Prior to these ages, analyses revealed similar POS spending for Latino and Non-Latino/White families, indicating a need to specifically target disparity reduction efforts to appropriate age groups. In reviewing these data, the team identified exit from school services as a crucial milestone that impacts individuals' services use in the age ranges identified. In order to best support families in preparation for navigating their child's exit from school and access needed services during the transition age, the age range of 11-16 was identified as the target population. This target connects families to intervention *before the disparities emerge*, with the goal of preventing the emergence of differences through parent empowerment, knowledge, and linkage to service. *Qualitative Themes from Service Coordinator Focus Groups* To complement the information gathered from the POS analyses and further inform the initial development of PUENTE to reduce disparities, focus groups with Regional Center Service coordinators were held in regions with a high percentage of Latino population (South Bay and Imperial Valley). Questions to the group centered on perceived disparity and potential reasons that families may or may not access services, as well as methods to increase the likelihood of a client attaining services, and potential educational topics that may be of benefit to parents. Service coordinators uniformly identified Latino families as accessing fewer services and being more difficult to engage than other families. Several themes emerged regarding barriers to accessing services, including 1) a need for increased parent education on their child's disability, particularly the impacts of disability throughout the lifespan (and not exclusively when children are young); 2) a need for increased local capacity for culturally relevant and sensitive services; and 3) a need for increased local capacity for services offered in Spanish. Taken together, the qualitative and quantitative data support the target population of Spanish-speaking, Latino families with children who are 11-16 years old. The initial PUENTE program focused on families living in the two areas with the highest percentage of Latino families in the Regional Center catchment area. In the proposed project, we will expand to a new region of the county (North County) that also has a high Latino population and that the community has identified as underserved, as well as improve the delivery of PUENTE in Imperial County, where several difficulties emerged during the pilot program. We will also continue to deliver and evaluate PUENTE in the South Bay region of San Diego.	
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?	The initial disparities project was initiated based on input from the "BRIDGE Collaborative", a community academic partnership group that was formed in 2007 to develop a community-wide approach to meet the needs of children with early developmental needs. Over the course of a decade of activities involving community selected and adapted early intervention models and sustained delivery of an evidence based model, the group identified disparities reduction as a primary target. Out of the BRIDGE Collaborative, the "BRIDGE-Out" group was formed to focus exclusively on the reducing disparities in access to and quality of intervention for racial/ethnic minority families. Our group presents quarterly updates and obtains community input during each quarterly BRIDGE Out meetings. Furthermore, SDRC community forums have provided updates on the project and solicited input on the direction of this project and areas of community need.	
5. Improve Access	**Applicant Response**	
How will your project improve equity, access and reduce barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and is sustainable?	The overall goal of the PUENTE program is to empower Latinx families served by SDRC to access and utilize services for individuals with ID and ASD. The proposed project continues the implementation and evaluation of PUENTE program in existing regions, as well as expands the proposed delivery areas to new areas of SDRC's catchment, thus reaching additional families. This is a continuation of a currently funded project (19-SDRC-01), which seeks extensive stakeholder input on an initial implementation of PUENTE in order to inform adaptation and enhancement of the training and content of PUENTE to best meet families' needs. The continuation of this funding will allow for the delivery and evaluation of the newly adapted and enhanced program. A description of the program and adaptations underway in the current project are located in the 'Reapplication' section of this application. **SDRC PUENTE Program Components** · Training for SDRC caseworkers to identify Latinx families who are underutilizing services · Assisted referral to PUENTE · Parents Taking Action curriculum delivered by promotoras with lived experience with SDRC · Coordinated communication between PUENTE staff and service coordinators · Proactive engagement of families during program · Ongoing quality monitoring and training for Promotoras **Description of PUENTE Program** The PUENTE Program was designed to empower parents of youth 11 to 16 years old served by SDRC to access needed services through access to a psychoeducational curriculum delivered by Promotora/Lay health workers who have lived experience with children with development disabilities served by SDRC. Following identification and referral by service coordinators and an intake assessment to assess service needs and barriers, promotoras initiate weekly sessions to deliver the curriculum. Specifically, in weekly sessions in the caregivers' home or another convenient location, Promotoras guide parents through *"Parents Taking Action"* (developed by Sandy Magana, explicitly for mothers of children with ASD) chapters and focus on understanding individual child, parent, and family needs. Our group originally adapted Parents Taking Action to be tailored to our target population (e.g., expanded disabilities from ASD to developmental disabilities more broadly; expanded age range to focus on pre-adolescents and transition age youth). Specific topics covered include: · Understanding Your Child's Needs · Effective Interventions to Address Child Needs · How to be an Effective Advocate · Advocacy in the School System: IEPs and Transition · Encouraging Communication · Making Challenging Behaviors Less Likely · Stress and Depression Because all Promotoras are themselves parents of individuals with developmental disabilities, they are able to draw on their unique personal experiences to foster connection and trust with the parent receiving the service. Promotoras have considerable expertise navigating service systems, including Regional Center, and are able to provide families with on-the-ground support to connect with available resources, thus reducing barriers to service.	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
6. Support RC's Recommendations 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?	**Applicant Response** When disparities in Regional Center spending were initially identified and California Regional Centers were tasked with addressing these disparities, San Diego Regional Center partnered with local researchers at the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center to optimally identify and evaluate potential disparity reduction strategies. The proposed project is the continuation of an on-going partnership that is built upon continual cycles of stakeholder feedback (including families served by SDRC, SDRC service coordinators and program managers, and service providers) with the overall goal of improving service utilization specifically for Latinx and Spanish-speaking families, thus increasing spending and reducing identified disparities. Through close collaboration with the research team, the target population for the proposed program was based on careful exploration of POS data to inform the diagnoses and ages of individuals where disparities emerge. The PUENTE team represents a collaboration of key community organizations with the capacity to deliver and sustain the PUENTE program, as well as evaluate its effectiveness and continually make necessary adjustments.	
7. Project different or unique 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?	**Applicant Response** The proposed project is a continuation of SDRC-19-01, which was funded to adapt the PUENTE program based on the strong pilot data and community response to the initial implementation in the South Bay region of San Diego. The currently SDRC-19-01 project initially sought two years of funding, but received one year in the 19-20 award cycle. Thus the current application seeks to secure the additional year of funding originally proposed in SDRC-19-01, such that the project can be completed as proposed. Currently, the 19-SDRC-01 project involves the systematic adaptation and enhancement of the PUENTE program based on several rounds of community and stakeholder feedback. The continuation of the project, as funded here, would allow for the implementation and evaluation of the adapted program in current and expanded regions. This is a necessary step to determine the effectiveness and community response to the adapted program. The PUENTE program is unique because it represents a close collaboration between SDRC and local community partners with a shared goal of implementing evidence-based disparity reduction strategies. Through our ongoing partnership, we have developed a sustainable plan for implementing the PUENTE program (vendorization with the local Family Resource Center) that is uniquely responsive to both qualitative and quantitative data revealing areas of community need.	
8. Activities & Measures to Achieve Goal 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.**	**Applicant Response** Please refer to the Activities Template. We developed the schedule of activities and measures based on demonstrated feasibility of timelines and measurement from our previous and current activities.	
9. Measures 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?	**Applicant Response** Yes, the measures were specifically identified to align with project goals and activities. All activities are linked with a corresponding performance measure.	
10. Budget Narrative	**Applicant Response**	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Note: Before uploading your Budget Narrative, applicants should complete the Budget Template located in the tab directly above. After you complete the Budget Template, please return to this question to upload your Budget Narrative. The project budget is consistent with stated projected goals and activities, and clearly and concisely explains how the proposed expenditures support the overall project design. The project budget costs are clearly associated with the project activities and goals. The project budget does not include non-allowable costs. The overall project budget is appropriate to the outcomes proposed. Please attach your Budget Narrative document. An example of a Budget Narrative can be found in Attachment C.		1

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	Ron Plotkin, Lauren Brookman-Frazee, and Sarah Rieth	