

APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: Ally's Access and Equity Project
Applicant Organization: Ally Comprehensive Services LLC
Awarded Amount: \$148,000.00
Funding Announcement Name: Mentoring Services Access and Equity Grant



PROJECT SUMMARY

Navigating the I/DD Service Systems trainings and groups for KRC & CVRC is focused on increasing participant's understanding of the regional center system as a whole, alternative service models including self-determination and participant directed services, general uses, participant's rights and responsibilities, and the importance of advocacy and leadership skills within the community in order to work toward bridging the service gap.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title What is the Project Title?	Applicant Response Ally's Access & Equity Project	
2. Awarded Amount What is the total amount awarded for the project?	Applicant Response \$148,000.00	
3. Organization Type Choose the response that best describes your organization.	Applicant Response Community Based Organization, non-501(c)(3) EIN	
4. Description of Organization/Group Provide a brief description of the organization/group. Explain what experience your organization has managing a project similar to the proposal and state the outcomes that project. You may upload your brochure and add a website link.	Applicant Response Ally Comprehensive Services LLC (Ally) was created in early 2020 with the purpose of supporting the intellectual and developmental disabilities community. Ally's mission is to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities live fulfilling and meaningful lives. Using a person-centered approach, Ally strives to empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their loved ones by breaking perceived barriers and providing the tools, information, and support needed to develop strong, informed advocates. This is a re-application for funding to continue Ally's Access and Equity Project in the Kern Regional Center (KRC) and Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) areas. Since 2020, Ally has worked closely with both at-home areas and found the need for additional trainings and education in English and Spanish to better support individual and their loved ones with navigating and accessing the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) service systems.	
5. Applicant in Good Standing Is the applicant in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration? Please upload confirmation letter(s) proof of good standing.	Applicant Response Yes	
6. Subcontractors in Good Standing 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?	Applicant Response Yes	
Grant Reapplication Information		
Grant Reapplications		
1. Previous Award(s) Did your organization receive DDS grant funding in fiscal year 2019-2020-21? If yes, go to question 2 to complete each column. If no, skip this category and go to category 3.	Applicant Response Yes	
2. Previous Grant Award(s)	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT T I N	APPLICANT R P N				ATTACHMENT
<p>Sin e fis al year 2019, omplete a wfo ea h DDS Se vi e A ess and Equity g ant y u ganizati n was awarded funding.</p>	<p>Year Awarded</p> <p>2020-2021</p>	<p>Project Title</p> <p>Ally's A ess & Equity Initiative g am</p>	<p>Grant Num er</p> <p>20-C03</p>	<p>Award Amount</p> <p>\$148,419.00</p>	
<p>3. Previous Grant utcomes</p> <p>vide a bief g ant summa y of y u pr ect ut mes f fis al year 2019-20 and/ 2020-21.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>T in ease the individual's understanding f regional ente fundamentals, alte native se vi e m dels su h as the self-determination p gram, parti ipant-die ted servi es, supported decisi n making, generi es u es, ther agen ies that se ve individuals with developmental disabilities, individual's ights, and the importan e of leadership skills within the mmunity in der to bridge the gap on disparity.</p>				
<p>4. Project Transition</p> <p>If awa ded, h w will y u cu ent p e t transit i n int the 2021-22 proposed pr ect? Does y u proposed pr ect expand ontinue y u cu ent p e t, if s h w? What a tivities, measu es, o ta get g ups are being added? ovide a summa y of the diffe en es and easons why y u are proposing the hange.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Under Ally's u ent p e t, u i ulum is being developed based on the equests and needs f the mmunity in CVRC & KRC. There are new individuals and families that are in need f edu ation and t aining in both la ge and small group settings. Ally will ntinue to provide Navigating the I/DD Servi e Systems t aining t individuals, families and l ved nes, as well as p fessionals in the ea that serve and adv ate f individuals with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Ally's goal is t expand the cu ent pr ect and continue devel ping new t aining ur i ulum that will meet the unique needs f the mmunity while still providing t aining that ae urrently being ffered (e.g., Intodu ti n t ers n-Centered lanning, Regional Cente Eligibility, IP and Funded Servi es, Understanding the IHSS ess, Understanding SSI, Knowing Y u Rights, et .). Ally has w ked losely with ther mmunity partners su h as the State C un il n Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Sequoia Offi e, a lie, and CVRC/KRC staff. Ally has eceived feedback from parti ipants and mmunity partners and has determined that there is a need for a mbinati n of vi tual and in-person trainings due to issues with a ess and/or inability t navigate the virtual platf ms and a need for additional input from community self-adv ates.</p> <p>F the 2021-22 pr ect year, Ally would continue t w k in llaborati n with the Sequoia Offi e and begin partnering with Kern EFC and mmunity member, Dawn u dy to provide ongoing t aining and edu ati n f the mmunity as well as initiating a Self-Adv ate A ess t Servi es G oup that will meet monthly in de to plan fo futu e p e t funding fo used n c mmunity self-adv ates. Du ing the new pr ect, Ally will w k l sely with KRC, CVRC, Ke n EFC, Dawn u dy, and the SCDD Sequoia offi e to provide devel p and provide additional t aining and t meet monthly with a small self-adv ate group f futu e planning.</p>				
<p>General Application</p>					
<p>Proposal ummar</p>					
<p>1. Project T pe</p> <p>Choose the pr ect type that best des ibes y u a tivities fr m the list below:</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Edu ati n and T aining</p>				
<p>2. Duration of project</p> <p>Choose the du ation f y u p e t.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>12 m nths</p>				
<p>3. Regional Centers</p> <p>Ch se the Regi nal Cente (s) that y u p e t will se ve. Che k all that apply.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Cent al Valley Regional Cente , Ke n Regional Cente</p>				
<p>4. Counties Served</p> <p>List the unty unties y ur p e t p ses to se ve. Che k all that apply.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>F esn County , Ke n County , Madera C unty , Ma iposa C unty , Me ed C unty</p>				
<p>5. Cit of Los Angeles</p> <p>If you pr ect p oposes t serve the City f Los Angeles, list the zip des y u p e t will se ve.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>N t Appli able</p>				
<p>6. Communit Based rganizations</p> <p>Will y u be w king with ne m e C mmunity Based Organizati ns? If s , p vide the name of the ganizati n and h w y u will be w king togethe .</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Ally will be w king with the SCDD Sequ ia Offi e and Ke n EFC to p vide trainings and events in the mmunity. Ke n EFC will make available thei mpute lab, p vide c mpute lite a y, SSI, & CalF esh w kshops and support Ally with hybrid model t aining. Ally, Ke n EFC, and the SCDD Sequ ia Offi e will pa tne to p vide a mmunity c nfe en e in 2022. Additi nally, Ally is pa tne ing with Dawn u dy as the e t Fa lilitato fo the monthly Self-Adv ate A ess to Se vices G up.</p>				

APPLICANT TITLE	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT												
7. Multiple Organizations 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.	Applicant Response Yes	3												
8. Strategies and Sustainability How will you perpetuate its work after the grant funding has concluded?	Applicant Response The project will provide education and training that is specific to the community and that will enhance their level of understanding, confidence, advocacy, and leadership which will support their individual efforts in accessing services and sharing their knowledge and personal experiences with newer and/or less informed participants/families in their community. The small self-advocate group will meet monthly and provide a platform for individuals to express themselves and provide input on their barriers, and uses needed to support them. It will also enhance their confidence and leadership skills while paving the way for the service in their community. Ultimately the goal is to offer a much needed platform for self-advocates and to obtain their needed input that will lead to specifically tailored materials, trainings, leadership skills, employment, and more. This self-advocate group will be piloted this year and expanded on in following grant applications.													
Target Population														
1. Ethnic Groups Served Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. From "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" "Other" use comment section to list specific groups. Applicant Comment	Applicant Response African American, Hispanic, Other (list)													
2. Ethnic Group(s), Language(s) and Number of Individuals Served For each ethnicity group, provide the number of individuals you project intends to serve and the related language(s).	Applicant Response <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnic Group(s)</th> <th>Individuals Served</th> <th>Language(s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hispanic</td> <td>130</td> <td>Spanish & English</td> </tr> <tr> <td>African American</td> <td>20</td> <td>English</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0</td> <td>As identified</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnic Group(s)	Individuals Served	Language(s)	Hispanic	130	Spanish & English	African American	20	English	Other	0	As identified	
Ethnic Group(s)	Individuals Served	Language(s)												
Hispanic	130	Spanish & English												
African American	20	English												
Other	0	As identified												
3. Age Group(s) Served Select all Age Groups the project will serve. Applicant Comment	Applicant Response Three to Five, Three to 21, 16 to 21, 22 and Older, Birth up to Three (Early Start)													
Project Application														
Project Application														
1. Project Summary and Organizational Experience	Applicant Response													

APPLICANT TITN	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>Provide a clear and concise summary that includes a defined target population, categorical, and project design. Specifically describe what your project will accomplish and how it will benefit the community served. In your answer, include what experience your organization has working with the target population?</p>	<p>Ally was established in early 2020 for the purpose of working with clients and families to navigate through the complexities of the various systems that exist to serve individuals with developmental disabilities. With former regional experience, working with the underserved community, Ally has witnessed firsthand, the difficulties that this community has with accessing the services and supports needed. Ally has worked closely with CVRC and KRC through the self-determination program and affirmed the need for participants and their families to learn about the regional system as a whole and all the other systems available for them in the community.</p> <p>Ally's project will continue to partner and collaborate with the community agencies such as the State Children Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Sequoia Office, Kern EFC, Santa Clarita District, and Dawn Study, with the primary goal of equipping Hispanic, African-American, and other underserved participants within the KRC and CVRC to implement a plan with information and training needed to navigate the regional system, generational issues, and other community agencies serving the IDD community to increase service access and equity. Ally will accomplish this by partnering with their top diverse participants with various trainings, workshops, and events that will be offered in both English and Spanish over the grant period. The expansion of this project will continue to be tailored specifically for KRC & CVRC. Participants will gain a better understanding of the key components of the regional system as a whole including a thorough understanding of the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process, purpose of service and service utilization, rights and responsibilities, generational issues, other community agencies, personal and professional approaches, advocacy, alternative service models, and the importance of leadership within the community.</p> <p>Ally will also expand and pilot a Self-Advocate Access to Services Group. The group will have a free and safe space where they can openly discuss challenges, concerns, experiences, and successes. They will provide input/consultation on disparity in accessing services through Regional Centers, generational issues, and employment. The Self-Advocate Access to Services Group will be facilitated by a staff facilitator, Dawn Study. The goal of the project is to identify the needs of Self-Advocates transitioning out of the educational setting and into the workforce and adult living. Ally will develop training that is specific to the needs of the group. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance the individuals' confidence and leadership skills as well as develop materials and trainings that are specific to the self-advocates in the community.</p> <p>This proposed project will continue to analyze training surveys, participant input, and community input in order to plan for future service access and equity program(s) tailored to KRC's and CVRC's attachment area.</p>	
<p>2. Data and Community Input</p> <p>Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RCOS data other data as supporting evidence of the disparity. In your answer, include how your organization used input from the community and/or target population to design the project?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>In accordance with FY 2019/2020 data for CVRC, per capita expenditures by race/ethnicity are as follows from lowest to highest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Other- \$7,104 2. Hispanic - \$7,251 3. Asian- \$7,888 4. Native Hawaiian- \$8,131 5. White- \$9,895 6. African American- \$10,168 7. American Indian- \$12,003 <p>In accordance with FY 2019/2020 data for KRC, per capita expenditures by race/ethnicity are as follows from lowest to highest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hispanic - 14,365 2. Asian- 16,503 3. Other- \$16,519 4. White- \$9,895 5. American Indian- \$20,442 6. Native Hawaiian- \$20,668 7. African American- \$27,165 8. White- \$34,169 <p>Through the recent training sessions and events held by Ally's Access & Equity project for 2020-21 participants express the need for more education and training of alternative education models, like hybrid models. Virtual platforms work well for some but not all. A combination of conducting virtual and safe in-person sessions/events should be looked that in order to expand availability of those who may not have access, have different learning styles, and/or are unable to navigate virtual platforms.</p>	
<p>3. Uniqueness</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>How is the proposed project unique (e.g., strategies, activities, and objectives) in the proposed regional center at the 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>Although training sessions may not be unique in the efforts to educate people of service disparities, Ally's proposed project is different given that the trainings will be developed and provided by a former Regional Center service director and regional manager in partnership with the community experts and it will continue to focus on the specific community's needs through participant and community input. Additionally, there will be at least three (3) community focus group meetings over the grant period that will explore perceived barriers, specific community needs, and encourage leadership and advocacy skills. Ally will also initiate a small self-advocate group that will meet monthly in order to receive input/consultation in an effort to tailor training topics and materials for other self-advocates and to plan for future funding for use on the needs of self-advocates in the community. The ultimate goal will be to increase the participant's knowledge, confidence, and self-reliance which will allow them to thrive independently and, in the long term, pave the way for the ongoing development of leadership skills.</p>	
<p>4. Improve Equity and Service Access</p> <p>How will you promote equity, access, and education barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Continuing and expanding Ally's Access & Equity efforts in CVRC and KRC at the area level will continue to provide knowledge, resources, and support as participants, their loved ones, and the professionals committed to being allies for these individuals with developmental disabilities and their support team learn about the different service systems, their rights, roles and responsibilities, and how to seek help. Many times, individuals are not aware of the different service systems that exist and potential supports they are able to access.</p> <p>For example, a participant during a recent training session was able to share how they better understood their rights but also their own responsibility for accessing services. Other self-advocates and families also shared experiences with the group. Connections were formed that will continue after the training session had ended. Based on the surveys, meetings, and discussions, Ally works with the community partners to put into action the requests and input of the community members.</p> <p>Additionally, the small monthly Self-Advocate Access to Services Group will provide needed input from self-advocates in the community that will pave the way for tailored trainings and materials for others as well as enhance leadership and advocacy skills for those participating. Ultimately, the goal is to expand this group in the future and identify potential leaders who would lead the group, facilitate trainings, and develop material themselves.</p>	
<p>5. Support of RC Plan</p> <p>How does this project support the RC plan to promote equity and education disparities in your proposed area? If you are a RC, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and education disparities in your area? How will you collaborate with their organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Ally is working closely with the ultimate specialist and ultimate team at the regional center. Together we discussed the barriers we see with marketing and advertising trainings and sessions to participants who need the additional support and we discussed the topics that are needed in the community. Regional Center staff from both CVRC and KRC have attended some of the training sessions and provided positive feedback.</p>	
<p>6. Project Activities</p> <p>Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Activities Template located in the middle tab directly above.</p> <p>Clearly and specifically state how the schedule of activities demonstrates the steps that the project will take to achieve its stated objective and measures.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>During the course of the initial grant year (2020-21) Ally has conducted out each activities in order to get to know the KRC & CVRC communities better and plan for future services/projects that are tailored to the community.</p> <p>Ally will continue to conduct these out each and networking activities in order to build strong relationships with participants, community members, regional centers, the SCDD office, and other CBO's. Ally will subcontract with Kern EFC and Dawn Rudy, a Central Valley native, to expand on trainings offered and developed and tailor projects/trainings/materials to self-advocates and by meeting monthly with a small group of self-advocates from the community.</p> <p>The SCDD Sequoia Office will also continue working with Ally to consult, facilitate, and conduct out each networking activities. This is working well and will continue as training material is updated and tailored to the needs of the community.</p> <p>This Navigating the I/DD Service Systems trainings is specifically tailored to understanding the key components of the regional center system as a whole including a thorough understanding of the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process, purpose of service and service utilization, rights and responsibilities, general issues, their community agencies, person-centered approaches, and the importance of leadership within the community. Participants will complete training surveys at the end of each training and provide input on their overall satisfaction with the training, knowledge gained, additional topics of interest, etc. so that the data can be analyzed along with participant input during subsequent trainings.</p>	
<p>7. Project Measures</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT TITN	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>Before answering this question, applicants must enter performance measures into the Activities Template located in the middle tab directly above.</p> <p>Are you proposing measures appropriate to track the project's objective and activities? Explain how your proposed measures 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 proposed measures feature a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and milestone data. Ally will track the number of trainings, individuals served, focus groups, and Self-Advocate Access Services Groups to ensure all benchmarks are being met. Narratives will be used to discuss outcomes, observations, and pre/post survey outcomes. Milestones for curriculum development and translation will also be noted.</p>	
<p>8. Budget Template and Narrative</p> <p>Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Budget Template located in the tab directly above.</p> <p>In your Budget Template, explain how the project budget is consistent with the stated project objective and activities, and clearly and concisely explain how the proposed expenditures support the overall project design and proposed outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Template example is located at Attachment C. Budget Details and Restrictions are available here. 	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>The budget costs are directly related to the continuation of training and education of participants in the KRC and CVRC Attachment A in order to enhance the participant's knowledge, confidence, and self-empowerment which will allow them to thrive independently and, in the long term, pave the way for the ongoing development of advocacy and leadership skills.</p> <p>During this application year, Ally is working and partnering with additional community agencies and members in order to expand its project based on the feedback received from participants, families, and other stakeholders in the community.</p> <p>By partnering with Kern EFC, training sessions and events will not add an additional component in order to provide access to these when navigating virtual platforms simply don't have access.</p> <p>Ally's partnership with Dawn Judy as the Executive Facilitator will begin its goal to plan and tailor workshops, trainings, employment opportunities, and enhance leadership skills for self-advocates in the community. This year will focus its efforts on equipping self-advocates from the community in order to facilitate a safe platform where self-advocates may speak freely, be assertive, and share honest feedback. This will be used for development of materials, future projects, trainings, and supports that are tailored to empower self-advocates, families, and others in the community.</p>	
<p>9. Budget Costs</p> <p>Explain how the project budget costs are clearly associated with the project activities and objective and confirm that the budget does not include non-allowable costs funded by the surpluses.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>The budget costs are directly associated with curriculum development, outreach and networking, providing ongoing trainings in KRC & CVRC that are relevant to the needs of its community in Navigating the I/DD Service System and becoming stronger and more confident advocates and leaders. The additional costs for this project year include the expansion to facilitate the Self-Advocate Access to Services Group and incorporate additional trainings based on the requests of participants and their families. The budget cost also includes funds needed to subcontract/partner with CVRC & KRC community agencies/members. See budget template for additional details.</p>	
<p>Proposal Certification</p> <p>Certification</p>		
<p>1. Confirm Proposal Discussion with RC(s)</p> <p>CBOs are required to discuss their proposal with each RC(s) the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, have you discussed your proposal with each RC you are intending to serve?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Yes</p>	
<p>2. RC Contact</p> <p>CBOs are required to submit their application directly to the Department and to each RC(s) Attachment the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, state the name(s) of the representative(s) at each RC you have discussed your proposal with.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Ally's Access & Equity Project application sent to:</p> <p>KRC- Executive Director to Mitchi Gates and Cultural Specialist, Karina Goffe</p> <p>CVRC- Executive Director, Ed Aaim and Cultural Specialist, Natasha Ambiz</p> <p>SCDD- Sequoia Office Regional Manager, Ylanda Cruz</p>	

<p>3. Applicant Certification</p> <p>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 report and agrees to their assigned activities, measures, and the budget.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Yes</p>	
<p>Applicant Comment</p>		