

APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: Nqoi Jiouh - Open Bridges for Families and Children t
Applicant Organization: egional Center Servi es
Awarded Amount: Level Up NorCal \$200,000.00
Funding Announcement Name: m ting Se vi e Ac ess and Equity Grant



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Nqoi Jiouh – Opening Bridges for Families and Children t egional Cente Se vi es p e t will ta get the S utheast Asian population in tw at hment areas—Far N them egional Center (FN C) and Alta Calif nia egional Center (AC C). Th ough ultu ally appropriate out each and engagement, the pr ect’s objective is to the in ease OS auth ization and utilizati n of S utheast Asian c nsume s to redu e se vi e a ess dispa ities. Nq i Jiouh in Mien means “open bridge” and this pr ect is intended to provide a b idge between Southeast Asian families and egional enter servi es with fou fo used a tivities to ensu e ultu ally appropriate out each and engagement.

APPLICANT INFORMATION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title What is the Project Title?	Applicant Response Nqoi Jiouh - Open Bridges for Families and Children t egional Center Servi es	
2. Awarded Amount What is the total amount requested for the project?	Applicant Response \$200,000.00	
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 of that project. You may upload your brochure or add a website link.	Applicant Response Level Up NorCal is a community-based organization with several missions to improve and promote the health, well-being and development of underserved minorities through education, support and advocacy. Currently, Level Up NorCal is providing outreach and engagement under 20-08 to reduce service access disparities in the Southeast Asian (“SA”) population in the FNR and Alta California Regional Center (ARC) catchment areas. 20-08 is the third year of funding, building upon the previous years’ efforts within the SA population under 19-09 and 18-09. The project objective each year has remained the same—increasing POS authorization and utilization by Southeast Asian consumers to reduce disparities. Both 19-09 and 18-09 projects were only in FNR’s catchment area. 20-08 expanded to include both FNR and ARC’s catchment areas. This proposal continues to build on 18-09, 19-08 and 20-08. See uploaded form information - Organization Description & Experience.	1
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	1
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 Not Applicable	
Grant Reapplication Information		
Grant Reapplications		
1. Previous Award(s)	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT TITLE	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT												
<p>Did your organization receive DDS grant funding in fiscal year 2019-2020-21? If yes, go to question 2 to complete each column. If not, skip this category and go to category 3.</p>	<p>Yes</p>													
<p>2. Previous Grant Award(s)</p> <p>Since fiscal year 2019, complete a worksheet DDS Service Access and Equity grant your organization was awarded funding.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 415 1328 709"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="483 415 703 493">Year Awarded</th> <th data-bbox="703 415 909 493">Project Title</th> <th data-bbox="909 415 1120 493">Grant Number</th> <th data-bbox="1120 415 1328 493">Award Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 493 703 583">FY20-21</td> <td data-bbox="703 493 909 583">Access, Collaboration and Training Now ("ACT Now")</td> <td data-bbox="909 493 1120 583">20-C08</td> <td data-bbox="1120 493 1328 583">\$322,455</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 583 703 709">FY19-20</td> <td data-bbox="703 583 909 709">Building Bridges: Connecting Southeast Asian Minorities with Regional Centers Services</td> <td data-bbox="909 583 1120 709">19-C09</td> <td data-bbox="1120 583 1328 709">\$346,604</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year Awarded	Project Title	Grant Number	Award Amount	FY20-21	Access, Collaboration and Training Now ("ACT Now")	20-C08	\$322,455	FY19-20	Building Bridges: Connecting Southeast Asian Minorities with Regional Centers Services	19-C09	\$346,604	
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<p>3. Previous Grant Outcomes</p> <p>Provide a brief grant summary of your project outcomes for fiscal year 2019-20 and/ or 2020-21.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>FY19-20, Grant No. 19-09. All project objectives met and/ exceeded. Impact of 4,282 individuals when 2,000 projected. 12 monthly meetings held, cultural event booths, 2 cultural resource fairs held with 150 participants, 2 focus groups held, 2 trainings on cultural competency and genealogy outreach. POS authorized in FY19-20 for Asian community services increased by 20% from FY18-19 completed 4% increase in the minority community services. POS utilization increased by 15% from FY18-19 completed a 0% increase in the minority community services in the same time period.</p> <p>FY20-21, Grant No. 20-C08. Currently in Q3 of FY20-21 project. On target to meet or exceed all project objectives. Outreach exceeded with 1187 impacted when 900 was estimated. All the ethnic population targets almost 50% achieved.</p>													
<p>4. Project Transition</p> <p>If awarded, how will you ensure project transition into the 2021-22 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand on previous activities, measures, or target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Transition will be seamless with an immediate start in the project. 18-09 was successful in culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach to Southeast Asian NFR's commitment. 19-09 more than doubled the outreach impact with the addition of workforce capacity building. 20-08 expanded to include two commitments--FNR and AAR—with outreach and engagement, workforce capacity building and parent education training.</p> <p>This project will continue the needed culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and engagement in both FNR and AAR commitments, but with the addition of improving awareness and access to Early Start services, including provision of eligibility, financial services, underserved and marginalized Southeast Asian communities.</p> <p>The objective to increase POS authorization and use of SAC services to reduce service access disparities and target underserved communities. The number of Vietnamese services increased because Vietnamese ACR's commitment to the fourth multi-lingual geographic AAR's services.</p> <p><u>Current events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Outreach Events - # of attendees • 2 Cultural Competency Trainings - # of staff trained, pre/post assessment • 2 Focus Groups - narrative summary • 9 Technology Training Workshops - pre/post assessment • Number of referrals to regional center • Overall Impact: 2,000 <p><u>Proposed project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Culturally Appropriate Outreach Events - # of attendees • 4 Cultural Resource Fairs - # of attendees and partners • Bi-weekly walk-in office hours - # of attendees • Milestones Memo Book for 0-4 years, translated training, Men, Vietnamese - completed books with translations • Overall Impact: 4,900 <p>The proposed project focuses on culturally appropriate outreach and engagement. We included cultural resources, walk-in office hours to be more flexible to the schedule needs of SAC, and the Milestones Memo Book translated into the different languages with illustrations and milestones specific to and featuring the group.</p>													

1. Project Type Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:	Applicant Response Engagement and Outreach	
2. Duration of project Choose the duration of your project.	Applicant Response 12 months	
3. Regional Centers Choose the regional Center(s) that you prefer to use. Check all that apply.	Applicant Response Alta California Regional Center, Far North Regional Center	
4. Counties Served List the county or counties you prefer to serve. Check all that apply.	Applicant Response Butte County, Colusa County, Glenn County, Lassen County, Mendocino County, Plumas County, Sacramento County, Shasta County, Siskiyou County, Sutter County, Tehama County, Trinity County, Yuba County	
5. City of Los Angeles If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes you prefer to serve.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
6. Community Based Organizations Will you be working with one or more Community Based Organizations? If so, provide the name of the organization and how you will be working together.	Applicant Response Not Applicable	
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 No	
8. Strategies and Sustainability How will you prefer to continue its work after the grant funding has concluded?	Applicant Response In the first round of funding under 18-09, we developed website with plain language regional center services and programs—we have transferred those pages to our main website and intend to continue to maintain it as an information resource for the SA and wider community. Under 19-09, we developed plain language handouts in English and Hmong on various regional center programs that we continue to use and make available to the SA community. Under 20-08, we are working with SA population to improve access to technology and intend to continue to provide ongoing assistance to trained participants they may encounter and continue to develop the technology skills. After the proposed project is completed, Level Up will continue to offer the Milestones Memory book to help the SA population understand how the children are developing.	
1. Ethnic Groups Served Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. For "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" "Other" use comment section to list specific groups.	Applicant Response Cambodian, Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese, Other (list)	
Applicant Comment	Other: Laotian, Thai	
2. Ethnic Group(s), Language(s) and Number of Individuals Served	Applicant Response	

<p>For each ethnicity group, provide the number of individuals you project intends to serve and the related language(s).</p>			
	Hmong	1,500	Hmong
	Laotian	200	Laotian
	Mien	1,500	1,500
	Thai	100	Thai
	Vietnamese	1,500	Vietnamese

<p>3. Age Group(s) Served</p> <p>Select all Age Groups the project will serve.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Birth up to Thirteen (Ea Lay Station), Thirteen to Fifteen, Thirteen to Twenty One, Sixteen to Twenty One, Twenty Two and older</p>
<p>Applicant Comment</p>	

Project Application

<p>1. Project Summary and Organizational Experience</p> <p>Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, catchment area, and project design. Specifically describe what you 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>Applicant Response</p> <p>The Nq Juh – Opening Bridges for Families and Children Regional Center serves project with target the Southeast Asian (SEA) population in two catchment areas – Fa Nong Regional Center (FNR) and Alta If Ni Regional Center (AR). Through culturally appropriate outreach and engagement, the project's objective is to increase POS authorization and utilization for SEA consumers to reduce service access disparities. Nq Juh's "Open Bridge" and this project is intended to provide a bridge between SEA families and regional centers with 4 focused activities to ensure culturally appropriate outreach.</p> <p>1) Culturally Appropriate Outreach – With the largest geographic area in the regional system, FNR has a low population density than most the RS. A RC here has a dense population with an even larger SEA population. To reach SAs where they live, Level Up will organize 8 outreach events, with 4 in each catchment. Traditionally different cultural and linguistic beliefs and religious superstitions, bilingual/cultural staff members with the target population will provide outreach to ensure effectiveness of regional center programs with cultural funds to ensure attendance.</p> <p>2) Cultural Resource Fair – Host two cultural resource fairs in each catchment of SAs. Turnout by SAs is traditionally low, making it difficult to get information on services and programs to them. The Regional Center's host booths where they can directly access and share information on the programs with SA attendees. Traditional cultural performances and foods will be included to increase attendance.</p> <p>3) Bi-weekly Walk-in Office Hours – Feedback from the community is that while they would like to attend outreach events, some cannot, but if they happen to be nearby and had time, they would stop in. The walk-in office hours is meant to address this need for a more flexible and still be able to get information on regional center services that seem to be needed.</p> <p>4) Milestone Memory Book – Using development milestones for children ages 0–4 years, the books are customized to be culturally and linguistically appropriate in English, Hmong, Mien and Vietnamese for Hmong, Mien and Vietnamese illustrations and milestones for milestones can better identify with the milestones, and let parents record the child's milestones. The book will be a memory keepsake for the parents about the child while simultaneously tracking the child's development with information on where they get help.</p> <p>Level Up has over two decades of experience working with the Southeast Asian population. Specifically, we are our fourth year providing outreach and engagement to this target population on regional center services and programs. Our staff are fully bilingual and identify with target population with relationships built in trust and time.</p>
<p>2. Data and Community Input</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>Explain how the target populations(s) are understood using CROS data their 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>FNR - In March 2021, FNR identified disparities for Asians in the catchment area, and acknowledged that the percentage of Asian students eligible for the program is 59.7% in comparison to the average of all ethnicities at 66%. From FY17-18 to FY19-20, the POS utilization for Asian students has widened from \$7,329 in FY17-18 to \$8,019 in FY19-20. Compared to white students, Asian students in FY19-20 still receive almost \$10,000 less in authorized POS. Despite 20% increase in POS utilization in FY19-20 from FY18-19, Asian students had the largest disparity with 40% less in authorized services than white students.</p> <p>ARR - ARR reported in the FY19-20 POS Expenditures that while 9.1% of students are Asian, they only make up about 5.1% of the POS expenditures compared to white students who are 45.5% of the students but receive 54.5% of the POS expenditures. White students receive \$22,964 in POS expenditures a year while Asian students receive 53% less with \$10,256. When comparing the average POS expenditure for all the ethnic minority groups \$15,383, Asians are still 3% lower than the average of \$10,256.</p> <p>The project designs based on feedback from Asian students and families, surveys, focus groups, the SA community, FNR and ARR needs. Cultural and linguistic barriers make SA uncomfortable to ask for questioning things and we create a bridge. The activities will partner with the SA and BOs.</p>	
<p>3. Uniqueness</p> <p>How is the proposed project unique different from a currently funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and objectives) in the proposed regional center at home 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>Applicant Response</p> <p>Currently, our 20-08 project provides outreach and engagement in FNR and ARC catchment areas but is scheduled to be completed in time. Even if the enrollment is not two months, the enrollment is the only activities remaining in 20-08 such as cultural competency trainings and technology trainings are not included on this proposal.</p> <p>As defined, FNR nor the vendor, conduct outreach to the SA population. Once 20-08 is completed, the enrollment project is going up to visit the SA community in the native language that is especially cultural and linguistic barriers in the FNR catchment area. Also, in the project this catchment area provides for bilingual staff, cultural services, family support development for this target population.</p> <p>In the catchment area, 19-01 The Hmong Student has 80% of the project targeted towards Hmong and 10% of the Mien and Laotian. The project's focus is on the Hmong with limited development, such as the student and the Hmong and scheduled to be completed in April 2022. Our project equally gets the Hmong, Mien and Vietnamese, the three largest ethnic minority students as groups in this catchment area, and includes Vietnamese, Cambodian and Thai that 19-01 does not. Our project includes cultural services and the Mestizo Member by a customized and translated into three languages/cultures that HYPU does not.</p>	
<p>4. Improve Equity and Service Access</p> <p>How will you provide timely equity, access, and reduce barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Through this project, enrollment and the families will not only be able to receive services and programs through outreach and engagement, they will get to understand how the child is developing in ways that respect and show appreciation of the cultural background. FNR's 2019 Disability Report found that families of students with disabilities are more likely to accept enrollment decisions as final and not tap into the equity advocacy stance. Through bilingual/cultural outreach, we have met numerous families that we enroll in center services that we've supported by all the programs and services we would have them about. Even current students, they are still unaware of the enrollment process that could assist the family member that was a consumer. After speaking with them, most self-identified themselves as additional services, resulting in the 15% increase in enrollment in FNR's catchment area compared to the 2% average increase for all the minority groups. Our outreach and engagement gets information that we must need in a way that is appropriate, understandable and respectful of the cultural and linguistic barriers.</p>	
<p>5. Support of RC Plan</p> <p>How does this project support the C plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in your proposed at home area? If you are a C, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in your catchment area? How will you provide laborate with their organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>FNR recommends that consumers of color feel more comfortable working with someone with the same background and the diversity initiative should include diversity in the vendors. All our activities will be by bilingual staff with the same background to the SA population we are serving. FNR acknowledges the enrollment disparity for students when looking at POS authorized and utilized.</p> <p>FNR's plan to promote equity and reduce disparities includes getting the input from consumers and the families and partner with the local community based organizations. Our project includes opportunities for partner with FNR for outreach events and at cultural services, and we continue to provide feedback from consumers and the families throughout the project to help shape the programs offered by FNR, such as the culturally appropriate programming and promotion programs.</p> <p>ARR has helped launch several programs for Latino and African American students with similar to Hmong, Siamese, Punjabi and Vietnamese families. While efforts are being made where possible, we get SA population largely undressed and our project would fill the gap.</p> <p>We have partnered with local organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families, and partner with the R and the such agencies in outreach events, the services, milestones and distribution, etc.</p>	
<p>6. Project Activities</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT TITLE	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<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>Project activities and measures designed to maximize each of the Southeast Asian communities in FNRC and AR's commitment to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8 Cultural Appreciate Outreach Events – number of attendees 2. 4 Cultural Resource Fairs – number of attendees and participants 3. Bi-weekly walk-off celebration – number of attendees 4. Milestones Memory Book 0–5 years translated to Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese – completed books with testimonials 5. Overall Impact: 4,900 <p>Outreach and engagement events extended to the Southeast Asian regional center consume and the general Southeast Asian population, from whom the vast majority still not even aware of the existing agency such as the regional center consists of individuals with intellectual development disabilities. Though the different outreach methods—outreach events, cultural resource fairs, bi-weekly walk-off celebrations and the milestone memory book, the outreach and engagement will reach different sectors of the SA community from existing regional center consumers, formally members of consumers to the general public and participants with young children 0-4.</p> <p>At many outreach events, we also see the regional center consumers that have been invited, however several have no idea what the regional center does. Our outreach is the only way many in this difficult cultural community even learn about the regional center and its services. The measures track the number of attendees to outreach events by overall totals and broken down by ethnicity. Outreach events will reach throughout the community and reach those who are eligible concentrated in the target population. For this target population, offering food and drinks is a cultural norm when we invite someone to come see us, so our events will offer culturally appropriate food and drinks as well. Bilingual/bicultural staff will speak with attendees in their own language and give information in their regional center services. By offering cultural performances and food to the resource fairs, we demonstrate attendance that would normally never attend regular services. The bi-weekly walk-off celebration will provide greater flexibility for SA community members to be in attendance at the most convenient times. The milestone memory book will be an easy and simple way for parents to track their child's development, see where the child's accomplishments in the child development, and be a consistent need with the target population.</p>	
<p>7. Project Measures</p> <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 proposed measures appropriate to track the project's objective and activities? Explain how you 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>Applicant Response</p> <p>The measures will track the overall effectiveness of our project design. Measures will track how many individuals are actually reached through outreach and engagement efforts, with breakdowns for individual ethnic groups. Tracking of efforts will include increasing and improving POS consumption. Each project activity and measure is intended to track the success of each activity in achieving its impact and to obtain feedback on changes needed to correct the project progresses. Impact is counted as actual attendees to events. Although improvements in SA consumption POS authorization and utilization may not be immediately available because that is dependent on when the regional center publishes the annual POS data, our past projects applying similar strategies have demonstrated the success of our strategies with exponentially greater reach than the average with POS facilities. The minority groups.</p>	
<p>8. Budget Template and Narrative</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT INFORMATION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<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>Budget template and narrative completed.</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-all wtable costs funded by the surplus.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Our project's target population is Southern Asians with six different linguistic elements – Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese, Thai, Ladin and Mbin. Thailand, Ladin and Mbin have much smaller communities than both the FNRC and ARC catchment areas but the Hmong, Mien and Vietnamese populations are large enough to require regular staff that speak these languages. All languages with the exception of Vietnamese are not widely known, necessitating the cultural and linguistic bases of this population solely subject to. Personnel costs include bilingual pay, staff will be bilingual in English and the Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese. Each bilingual specialist will focus on different activities and different population sub-groups with the Mien program specifically focused on the Mien communities and staff, but each will contribute to all activities such as staffing events and providing training on the mestizo book.</p> <p>Operational costs include costs for printing flyers for events, mailing flyers and printing of the mestizo book. Travel is extensive with the weekly travels sometimes over 100+ miles because of the large geographic distances and the nature of the FNRC and ARC catchment areas. Efforts to limit travel and cap mileage are possible. Because travel is extensive, staff will often be on the road using their cell phones for directions, checking email, calling when they are meeting, etc. Food and beverage has been found to be a good draw for attendees and we propose to provide culturally appropriate food items to increase attendance at the outreach events and effectiveness with an estimated 4,700 attendees at those events. The additional staffing to ensure we have sufficient staff for the languages needed to outreach events/fairs, and to ensure our staffing is in the mestizo books' sector.</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) attached the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, state the name(s) of the contact person(s) at each RC you have discussed your proposal with.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Melissa Gruhle, Executive Director, FAN the National Center (FNRC) Helen Neill, Cultural Diversity Specialist, Alta California Regional Center (ARC)</p>	
<p>3. Applicant Certification</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT INFORMATION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<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 project and agrees to their assigned activities, measures, and the budget.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Applicant Comment</p>	<p>Meuy Lee</p>	