

APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: Harley's Hope-Improving access to Early Start services, Resources, and Education in Tribal Communities.
Applicant Organization: Acorns to Oak Trees
Awarded Amount: \$155,000.00
Funding Announcement Name: Mentoring Service Access and Equity Grant



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Harley's Hope project seeks to increase awareness in tribal communities about intellectual and developmental disabilities and improve engagement with regional centers in the San Diego and Riverside counties. The project will address some of the most common reasons why tribal communities are underserved by the regional center (e.g. lack of cultural competency and knowledge of tribal government infrastructure and cultural settings); additionally, the project will also address some of the most common reasons why tribal families are less likely to access services from the regional center (e.g. lack of awareness, stigma, fear, and expenses). The project Director is Maidu and a member of the Susanville Indian Reservation in Northern California. The project Director has worked as a tribal social services director and ICWA outreach advocate for the past 12 years, and currently serves as the development director for California Tribal Families Coalition, is a community leader for Tribal Star and Tribal Justice Systems Collaborative, and a delegate at Office of Tribal Affairs, Having an established relationship of trust with tribal communities is the key to cultivating change in the community's awareness and understanding of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Harley's Hope will coordinate out each events and invite the SDR & IR Centers to participate. The engagement efforts will utilize the project director's personal experience of having a child with a developmental and intellectual disability and will share the family's journey of discovering and accessing services from the regional center. This methodology is specifically culturally competent to use with tribal communities because storytelling has additionally been the way our people have shared their history and knowledge with others and future generations. Storytelling is a powerful way to engage native families and it is the project's hope that by sharing their own personal journeys of understanding and accepting their child's diagnosis; that it will help remove some of the barriers to accessing services and it will increase awareness of regional centers and the life changing services they can provide for their loved ones.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title	Applicant Response	
What is the project Title?	Harley's Hope-Increasing Community Awareness and Engagement Within Tribal Communities Through Storytelling	
2. Awarded Amount	Applicant Response	
	\$155,000.00	
3. Organization Type	Applicant Response	
Choose the response that best describes your organization.	Community Based Organization, non-501(c)(3) EIN	
4. Description of organization/Group	Applicant Response	
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 resume to add a website link.	Acorns to Oak Trees (AOT) is an organization that is dedicated to serving underserved populations in tribal communities through the provision of therapeutic services and education and improving their access to other essential services, particularly those with special needs, through engagement and outreach. The Executive Director of Acorns to Oak Trees is Maidu and a member of the Susanville Indian Reservation. AOT's board of directors is almost entirely made up of tribal leaders who represent the northern, central, and southern region tribal communities. The director's cultural background and 10 years of experience in tribal community program development, engagement, and outreach through grant funded projects demonstrates organizational capacity and ensures that this project will be delivered in a culturally sensitive manner.	
5. Applicant in Good Standing	Applicant Response	
Is the applicant in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Finance Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration? Please upload confirmation letter(s) proof of good standing.	Yes	
6. Subcontractors in Good Standing	Applicant Response	

<p>Are the applicant's subcontractors in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Finance Tax Board, and California Department of Tax and Fee Administration?</p>	<p>Yes</p>					
1. Previous Award(s)						
<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>Applicant Response No</p>					
2. Previous Grant Award(s)						
<p>Since fiscal year 2019, complete a row for each DDS Service Area and Equity grant your organization was awarded funding.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 50px;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #003366;"></td> <td style="background-color: #003366;"></td> <td style="background-color: #003366;"></td> <td style="background-color: #003366;"></td> </tr> </table>					
3. Previous Grant Outcomes						
<p>Provide a brief grant summary of your project outcomes for fiscal year 2019-20 and/ 2020-21.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Not Applicable</p>					
4. Project Transition						
<p>If awarded, how will you transition the 2021-22 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand or continue your current project, if so how? What activities, measures, target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Not Applicable</p>					
General Application						
Proposal Summary						
1. Project Type						
<p>Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:</p>	<p>Applicant Response Engagement and Outreach</p>					
2. Duration of project						
<p>Choose the duration of your project.</p>	<p>Applicant Response 12 months</p>					
3. Regional Centers						
<p>Choose the Regional Center(s) that your project will serve. Check all that apply.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Inland Regional Center , San Diego Regional Center</p>					
4. Counties Served						
<p>List the county/ counties your project proposes to serve. Check all that apply.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Riverside County , San Diego County</p>					
5. City of Los Angeles						
<p>If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes your project will serve.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Not Applicable</p>					
6. Community Based Organizations						
	<p>Applicant Response</p>					

<p>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.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	
<p>7. Multiple Organizations</p> <p>Does your project include partnership with one or more organizations either as a co-applicant or subcontract? If "yes", please upload a letter of support from each organization, that includes an explanation of their role in the partnership.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>No</p>	
<p>8. Strategies and Sustainability</p> <p>How will you perpetuate its work after the grant funding has concluded?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>The hope of the organization is to continue its community engagement, education and outreach efforts through a combination of funding streams which would include: private donations, tribal donations, grants, and other contracting services through the regional health care state. At Oak Trees believes that through this project, the relationships and collaboration that will result from this project's outreach efforts will ensure that the work continues after grant funding has concluded.</p>	
<p>1. Ethnicity Groups Served</p> <p>Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. From "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" "Other" use comment section to list specific groups.</p> <p>Applicant Comment</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Native American</p>	
<p>2. Ethnicity Group(s), Language(s) and Number of Individuals Served</p> <p>For each ethnicity group, provide the number of individuals you expect to serve and the related language(s).</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	
<p>3. Age Group(s) Served</p> <p>Select all Age Groups the project will serve.</p> <p>Applicant Comment</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Birth up to Three (Early Start), Three to Five, Three to 21, 16 to 21, 22 and Older</p>	
<p>Project Application</p>		
<p>Project Application</p>		
<p>1. Project Summary and Organizational Experience</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, target 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>The Harley's Hope project seeks to increase awareness in tribal communities about intellectual and developmental disabilities and improve engagement with regional centers in the San Diego and Riverside counties. The project will address some of the most common reasons why tribal communities are underserved by the regional center (e.g. lack of cultural competency and knowledge of tribal government infrastructure and cultural settings); additionally, the project will also address some of the most common reasons why tribal families are less likely to access services from the regional centers (e.g. lack of awareness, stigma, fear, and expenses). The project Director is Maidu and a member of the Susanville Indian Rancheria in Northern California. The Director has worked as a tribal social services director and ICWA outreach for the past 12 years, and currently serves as the development director of California Tribal Families Coalition, is a community leader for Tribal Star and Tribal Justice Systems Collaborative, and a delegate at Office of Tribal Affairs. Having an established relationship with tribal communities is the key to cultivating change in the community's awareness and understanding of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Harley's Hope will coordinate outreach events and invite the SDR & IR Center to participate. The engagement efforts will utilize the project director's personal experience of having a child with a developmental and intellectual disability and will share the family's own experience of navigating and accessing services from the regional center. This methodology is specifically culturally competent to use with tribal communities because storytelling has traditionally been the way our people have shared their history and knowledge with others and future generations. Storytelling is a powerful way to engage native families and it is the project's hope that by sharing their own personal experiences of understanding and accepting their child's diagnosis; that it will help remove some of the barriers to accessing services and it will increase awareness of regional centers and the life-changing services they can provide for their loved ones.</p>	
<p>2. Data and Community Input Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RCOS data or 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 According to SD & IR Center reports from the past decade alone, Native American's (NA) made up less than 1% of consumers & most reports don't even identify prioritize NA. This sad fact goes unmentioned by the majority of my fellow tribal families & tribal communities I work with. The truth is, there are a large number of tribal folks who have no idea that RC's exist, & certainly don't know what their function is. I know this, because I too was in this category only three short years ago. The most astonishing thing about my ignorance, is that as a director of a social services department for one of the biggest tribes in Southern California, & running one of the most high profile social service programs in the state, I had never been contacted by the RC for any purpose. My discovery of the RC came about from a physically therapist I was taking my daughter to see at Rady's Children's Hospital. It was through my discussions with her, that she informed me about the RC & recommended I call them to see if they could help. It was this moment that started our journey of discovery of the RC & what they do. It is hard to include my peers in the design because they simply don't realize what the problem is exactly; they just know they have unmet needs & lack of services for their special needs populations & difficulty in getting at-risk children seen in their communities. This fact tells me outreach is needed in tribal communities & education is needed by RC's and tribes.</p>	
<p>3. Uniqueness How is the proposed project unique different from a currently funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and objectives) in the proposed regional center's current 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 This project is unique because there are currently no funded grant projects whose primary objective is outreach in tribal communities and none of the projects utilize tribal members, leaders, tribal social workers in their activities or objectives. Although there have been other projects that have utilized storytelling, they have not been any storytelling projects that have focused on a tribal family perspective.</p>	
<p>4. Improve Quality and Service Access</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>How will you promote equity, access, and education barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>The project will improve equity, access, & education barriers to services for tribal populations with intellectual & developmental disabilities by starting a one-on-one relationship between tribal communities & RC's in San Diego & Riverside counties. One of the biggest barriers that RC's face in providing equity & access is the lack of understanding of tribal culture & tribal government infrastructure; however, in order to understand these things, you either a.) have to be a native person who grew up in a tribal community, or b.) have extensive experience working with this population AND a passion for working with this population. Simply put, RC's are going to find it extremely difficult to engage with tribal communities in a meaningful way because they are ill-equipped in their capacity to provide culturally sensitive outreach efforts & they most likely lack the needed time to begin forming those vital relationships. This project will create an opportunity for RC's to begin engagement with tribal communities by bridging the programmatic and cultural gaps through partnering with someone who shares the culture & can provide first-hand experience of this topic and raise awareness. This subject matter is a very sensitive topic for most families, but particularly Native families, but their understanding & awareness of intellectual & developmental disabilities is the first step towards them having equal access because of our outreach efforts.</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 community area? If you are a RC, how does this project support your commitments and plan to promote equity and education disparities in your community area? How will you promote collaboration with their organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Native Americans are the most underserved populations in San Diego and Riverside county regional centers, yet almost 1/3 of all California Tribes are located in these at-hrment areas. The project will support the RC plan by providing a platform and bridging a cultural gap that both counties seem to have been unsuccessful in bridging thus far. The project will utilize Native Americans with experience in having a family member with an intellectual and developmental disability who can help destigmatize what many tribal folks face. The project director is part of key workgroups in both counties that is comprised of tribal social workers, tribal leaders, and tribal partners; thus providing the necessary platform to support the project goals and objectives. The project will create pilot opportunities for regional centers in these areas to dialogue with some of the most likely referral sources of tribal populations. Tribal social workers maintain a high number of individuals on a daily basis who have had a family member with a developmental intellectual disability; yet many of us have never been approached by the regional center. Tribal social workers need to be provided information and need to fully understand the regional centers play, in order to make appropriate referrals to these agencies.</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>The activities this project has sent to utilize to achieve its objectives and measures are all entered into culturally relevant outreach methods (storytelling) and collaboration with existing tribal families, partners, and tribes; all of whom are key stakeholders that the RC's are needing to engage with. Likewise, by having the RC's participate in some of the community events and meetings with key tribal leaders and tribal social workers, they will subsequently have a connection with primary referral sources from the tribal communities. We will have solid evidence of information and outreach information to share with the tribal families. Additionally, the production of a well-known Native American family in the tribal communities share their personal story will be a critical step in breaking down much of the emotional barriers to service that exist for tribal families, and having a storytelling video will also provide a lead-out for each effort as well. Each activity's purpose is centered around addressing the variety of barriers to access and equity that exist for tribal communities and they address the challenges that RC's face trying to improve equity and access.</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 your proposed 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>Applicant Response</p> <p>The proposed measures are appropriate to track the project's objective and activities because what this project aims to accomplish is largely focused on increasing awareness and starting discussions about this topic in tribal communities, but also getting the regional center folks and tribal stakeholders to begin establishing relationships. Tribal folks are very straightforward in their thoughts and feedback in situations and people; they may not feel comfortable filling out an extensive survey to convey these things, but if given the opportunity to have a discussion with someone they know and trust, they are always ready and willing to do so. I know the project was successful if the awareness discussions amongst participants and the tribal community partners are engaging with the regional center folks at the outreach events.</p>	
<p>8. Budget Template and Narrative</p>	<p>Applicant Response</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 proposed budget is consistent with the stated purpose 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>The proposed budget directly funds the personnel needed for hosting outreach efforts to engage tribal communities and the regional centers, as well as the development of materials (storytelling videos) that will be used for education and outreach to the tribal communities to combat violence and equity within their communities. The development of a website is needed in order to ensure tribal community and regional center staff who are unable to attend live outreach events due to COVID concerns potential restrictions, will be able to be reached digitally. Additionally a website will allow for the videos to be archived and also serve as a resource for tribal families to access information about intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays.</p>	
<p>9. Budget Costs</p> <p>Explain how the proposed budget costs are clearly associated with the proposed activities and effective and inform that the budget does not include non-all wable costs funded by other sources.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>The proposed budget directly funds the personnel needed for hosting outreach efforts to engage tribal communities and the regional centers, as well as the development of materials (storytelling videos) that will be used for education and outreach to the tribal communities to combat violence and equity within their communities. The development of a website is needed in order to ensure tribal community and regional center staff who are unable to attend live outreach events due to COVID concerns potential restrictions, will be able to be reached digitally. Additionally a website will allow for the videos to be archived and also serve as a resource for tribal families to access information about intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays.</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 on to only the Department and to each RC(s) that 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>Inland Regional Center: Lavinia Johnson San Diego Regional Center: Brenda Bell Vazquez</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 project and agrees to their assigned activities, measures, and the budget.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Yes</p>	
<p>Applicant Comment</p>		