

APPLICATION REPORT

Project Name: MICO PROYECTO ACCESO IV: Mixteco and Indigenous Family Access, Advocacy, and Empowerment
Applicant Organization: Mixteco/Indígena MICOP
Awarded Amount: \$375,000.00
Funding Announcement Name: Improving Service Access and Equity Grant



PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Access will educate disparities in service and increase access among Mixteco, Indigenous and Latinx families by using a community model to each underserved Indigenous families, and empowering families to fully advocate for their service needs

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title What is the Project Title?	Applicant Response MICOP PROYECTO ACCESO IV: Mixteco and Indigenous Family Access, Advocacy, and Empowerment	
2. Awarded Amount	Applicant Response \$375,000.00	
3. Organization Type Choose the response that best describes your organization.	Applicant Response Community Based Organization (CBO), 501(c)(3)	
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 optionally include a website link.	Applicant Response The Mixteco Indigenous Community Organizing Project's (MICO) mission is to support, organize, and empower Indigenous communities on California's Central Coast. Indigenous migrant communities speak non-Hispanic Indigenous languages like Mixteco, Zapoteco, and Tepecha, and face discrimination, cultural, and language barriers in addition to barriers experienced by Spanish-speaking and Latinx communities. The Project Access is in its 4th year of CA DDS funding, with the goal of providing in-language services directly to Indigenous families in order to reduce disparities and increase access to developmental disability services and connections to regional centers. The Project Access aligns with DDS's goals of reducing disparities and increasing access. The Project Access meets the Indigenous community's needs while empowering families through case management, outreach, parent workshops, family training events, and mentorship.	2
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 provide 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) Did your organization receive DDS grant funding in fiscal year 2019-2020-21? If yes, go to question 2 to complete evaluation. If no, skip this category and go to category 3.	Applicant Response Yes	
2. Previous Grant Award(s)	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT INFORMATION	APPLICANT RESPONSE				ATTACHMENTS				
<p>Since fiscal year 2019, complete a workflow DDS Service Awards and Equity grant by organization was awarded funding.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="483 218 698 296">Year Awarded</th> <th data-bbox="698 218 909 296">Project Title</th> <th data-bbox="909 218 1120 296">Grant Number</th> <th data-bbox="1120 218 1328 296">Award Amount</th> </tr> </thead> </table>	Year Awarded	Project Title	Grant Number	Award Amount				
Year Awarded	Project Title	Grant Number	Award Amount						
	2021	MICO ACCESO III: Empowering Mixtec/Indigenous Families to Disrupt Service Inequalities	20-C37	\$384,000.00					
	2020	Project Aes: Addressing Service Disparities Among the Mixteco/Indigenous Community	19-C56	\$279,327.00					
	2019	Project Aes: Addressing Service Disparities Among the Mixteco/Indigenous Community	18-C56	\$436,369.00					
<p>3. Previous Grant Outcomes</p> <p>Provide a brief summary of your project outcomes for fiscal year 2019-20 and/ 2020-21.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Project Aes's project outcomes in FY 19-20 and 20-21 resulted in an increased awareness among participants of available developmental services, increased capacity for self-advocacy, and increased knowledge of child development milestones, and of intellectual and developmental disabilities. In FY 20-21, Project Aes reached 2575 Indigenous families and 140 Latinx families through outreach activities. 228 Indigenous families and 25 Latinx families received case management services through Project Aes, which includes referrals, follow-up with service providers, and family mentoring. 163 Indigenous families and 25 Latinx families accessed regional center services. Additionally, project services resulted in an increased awareness among Indigenous and Latinx families of available services and increased confidence in advocating for services.</p>								
<p>4. Project Transition</p> <p>If awarded, how will you continue the project into the 2021-22 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand on previous activities, if so how? What activities, measures, or target goals are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Project Aes will continue its project activities by while adding some activities formats to in-person or hybrid events, and adding number of families served in order to enhance case management and leadership capacity activities. The proposed target groups remain Indigenous families and non-Indigenous Latinx families. In the current year, Project Aes's planned number of families served by case management is 240. In 21-22, number served will be 200. While this number is a slight reduction in total number served, it will allow for a more comprehensive case management beyond referrals to, and follow-up with, regional center. Case management will provide a more comprehensive, person-centered approach that assesses the families' areas of unmet need, such as health, food, education, and social supports, and create a person-centered service plan. This format allows for increased level of service provided and greater scope of services accessed by families through Project Aes. Additionally, the Peer Mentoring program that is centered around leadership capacity and parent education will include a greater number of participants, increasing the number from 12 to 20 per year. The Annual Family Training Event is planned as a hybrid in-person/online event, increasing from 1 to 2 events as the event is implemented in both Oxnard and Santa Maria. The hybrid model allows for meaningful connections among families and providers, while live-streaming the event will continue to expand its reach. The first event will take place in Ventura County as usual, and the second will take place in north Santa Barbara County. Radiating each on will educate from 4 to 2 PSA's, while adding live, on-air programming featuring Project Aes and partners. Bi-annual parent partners Led Virtual Workshops will reach a 25 participants per workshop rather than 50, affecting more realistic participation rates.</p>								
<p>General Application Proposal Summary</p>									
<p>1. Project Type</p> <p>Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Community Center</p>								
<p>2. Duration of project</p> <p>Choose the duration of your project.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>12 months</p>								
<p>3. Regional Centers</p> <p>Choose the Regional Center(s) that your project will serve. Check all that apply.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Tierras Region Regional Center</p>								
<p>4. Counties Served</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>								

List the counties you propose to serve. Check all that apply.	Santa Barbara County, Ventura County	
5. City of Los Angeles	Applicant Response	
If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes your project will serve.	Not Applicable	
6. Community Based Organizations	Applicant Response	
Will you be working with other community based organizations? If so, provide the name of the organization and how you will be working together.	MICO will continue its collaboration with Amig Baby, Alpha Resource Center, See Beginnings, and other local service providers in Ventura County and Santa Barbara Counties. Organizations will be featured in yet Acceso's live stream events "Laticas in Acceso," and during MICO's annual Family Training Event. When requested by these organizations, Proyecto Acceso will share its local competency expertise for working with Indigenous communities.	
7. Multiple Organizations	Applicant Response	
Does your project include partnership with one or more organizations either as a co-applicant or subcontractor? If "yes", please provide a letter of support from each organization, that includes an explanation of their role in the partnership.	No	
8. Strategies and Sustainability	Applicant Response	
How will you participate in its work after the grant funding has concluded?	MICO is committed to serving the Mixed and Indigenous community in providing access, advocacy and employment for Mixed and Indigenous children with special needs and their families. While Proyecto Acceso relies heavily on DDS SAE funding for this project, if not funded, MICOP PROYECTO ACCESO would consider other sustainable strategies to fund this project, including local and county-wide public service funding, such as CDBG, including relevant foundation funding, and all other resources from annual fundraising activities. Although projects and staff may be associated with the relevant programming at MICOP and services could possibly be scaled back in the event that funding is not renewed, MICOP would also consider joint application with partner organizations.	
1. Ethnic Groups Served		
Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. From "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" "Other" select the one to list specifically.	Applicant Response	
Applicant Comment	Hispanic, Native American	
	We understand "Native American" as inclusive of Indigenous peoples of North and South America. Indigenous ethnic groups from Mexico include Mixteco, Zapoteco, and P'eeha communities who retain their native, non-Hispanic languages and do not necessarily fall within Spanish-speaking and Latinx ethnicities, although communities of origin are within Latin American and Spanish-speaking entities.	
2. Ethnic Group(s), Language(s) and Number of Individuals Served		
For each ethnicity group, provide the number of individuals your project intends to serve and the related language(s).	Applicant Response	
	Latinx	25
		Spanish
3. Age Group(s) Served		
Select all Age Groups the project will serve.	Applicant Response	
Applicant Comment	Birth up to Teen (Early State), Teen to Five, Teen to 21, 16 to 21, 22 and older	
	Population served includes children, adults, and parents. Population of persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities ages 0 to 23.	
Project Application		
Project Application		
1. Project Summary and Organizational Experience	Applicant Response	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, catchment area, and project design. Specifically describe what your project will accomplish and how it will benefit the community served. In your answer, include what experience your organization has working with the target population?</p>	<p>Project to Address IV: Mixte and Indigenous Family Access, Advocacy and Empowerment is a two-year DDS SAE project that aims to reduce disparities in service among Mixte, Indigenous and Latinx families by using a Project model to reach underserved Indigenous families, and empower families to fully advocate their service needs. The program makes use of a team model, case management, and leadership capacity building through peer mentoring. Program activities include Community Outreach, Radio and Social Media Outreach, Bi-annual Parent Workshops and Annual Family Training Events, person-centered case management, and a project model of peer mentoring to increase family empowerment, leadership capacity, and self-advocacy.</p> <p>The project targets Mixte, Indigenous and Latinx families in the Ventura and northern Santa Barbara County catchment area. This program is unique in its target population of Indigenous families, deliver services in multiple languages, and utilizes the organizational strength of community organizing techniques to build family capacity for leadership and advocacy.</p> <p>While a variety of organizations throughout California serve Latinx communities, MICOP is one of the few organizations in California, and the only organization on the Central Coast, founded with the explicit purpose of meeting the needs of Indigenous migrant communities. MICOP is now in its 20th year of serving the Mixte and Indigenous communities on the Central Coast through its programs and services that boldly deliver direct support and community organizing. MICOP has grown in staff size, region, and has experience and capacity to manage complex state and local funded programs in a fiscally responsible and accountable way and adhering to program guidelines and reporting requirements.</p> <p>By the end of this project, MICOP will reach 4,000 individuals in-person and online, provide case management to 400 families, which includes assessment and personalized care plan, and referrals to regional center and other available services as needed. Additionally, Project to Address's peer mentoring component will provide in-depth leadership capacity to 40 individuals. Project to Address will hold a total of 4 annual Family Training events (1 per year per x2 years x2 entities), and 4 Bi-annual Parent Leader Workshops. Project to Address will continue its monthly "Latinx News" live stream, and add 4 hours of live audio programming to its regular rotation of audio SA's.</p> <p>The program will benefit target population by providing greater access to service, increase knowledge of disability and services and understanding of their child's specific disability, increase leadership skills and empower them to advocate, and provide reliable systems navigation to decrease financial, linguistic, and system barriers to services. Ultimately, this will reduce disparities and increase equity.</p>	
<p>2. Data and Community Input</p> <p>Explain how the target population(s) are underserved using RCOS data and 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>Project to Address's target demographic consists of Indigenous, immigrant communities, including Mixte, Zapoteco, and Tlapaneco families. RCOS data for these communities is unreliable because the collection and reporting of accurate data is extremely difficult for various reasons. Services provided seldom collect data on Indigenous communities, and tend to designate them as Hispanic and Latinx, despite the distinct languages and unique needs of Indigenous communities. A history of racial discrimination against Indigenous communities in Mexico and the United States has often led to hesitancy among Indigenous communities to identify as such, in order to avoid the possibility of discrimination. Nevertheless, a 2010 Indigenous Farmworker Study estimates 45,000 Indigenous people reside in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. A report by Maxwell, et al (2015) confirms a variety of unmet basic needs exist among Indigenous communities in Ventura County. Social determinants of health, e.g. food and housing insecurity, limited language access, and poverty, and suggest poor health outcomes and the presence of disparities among Indigenous communities. Input from community members and program evaluation data indicate that geographic access and community support are key factors in accessing services. Thus, Indigenous languages, and mental health and peer support, and outreach and education are fundamental to Project to Address's program design.</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 catchment area? If the project is similar to a currently funded grant listed on the Department's website, how is the proposed project different?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Alpha Resource Center's project, also known as 'Address,' is a Community Center to project with the Ti-Cities Regional Center with some overlap in populations served. While Alpha Resource Center and MICOP maintain a strong partnership, MICOP's Project to Address is unique in at least three ways. First, while other programs have been responsive to the needs of Latinx and Hispanic populations, no other program that we are aware of focuses primarily on Indigenous migrant communities by providing staff and information in Indigenous languages. Second, Project to Address leverages the unique outreach of an in-house community radio station, Radio Indígena 94.1FM, to reach a demographic that relies heavily on non-written, in-language information. Third, MICOP's organizational strengths include its use of a community organizing model to empower Indigenous communities. Thus, Project to Address program participants receive the benefits of leadership development and advocacy using MICOP's 2-year history of organizing within Indigenous communities.</p>	
<p>4. Improve Equity and Service Access</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>How will you promote equity, access, and education for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Families who are culturally and linguistically isolated will have the opportunity to learn about developmental and intellectual disabilities and the available services through a variety of strategies from community outreach and education. Families will have direct, in-language support in accessing services through case management, referrals, follow-ups, and accompaniment through each step of the process from a trusted community organization, i.e. MICO. These two strategies, along with trainings, will positively impact the number of Indigenous community members who seek and receive developmental services, increasing the overall participation of Indigenous individuals utilizing Regional Center and the available services. Cultural and language barriers are reduced by the self-motivated staff who are members of the target population, understand their languages, and speak Indigenous languages. Additionally, promote access provide support with systems navigation, technology access, and overall social supports needed to complete the process of accessing services. Peer mentoring and leadership development, Bi-annual parent and peer-led workshops, and Annual Family Training Events provide opportunities for families and parents to build confidence in advocating for the disability service needs of their community and families, which in turn leads to systems-level change that will have a lasting impact toward increasing accessibility and educating barriers.</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 recommendations and plan to promote equity and education disparities in your community area? How will you project collaborate with other organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Project Access aligns with 3 of the 4 focus areas identified within TIC entities Regional Center's most recent Strategic Plan (2019-2021):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Family Support: Project Access supports TCRC's objectives to provide family support in systems navigation and continuing a person-centered approach by designing a program that specifically includes these two elements within the yet Acceso. Yet Acceso families receive accompaniment from a Case Manager at each step of seeking and receiving services through TCRC. Project Access must have Case Managers completed training in person-centered care, ensuring family and alignment with TCRC approaches. 2) Cultural proficiency: Project Access staff work closely with TCRC's Multicultural Services Manager in order to support TCRC efforts toward cultural proficiency. Project Access provides fills a gap in cultural and linguistic service by targeting Indigenous community populations. Yet Acceso will work closely with TCRC to provide community input and recommendations on how best to meet the needs of Indigenous families, and, whenever requested, will support the efforts at greater cultural competency. 3) Community Outreach: TCRC's outreach objectives include an increased presence in underserved communities, additional social media, and community outreach events. Project Access leverages Radi Indígena, ongoing frequent community outreach, and maintains a presence within Indigenous communities. 	1
<p>6. Project Activities</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Activities Template located in the middle table 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>The objective of this project is to reduce disparities in service and increase access among Mixteco, Indigenous and Latinx families by signing a memorandum of understanding with each of the seven Indigenous families, and empowering families to fully advocate for their service needs.</p> <p>The project will use each activity solely on a promotora model to deliver information in culturally and linguistically responsive by promotoras who live and work in the communities they serve. Community outreach takes place at meetings and events frequently attended by community members. This activity is measured by number of outreaches and total number of persons reached, with the goal of completing 70 community outreaches and reaching 1500 families over two years. Monthly "Platicas en Acceso" Facebook live streams increase access by a designated facilitator facilitating a virtual connection between families and service providers using promotora hosts to interpret the information into the Indigenous languages served. The effectiveness of social media outreach is measured in total views, which allows us to gauge how well this platform reaches community members. Similarly, Radio programming and PSA's inform community members about child development and intellectual disability, the availability of services, and the support offered by Project Access and operators. The more points of contact in a diversity of formats a family receives, the more likely they are to retain the information and seek services.</p> <p>Accesso provides person-centered case management which identifies areas of unmet need and provides referrals to Regional Center other general services. The support with systems navigation provided by case management activities is key in ensuring that clients don't fall through the cracks as a result of language and literacy, and systemic barriers. Project Accesso will open 200 cases per year, with the goal of 150 RC referrals and 100 general referrals per year.</p> <p>Project Accesso Promotoras will work closely in a mentorship capacity with 20 parents per year build parent capacity for leadership and advocacy for their child, family, and community members' service needs, and to become peer leaders to other families. Mentorship activities may include disability rights education, attending regional center meetings and providing public comment, facilitating parent groups, and advocating for language, literacy relevant services.</p> <p>Alongside mentorship activities, Annual Parent Training Events, and Bi-annual peer-led workshops (In person, virtual, hybrid format to be determined) provide the opportunities for parents to both develop leadership and advocacy skills, and to increase their knowledge of disability services. They also facilitate two-way connections between families and providers.</p> <p>Finally, monthly meetings with TCRC will strengthen the partnership between Acceso and TCRC and provide a venue for sharing information and ideas for how to best meet the needs of Indigenous communities.</p>	
<p>7. Project Measures</p> <p>Before answering this question, applicants must enter performance measures into the Activities Template located in the middle table 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>Yes. Project measures use quantitative and qualitative data that provide both objective information on whether project objectives are met, as well as insight into program effectiveness. Number and type of outreaches and number of persons reached allow provide insight into the proportion of the target population reached through these activities. As a Community Connection project, Project Accesso will adhere to collecting standardized performance data as equated by DDS. Pre/post surveys of participants measure participants' knowledge of development and intellectual disability, knowledge of available services, confidence in accessing those services, and other evaluation criteria in order to observe changes before and after services, and, therefore, provide insight into program effectiveness. Both Project Accesso staff and participants' narrative feedback are collected and used to evaluate and adjust program elements, as well as to compile compelling testimonies on the impact that services have had at the family level.</p>	
<p>8. Budget Template and Narrative</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	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>submit a Case Managers' report activities, including teaching, case management, Regional Center Referrals, virtual teaching, mentoring and parent leadership, and Family Training and Workshop activities, and therefore comprise the bulk of salary expenses. Operational expenses include digital services, i.e. Zoom and SurveyMonkey accounts, which are necessary to conduct virtual events and to collect qualitative data and participant feedback. Transportation expenses include staff travel between MICO's Oxnard and Santa Maria offices. Yet Artes service area spans Ventura and north Santa Barbara Counties, and staff travel between offices in order to provide support with activities and attend occasional in-person team meetings. Mileage is also paid for use of personal vehicles when driving to and from community outreach and to meet clients if traveling from MICO offices. Equipment expenses are included in anticipation of needed technology upgrades, including laptop and computer replacement, and tablets that are used for participant registration, pre/post surveys, and program evaluation. Food purchases are used only for meetings and activities that directly serve program participants, and are needed to support family participation, in particular when parents' meal preparation responsibilities would otherwise prevent them from attending project Activities.</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 not funded by others.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>The budget does not include non-allowable costs. Salary expenses reflect activities directly related to this project; submit a Case Managers and program Coordinator are full-time employees whose time is dedicated entirely to the activities outlined in this proposal. The Behavioral Wellness Director oversees several programs, and the Director's staff time budgeted for this accounts only for time spent on this project. Benefits are allocated at 30% of base salary. Operational expenses include technology services, i.e. Zoom and SurveyMonkey accounts, which are needed to implement the outreach activities and to collect program evaluation data in the field. Equipment expenses include anticipated computer replacement, desks and chairs, tablets used for collecting data and registering participants in the field, and additional tablets used for connecting parent leadership activities spaces, such as workshops, Facebook live, and public meetings to advance. Food expenses are used only for activities involving program participants, and are necessary to support participation of parents whose caregiver role typically equates meal preparation. Indirect expenses do not exceed 15% of the total requested amount, and include Finance, Administrative, and Management expenses, rent and utilities, and payroll services.</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>5</p>
<p>2. RC Contact</p> <p>CBOs are required to submit their application to 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>Lilia Rangel-Reyes, MA. (She/Her/Ella)</p> <p>Multicultural Specialist/Especialista Multicultural</p> <p>Ti-C Counties Regional Center</p> <p>520 E. Montecito St.</p> <p>Santa Barbara, CA. 93103</p> <p>phone: (805) 884-7241</p> <p>Lreyes@ti-counties.org</p>	
<p>3. Applicant Certification</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	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>T i-C nties regi nal Cente and agen y lette s of s pp t a e atta hed in q esti n 1 of Appli ant Ce tification se tion.</p>	