

APPLICATION REPORT

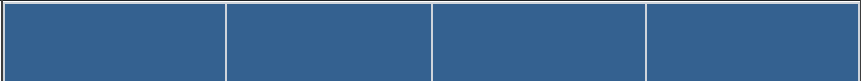
Project Name: Increasing Access to Early Start in Tribal Communities
Applicant Organization: Early Years Therapy
Awarded Amount: \$29,000.00
Funding Announcement Name: Promoting Service Access and Equity Grant



PROJECT SUMMARY

To increase the access to and quality of Redwood Coast Regional Center's Early Start services in the under-resourced, geographically isolated, primarily Native American Tribal community in Mendocino County: Covelo. To serve as a potential model replication in communities with similar barriers.

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENTS
Applicant Eligibility		
Applicant Information		
1. Project Title What is the Project Title?	Applicant Response Improving Access to Early Start in a Tribal Community	
2. Awarded Amount	Applicant Response \$29,000.00	
3. Organization Type Choose the response that best describes your organization.	Applicant Response Community Based Organization, non-501(c)(3) No 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 Early Years Therapy is the sole proprietor Community-Based Organization and a licensed and certified Spanish bilingual speech-language pathologist specializing in birth-to-three assessment and intervention of communicative and developmental disorders with a mission to improve outcomes for very young children in underserved communities. -Successful 15-year record delivering reliable and high-quality Early Intervention services to culturally and linguistically diverse populations through building trust, rapport and bridges to connect -Extensive training and experience in culturally- and linguistically-informed service delivery, as well as in providing services that are holistic, family-oriented, relationship-based, strengths-based, culturally-appropriate, and trauma-informed -Currently established with services and parent/professional collaborations in the target community -Accomplished in meeting goals related to interprofessional outreach, collaboration and community-building	
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 information letter(s) proving 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 Not Applicable	
Grant Reapplication Information		
Grant Reapplications		
1. Previous Award(s) Did your organization receive DDS grant funding in its 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.	Applicant Response No	
2. Previous Grant Award(s)	Applicant Response	

<p>Since fiscal year 2019, complete a worksheet DDS Service Access and Equity grant your organization was awarded funding.</p>		
<p>3. Previous Grant Outcomes Provide a brief summary of your project outcomes fiscal year 2019-20 and/ 2020-21.</p>	<p>Applicant Response n/a</p>	
<p>4. Project Transition If awarded, how will you currently project transition into the 2021-22 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand/continue your current project, if so how? What activities, measures, or target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change.</p>	<p>Applicant Response n/a</p>	
<p>General Application Proposal Summary</p>		
<p>1. Project Type Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:</p>	<p>Applicant Response Engagement and Outreach</p>	
<p>2. Duration of project Choose the duration your project.</p>	<p>Applicant Response 12 months</p>	
<p>3. Regional Centers Choose the Regional Center(s) that you project will serve. Check all that apply.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Redwood Coast Regional Center</p>	
<p>4. Counties Served List the county/ counties your project proposes to serve. Check all that apply.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Mendocino County</p>	
<p>5. City of Los Angeles 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>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Applicant Response Round Valley Indian Health Clinic: Collaborate to provide staff training, developmental screenings, evaluations and therapies; distribution materials to families. Round Valley Native American Head Start: Collaboration staff development, developmental screenings, referrals, assessments and therapies. Round Valley Family Resource Center: Collaboration with manager to plan outreach activities and establish a bi-thematic developmental play group</p>	
<p>7. Multiple Organizations Does your project include partnership with one or more organizations either as a co-applicant/subcontractor? 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 No</p>	
<p>8. Strategies and Sustainability</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p>	

<p>How will you perpetuate its work after the grant funding has concluded?</p>	<p>The current proposed project builds upon already existing services within the region. The requested funding would be used to expand and strengthen child capacities among local staff into family with children and families. By the end of Year 2, we expect that: all staff will be independently conducting child activities; families will have increased awareness early childhood developmental skills, family and trust in Early Start personnel, and overall increased likelihood of following through with services for their children; and staff at early care centers will be trained in and independently capable of independently delivering responsive interventions during daily interactions with children that demonstrate developmental problems. We expect that the bi- to five developmental play group will have been established and staffed and able to continue independently. The successes of the project will serve as a model for replication in other communities with similar barriers.</p>										
<p>1. Ethnic Groups Served</p> <p>Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. For "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" "Other" use comment section to list specific groups.</p> <p>Applicant Comment</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Hispanic, Native American</p>										
<p>2. Ethnic Group(s), Language(s) and Number of Individuals Served</p> <p>For each ethnicity group, provide the number of individuals your project intends to serve and the related language(s).</p> <p>Applicant Comment</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="479 661 1334 871"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hispanic</td> <td>20</td> <td>Spanish</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All the ethnicities</td> <td>4</td> <td>English</td> </tr> </table>				Hispanic	20	Spanish	All the ethnicities	4	English	
Hispanic	20	Spanish									
All the ethnicities	4	English									
<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</p>										
<p>Project Application</p>											
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<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 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>Applicant Response</p> <p>Purpose: To increase the access to and quality of Redwood Coast Regional Center's Early Start services in one underserved, geographically isolated, primarily Native American Tribal community in Mendocino County: Covelo. To serve as a potential model for replication in communities with similar barriers.</p> <p>Background: Current COS-based Early Start services are failing to meet the unique needs of the most culturally diverse, poor, isolated communities at high-risk for childhood developmental needs. Early Start providers come from out of town, are limited in availability, are sporadically present due to COS driven services, and are often met with mistrust by families; ultimately competent providers are not always available; the natural environments model service delivery is often inappropriate or families that don't want services at home, and there is a lack of appropriate community meeting spaces; traditional provide services constraints are an obstacle for families with life stresses that require more flexible scheduling options.</p> <p>Focus: Increase Covelo community awareness and trust in Early Start services via ongoing a dedicated, consistent, culturally-competent, bilingual Early Start clinical professional to establish a community presence two to three days per month or two years. Provide support with community agencies to decrease barriers to access, conduct an array of service delivery models, and provide training to community services or sustained child-find activities and enhanced developmental awareness.</p> <p>Area Need: RCRC identified the need to increase disproportionately COS utilization among families with infants and toddlers in Covelo. Organizational Experience: The project seeks to fund an Early Start clinical professional with extensive history working with marginalized and diverse communities, and an existing relationship with Covelo community parents and families.</p> <p>Goals: 1) Increase community trust and knowledge of child development through the consistency and availability of a dedicated provider. 2) Increase local agencies' staff capacity for parent education, screening, identification, and referral. 3) Increase local childcare providers' capacity to support children with disabilities and their families. 4) Increase cultural competency of county Early Start workers working in Native American communities.</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>We conducted multiple interviews in Covelo over a span of 6 months in 2021 with parents of children with disabilities, Head Start leadership and staff, school district special education leadership, health line providers, and FRC management to learn what rates and types of disability are being seen, what barriers exist, and what supports community members say they need to improve access. Interviews supported established RCRC data showing disproportionately low access to Early Start. Local preschool teachers and Round Valley School District special education leadership reported that 20-55% of children age 3-5 in preschool are identified after age 3 with significant needs and resultant IELTs. Current Child Find activities in Covelo are reaching a racial disparity where children under 3 that have significant delays and disabilities. Of the children identified, family responsiveness to IFS services is well below average.</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 hment 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>Our project specifically targets neglected and underserved Native American community that has an historical mistrust of outsiders and government services. We employ the unique strategy of placing an Early Start clinical professional directly in the community through partnership with trusted community leaders, relationship-building, trust-building, and capacity-building within organizations that work with children and families. RCRC's current 2021-2023 MESA "F.A.S.T." grant broadly targets special-typical health birth-5-year age children across the 4-county at hment area and has also identified Covelo as an area of special high need. RCRC has a Dive site Grant through which it provides outreach to all Native American and Latino communities.</p>	
<p>4. Improve Equity and Service Access</p> <p>How will you promote equity, access, and reduce barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Child Find:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistent access to developmental and special educational screenings, evaluations and therapies • Train pediatric healthcare providers at Round Valley Indian Health Clinic to identify and refer • Train birth-to-three childcare providers to identify, refer • Improve parent/community knowledge and trust in currently non-clinical early intervention services <p>Service Delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate critical shortage Early Intervention providers traveling to community • Implement culturally-informed Early Intervention services and practices • Create safe and appropriate service options for families who do not want home-based services • Create services scheduling that accommodates families with equitable flexible or drop-in visits 	
<p>5. Support of RC Plan</p> <p>How does this project support the RC plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in your proposed at hment area? If you are a RC, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in your at hment area? How will you collaborate with other organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>RCRC covers 4 rural counties in the Northwest portion of California, which are among the poorest, least resourced and most geographically challenged areas in the state. We serve a culturally diverse population with high needs (e.g. significant incidence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, pre-natal toxic exposure to meth, repeated years in which the area has experienced Federally Declared Natural Disasters- Fire and Flood). Infants, toddlers and young children are particularly disadvantaged by limited developed healthcare, educational and family services. Collaborative partnerships to provide a strong network support in our local area are particularly needed, as individuals may be several hours away from more populated and better resourced towns and cities. RCRC's at hment area includes a significant Native American population. Development and delivery of culturally appropriate services and approaches to serve this community has been a barrier. This grant will facilitate, introduce and expand services and supports which utilize the strengths and honor the traditions that are unique to this population. This project will expand RCRC partnership with local Covelo medical, childcare, educational and family service centers.</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 activities demonstrate the steps that the project will take to achieve its stated objective and measures.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>The project proposes to concurrently target its component activities from the beginning throughout the lifespan of the project. The activities mutually enhance each other, but none are contingent upon another.</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 behavior 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>Key progress measures will be obtained and reported on quarterly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey partner organization staff satisfaction with training and support being provided • Number of families consulted, screened, assessed • Number of IFS's developed • Number of developmental materials kits distributed to families • Tasks completed toward Webinar Trainings on cultural competency • Tasks completed toward establishing developmental playgroup • Community gatherings attending and results 	
<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 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 directly relates to personnel hours, travel expenses, fees to cultural competency trainees, and other materials that correspond to specific 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 incurred by the sponsor.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>This project is designed to minimize cost through the use of a single staff person who has already completed extensive research and development on the ground in the community in order to develop this project. This keeps costs limited to those associated with being up and running, versus preparing and planning. Costs are limited to direct expenses. Bulk cost limited to personnel direct outreach, training and initial service activities. Assistance with travel/mileage to lessen burden access to motel accommodation.</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 only to the Department and to each RC(s) attachment the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, state the name(s) the contact person(s) at each RC you have discussed your proposal with.</p>	<p>Applicant Response</p> <p>Jennifer Garcia, Diversity Outreach Specialist, Redwood Coast Regional Center</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>	<p>Gina Weimuth</p>	