

**APP LICATI N R PORT**

**Project Name:** A Better Life Together, Inc. B.R.I.D.G.E. e t  
**Applicant Organization:** A Better Life Together, Inc.  
**Awarded Amount:** \$200,000.00  
**Funding Announcement Name:** m oting Servi e A ess and Equity Grant



**PROJ CT UMMARY**

The B.R.I.D.G.E. pr ect ill in ease kn ledge f egional enter servi es and the l pr ess t Af i an Ameri an, Hispani , ilipino, Native Ame i an and the ethi g ups wh have sh n to e eive less se vi es than hite onsumers.

APPLICANT TI N	APPLICANT R PON	ATTACHM NT
<b>Applicant ligibilit</b>		
<b>Applicant Information</b>		
<b>1. Project Title</b> What is the ect Title?	<b>Applicant Response</b> B.R.I.D.G.E. (Bridging Res u es int Dive se G ups Eve y he e)	
<b>2. Awarded Amount</b> What is the total amount awarded for the project?	<b>Applicant Response</b> \$200,000.00	1
<b>3. rganization Type</b> Choose the esponse that best des ibes yu rganization.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Community Based O rganization, non-501( )3 EIN	
<b>4. Description of rganization/Group</b> rovide a brief des ipti n of the rganizati n g up. Explain hat experien e yu rganization has managing a pr ect similar t the proposal and state the out omes f that p ect. Yu may upload yu br hu e add a ebsite link.	<b>Applicant Response</b> A Better Life Together, In . (ABLT) as established in 2005 t partner ith adults ith intellectual and developmental disabilities h live and k in the ommunity. ABLT pr vides supported and independent living servi es, ustomized tail ed day servi es, ommunity based day servi es and employment servi es. ABLT als provides edu ation and out each servi es. ABLT has ked t in ease awareness of servi es available t individuals ith intellectual disabilities and thei families and assisted families t access servi es sin e 2018 th ough funds f m the Department of Developmental Disabilities' Servi e A ess and Equity (f mally Disparity) grants. The pr ects 18-C43, 19-C43 and 20-C43 all ed ABLT disseminate over 11,000 pieces f itten material egarding servi es, ondu t nume us educati nal sessi ns, th oughout San Diego County; establish a s ial media presen e and ondu t eekly ebinars on t pi s in luding Lanterman A t, egional enter and other t pi s.	
<b>5. Applicant in Good Standing</b> Is the appli ant in good standing ith the Calif nia Sec etary of State, Calif nia F an hise Tax Board, and Calif nia Department of Tax and Fee Administ ati n? lease upl ad onfi mation letter(s) pr f of good standing.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Yes	1
<b>6. Subcontractors in Good Standing</b> A e the appli ant's subcont act s in good standing ith the Calif nia Sec etary of State, Calif nia F an hise Tax Board, and Calif nia Department of Tax and Fee Administ ati n?	<b>Applicant Response</b> Not Appli able	
<b>Grant Reapplication Information</b>		
<b>Grant Reapplications nli</b>		
<b>1. Previous Award(s)</b> Did yu rganizati n eceive DDS grant funding in fis al year 2019-20 2020-21? If yes, go t uestion 2 t omplete each olumn. If n , skip this ategory and go t ategory 3.	<b>Applicant Response</b> Yes	
<b>2. Previous Grant Award(s)</b>	<b>Applicant Response</b>	

<p>Since fiscal year 2019, complete a form for each DDS Service Area and Equity grant you organization has awarded funding.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>B.R.I.D.G.E. Project</td> <td>20-C43</td> <td>\$222,650</td> </tr> </table>					2020	B.R.I.D.G.E. Project	20-C43	\$222,650	
2020	B.R.I.D.G.E. Project	20-C43	\$222,650							
<p><b>3. Previous Grant Outcomes</b> Provide a brief grant summary of your project outcomes for fiscal year 2019-20 and/ or 2020-21.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b> 2019-2020 grant objective: Increase community relationships and family knowledge about regional center services and IPR services 2020-2021 grant objective: standardized community connect measures</p>									
<p><b>4. Project Transition</b> If awarded, how will you transition the proposed project into the 2021-22 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand on your current project, if so, what activities, measures, target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b> ABL T will be able to smoothly transition if awarded a new grant as some of the activities will continue such as conducting outreach targeted communities, continue to experience disparity in services. We will expand our relationships with community and faith based organizations in the community and provide education and training. We will continue the workgroup with the San Diego Regional center which will all assist access barriers and identify solutions to create more opportunities for individual access services. Some of the progress as impacted by the pandemic as we could not meet face to face with leader in the community, however we have been able to attend some community events which has allowed us to develop more partners. Our current project involves training leaders to assist in providing trainings that will be available to families and other community based organizations to learn about services available to them and utilize specific nuances that will equip the community and service providers to deliver services providers to deliver services in a specific manner. This project will focus on targeted outreach events in primarily African American communities in addition to continuing outreach to Filipino, Hispanic and other communities using social media platforms to educate about services and other general issues.</p>									
<p><b>General Application</b></p>										
<p><b>Proposal Summary</b></p>										
<p><b>1. Project Type</b> Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b> Engagement and Outreach</p>									
<p><b>2. Duration of project</b> Choose the duration of your project.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b> 12 months</p>									
<p><b>3. Regional Centers</b> Choose the Regional Center(s) that your project will serve. Check all that apply.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b> San Diego Regional Center</p>									
<p><b>4. Counties Served</b> List the county/ counties your project proposes to serve. Check all that apply.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b> San Diego County</p>									
<p><b>5. City of Los Angeles</b> If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes your project will serve.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b> Not Applicable</p>									
<p><b>6. Community Based Organizations</b> 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><b>Applicant Response</b> ABL T will work with several community based organizations. Some include the Exceptional Family Resource Center, Live Well San Diego, Special Needs Resource Foundation of San Diego as well as Faith and community based organizations. We will continue to partner with community partners which we have established great relationships with. We will also collaborate with the San Diego Regional Center and closely with the service providers that serve these clients with little to no services.</p>									
<p><b>7. Multiple Organizations</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></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>No</p>																			
<b>8. Strategies and Sustainability</b>																				
<p>How will you perpetuate its work after the grant funding has concluded?</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b>  Staff will build upon established relationships with community based organizations to continue to educate about various services offered to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. ABLT will build off of its relationship with the San Diego Regional Center to assist individuals and their families to educate barriers and receive the services they need. ABLT believes everyone should receive services regardless of ethnicity and those services should be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner. ABLT will continue advocating for services for all and work with existing relationships with community based partners to educate and educate as requested. ABLT will continue sharing information through social media platform and website. ABLT is a part of local and statewide vendor groups such as the Developmental Disability Provider Network and the California Community Living Network and will continue to advocate.</p>																			
<b>1. Ethnicity Groups Served</b>																				
<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><b>Applicant Response</b>  African American, Filipino, Other (list), Hispanic, Native American</p>																			
<p>Applicant Comment</p>	<p>Individuals of African Descent, Individuals here listed in the other category</p>																			
<b>2. Ethnicity Group(s), Language(s) and Number of Individuals Served</b>																				
<p>For each ethnicity group, provide the number of individuals your project intends to serve and the related language(s).</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;"> <th style="width: 33%;">Ethnicity</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Number of Individuals</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Language(s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filipino</td> <td>30</td> <td>Tagalog, English</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hispanic</td> <td>30</td> <td>Spanish</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (African descent)</td> <td>10</td> <td>unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native American</td> <td>10</td> <td>English</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnicity	Number of Individuals	Language(s)				Filipino	30	Tagalog, English	Hispanic	30	Spanish	Other (African descent)	10	unknown	Native American	10	English	
Ethnicity	Number of Individuals	Language(s)																		
Filipino	30	Tagalog, English																		
Hispanic	30	Spanish																		
Other (African descent)	10	unknown																		
Native American	10	English																		
<b>3. Age Group(s) Served</b>																				
<p>Select all Age Groups the project will serve.</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b>  Thirteen to 21, 22 and older, 16 to 21, Thirteen to Five</p>																			
<p>Applicant Comment</p>																				
<b>Project Application</b>																				
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<p><b>1. Project Summary and Organizational Experience</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></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>A Better Life Together, Inc.'s B.R.I.D.G.E. project proposes to target the African American, Hispanic, Filipino, and Other ethnicities including Middle Eastern and people of African Descent in San Diego County. A Better Life Together, Inc. has been working with these population groups for over 16 years in a variety of programs as a vendor of the San Diego Regional Center and as a grant recipient of the Department of Developmental Services Service Access and Equity program.</p> <p>The B.R.I.D.G.E. project will provide engagement and outreach activities that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calling individuals and families who have qualified for SDRC services but using little to no services and collaborating with the service coordinators assigned to these individuals for assistance. Individuals and families should be able to access needed services.</li> <li>• Attend 4 health and education fairs in the community that will attract individuals from underserved communities. Staff will serve as a resource for individuals and families and disseminate information.</li> <li>• Conduct small group presentations at faith and community based organizations about services offered by the San Diego Regional Center and assist families as needed.</li> <li>• Continue service access and equity workgroup with the San Diego Regional Center to discuss barriers to service and focus on solutions.</li> <li>• Host a health and community fair in Southeastern San Diego at the Jackie Robinson YMCA to bring awareness to services available. Other service providers and the San Diego Regional staff will be invited to attend.</li> <li>• Continue our Wednesday webinars that focus on a variety of topics including IE rights, advocacy, Lanterman services, housing rights, mental assistance and mental health support (list a few).</li> <li>• Enhance social media presence by publishing targeted demographics.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Data and Community Input</b>  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 target population to design the project?</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b>  The San Diego Regional Center purchase of Service Data Report 2020-2021 (August 19, 2021) showed a disparity between White client expenditures as opposed to other races and ethnicities. For example, White consumer per capita expenditures were \$18,790 as opposed to Black/African American who were \$14,073 and Hispanic who were \$8,337. During the meeting, several recommendations were discussed. These included SDRC having resources that explain how to navigate the system and share what services are provided and how to contact them for assistance. Another recommendation was to have SDRC collaborate with other community based organizations in order to identify any barriers to service access. Because of these recommendations, ABLT focused on engagement and outreach to assist SDRC in reaching these underserved communities.</p>	
<p><b>3. Uniqueness</b>  How is the proposed project unique different from a fully funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and objectives) in the proposed regional center target area? If the project is similar to a fully funded grant listed on the Department's website, how is the proposed project different?</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b>  The B.R.I.D.G.E. project is different from other projects awarded in the San Diego Regional Center target area. This project is focused on contacting individuals and families who have qualified for services but are either not using them or underutilizing them. Our project is focused on contacting these families and providing support and training on how to navigate the service delivery system. No other project is targeting the African American, Filipino, Hispanic, Native American and the ethnic communities in this manner. Though these calls families have been able to access services and other general resources.</p>	
<p><b>4. Improve Equity and Service Access</b>  How will your project improve equity, access, and education barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b>  The B.R.I.D.G.E. project will improve equity, access and education barriers to services by providing education to families to empower them to ask for services they may not be aware of. The project will also continue the service access and equity workgroup with the San Diego Regional Center to discuss barriers to services and work on solutions for individuals and families and to receive the services and supports they need.</p>	
<p><b>5. Support of RC Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	

APPLICANT QUESTION	APPLICANT RESPONSE	ATTACHMENT
<p>How does this project support the RC plan to promote equity and educate disparities in your proposed at home area? If you are a RC, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and educate disparities in your at home area? How will you project collaborate with other organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?</p>	<p>The B.R.I.D.G.E. project supports the plans of the San Diego Regional Center to educate disparities. ABLT staff meet with the Cultural Specialist monthly to discuss issues and to share information with service coordinators. SDRC will hire service coordinators who will work specifically with individuals and families who are utilizing little to no services as approved in this year's state budget and staff will collaborate with these service coordinators to assist families to get the services they need. ABLT will also collaborate with the Exceptional Family Resource Center on outreach and education activities.</p>	
<p><b>6. Project Activities</b></p> <p><b>Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Activities Template located in the middle tab directly above.</b></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><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>The B.R.I.D.G.E. project will raise awareness of the San Diego Regional Center services by attending community events, conducting presentations at faith based and community based organizations. The project will also serve to educate barriers to services by contacting individuals and families who are underutilizing services they have qualified for. By meeting with SDRC staff regularly at the service access and equity subgroup, barriers to services will be discussed and solutions will be developed on some individuals and families will receive services.</p>	
<p><b>7. Project Measures</b></p> <p><b>Before answering this question, applicants must enter performance measures into the Activities Template located in the middle tab directly above.</b></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><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>The proposed measures are appropriate to track the B.R.I.D.G.E. project overall objective and activities. The measures will all track the number of people reached and will all track if they received an increase in services.</p>	
<p><b>8. Budget Template and Narrative</b></p> <p><b>Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Budget Template located in the tab directly above.</b></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"> <li>Budget Template example is located at Attachment C.</li> <li>Budget Details and Restrictions are available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p> <p>The budget submitted is consistent with the stated project objective and activities. The funds for all activities are outlined and engagement to the targeted communities. The budget shows the costs associated with performing those duties and the supplies needed.</p>	
<p><b>9. Budget Costs</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></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 or costs funded by other sources.</p>	<p>The budget costs are clearly associated with the project activities and the staff hours are being used in the project and the tools needed to be successful with the activities proposed. All costs are in compliance with DDS's guidelines.</p>	
<p><b>1. Confirm Proposal Discussion with RC(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></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>Yes</p>	
<p><b>2. RC Contact</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></p>	
<p>CBOs are required to submit their application only 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>Kim Mills, CEO of A Better Life Together, Inc. spoke with Mark Klaus, Executive Director of the San Diego Regional Center on 11/1/2021. Mark suggested we include the Native American community and recognized how challenging it has been to reach this community. He also suggested we add information about the new unit that will be created for those individuals who are underutilizing services that are included in this year's state budget.</p>	
<p><b>3. Applicant Certification</b></p>	<p><b>Applicant Response</b></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>Yes</p>	
<p>Applicant Comment</p>	<p>Kimberly Mills, CEO A Better Life Together, Inc.</p>	