

# Application Report



**Applicant Organization:** IGNITE Collective, Inc.  
**Project Name:** Bridging the Employment Gaps  
**Application ID:** [REDACTED]  
**Funding Announcement:** DDS Employment Grant  
**Requested Amount:** [REDACTED]

**Project Summary:** Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will focus on developing the soft skills needed towards obtaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment of our individuals with developmental disabilities served by IGNITE Collective's Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) program within Los Angeles and Ventura counties. This project will specifically focus on our efforts in providing support for our individuals with complex needs including Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users and individuals with high support needs for emotional regulation towards their employment goals. Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will continue to apply IGNITE Collective's individualized and whole-person support in filling the employment gaps of our individuals with developmental disabilities by developing soft skills including but not limited to effective communication, emotional regulation, timeliness, proper hygiene, academic skills, adaptability, critical thinking, and teamwork.

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**Section Name:** Applicant Eligibility

**Sub Section Name:** Applicant Information

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## 1. Applicant Question: Organization Type

Check all that apply. If selecting "Other" please specify your type of organization.

### Applicant Response:

- Regional Center Vendor
- Community-Based Organization

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## 2. Applicant Question: Description of Agency/Organization

Provide a brief description of the organization or group. You may add a website link for additional information.

### Applicant Response:

IGNITE was founded in 2013 to provide individualized supports to teens and adults with developmental disabilities in their communities. We have grown to a family of passionate professionals who support people in Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, and Mono Counties in California. We provide supports for people with disabilities in a variety of ways including and not limited to one-on-one community-based supports (Tailored Services and Independent Living Skills).

[www.ignitefutures.org](http://www.ignitefutures.org)

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## 3. Applicant Question: Applicant in Good Standing

Is the applicant in good standing with the California Secretary of State, California Franchise Tax Board, and California

Department of Tax and Fee Administration? Please upload confirmation letter(s) or proof of good standing.

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

**Attachment:**



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**4. Applicant Question:** 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? Select "N/A" if you do not plan to use subcontractors for your project.

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**Section Name:** Grant Application

**Sub Section Name:** Proposal Summary

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**1. Applicant Question:** Project Type

Choose one project type that best describes your activities.

**Applicant Response:**

Service Models for Individuals with High Support Needs

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**2. Applicant Question:** Duration of Project

Choose the duration of your project, 12 months or 18 months.

**Applicant Response:**

18 months

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**3. Applicant Question:** Regional Centers in Service Area

Identify the Regional Center(s) in the community to be served by this project. Select all that apply. For a regional center map, see [Attachment F](#).

**Applicant Response:**

- Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
  - Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
  - Harbor Regional Center
  - Westside Regional Center
  - South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
  - North Los Angeles County Regional Center
  - Tri Counties Regional Center
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**4. Applicant Question:** Counties Served

List the county or counties that the project will serve. Check all that apply.

**Applicant Response:**

- Los Angeles County
  - Ventura County
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**5. Applicant Question:** City of Los Angeles

If your project proposes to serve the City of Los Angeles, list the zip codes your project will serve.

Zip code information for Los Angeles County can be found [here](#). If your project does not serve the Los Angeles area, select "N/A".

**Applicant Response:**

90022, 90024, 90025, 90034, 90035, 90044, 90045, 90047, 90049, 90056, 90064, 90066, 90067, 90210-90212, 90230, 90710, 90010, 90039, 91101, 91311

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**6. Applicant Question:** Collaborating Organizations or Other Entities

Does your project include partnerships with one or more organizations either as a co-applicant or subcontractor? If "yes", please upload a letter of support from each organization, that includes an explanation of their role in the partnership.

**Applicant Response:**

No

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**7. Applicant Question:** Consultants and Trainers

Describe the qualifications of the consultant/trainer/training organization, including their subject matter expertise in competitive integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. Describe their prior experience as a consultant/trainer, professional credentials, including names of other organizations/entities for whom they have provided consultation or training.

If question does not apply to your project, select "N/A"

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**Applicant Response:**

**Molly K. Rearick Day, EdD**

**Founder, Educational Director, Educational Consultant, & Board Member**

Molly holds degrees in elementary education (BA), special education (MS), and educational leadership (EdD). She is also an Educational Consultant focusing on transition to adulthood, inclusion, communication, and relationship and sexuality education. Molly teaches in the Graduate School of Education at California State University, Northridge and is also an Adjunct Trainer and Advisory Board Member for Elevatus Training.

**Chelsea Loretta Enos, MA**

**Assistant Program Director of Communication Support**

**Program Coordinator, Tailored Services**

Chelsea heads IGNITE's Communication Support team. She provides Communication mentorship for our Tailored Services (TS) program in the Los Angeles County division.

**Liz Luviano**

**Assistant Program Director of Independent Living Skills**

**Communication Mentor**

Liz is in charge of IGNITE's Independent Living Skills (ILS) and Communication Support programs in Ventura County.

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**Section Name:** Target Population

**Sub Section Name:** People Served

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**1. Applicant Question:** Number of youth (under 18) with I/DD that will be served

Specify number of people to participate or be served by this project. If question does not apply to your project, select "N/A".

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**2. Applicant Question:** Number of adults (18 and older) with I/DD that will be served

Specify number of people to participate or be served by this project. If question does not apply to your project, select "N/A".

**Applicant Response:**

65

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**3. Applicant Question:** Number of family members that will be served

Specify number of people to participate or be served by this project. If question does not apply to your project, select "N/A".

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**4. Applicant Question:** Number of professionals and staff that will be trained

Specify number of people to participate or be served by this project. If question does not apply to your project, select "N/A".

**Applicant Response:**

12

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**5. Applicant Question:** Number of other individuals that will be served/trained

Specify number of people to participate or be served by this project. Please describe the individuals that will be served. If question does not apply to your project, select "N/A".

**Applicant Response:**

65

**Applicant Comment:**

Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will serve our individuals with developmental disabilities who are currently receiving services under IGNITE's Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) programs in developing the soft skills needed towards obtaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment. This project aims to provide individualized and whole-person support for our individuals with complex needs including but not limited to Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users and individuals with high support needs for emotional regulation in order for them to obtain their employment goals.

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**6. Applicant Question:** Ethnicity Group Served

Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. For "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" or "Other" use comment section to list specific groups.

- **"Indian"** includes: Indian (nationals of the present-day Republic of India), Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan.
  - **"Pacific Islanders"** includes: individuals whose origins are the original peoples of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. Polynesia includes Guam, Hawaii (Native Hawaiian), Samoa (Samoan), American Samoa (Samoan), Tokelau (Tokelauan), Tahiti (Tahitian), Tonga (Tongan) and other Pacific Islands.
  - **"Slavic"** includes: Russian, Ukrainian, and Belorussian (East Slavic), Polish, Czech, Slovak, and Sorbian (West Slavic), and Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian, and Slovene (South Slavic).
  - The **"other"** category includes ethnicities not specified in the ethnicity options.
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**Applicant Response:**

- Korean
- Chinese
- White
- Hispanic
- African American
- Other

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**Section Name:** Project Application**Sub Section Name:** Project Application

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**1. Applicant Question:** Project Abstract

Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, geographic area, and project design. Specifically describe what your project will accomplish and the intended impact it will have on the employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Applicant Response:**

Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will focus on developing the soft skills needed towards obtaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment of our individuals with developmental disabilities served by IGNITE Collective's Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) program within Los Angeles and Ventura counties. This project will specifically focus on our efforts in providing support for our individuals with complex needs including Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users and individuals with high support needs for emotional regulation towards their employment goals. Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will continue to apply IGNITE Collective's individualized and whole-person support in filling the employment gaps of our individuals with developmental disabilities by developing soft skills including but not limited to effective communication, emotional regulation, timeliness, proper hygiene, academic skills, adaptability, critical thinking, and teamwork.

This project design will consist of three Communication Support Specialists that will provide ongoing training for our Communication Partners and Mentors who provide individualized supports for our individuals with high support needs. The Communication Support Specialists, Communication Partners, and Mentors will reach out to all our individuals with developmental disabilities with strong ties to their employment goals to evaluate each individual's cost statement. The support team and the individual will revisit career exploration to see if the individuals' current educational path, training, volunteering position, or job align with his/her interests and skills. Bridging the Employment Gaps Project aims to provide intensive and collaborative supports to our individuals with developmental disabilities with high support needs towards improving their work readiness traits to solidify the foundation towards obtaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment.

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## 2. Applicant Question: Need for Project Question 1

Please describe the underlying problem, challenges, or issues that your project will address.

### Applicant Response:

Bridging the Employment Gaps Project is focused on developing the soft skills or work readiness traits essential in obtaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment for our individuals with developmental disabilities especially those with high support needs. The inadequacy of these essential skills is one of the factors that create challenges for the people we support from attaining their employment goals. This project aims to address this major issue.

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## 3. Applicant Question: Need for Project Question 2

Provide facts or data to support the need for this project

### Applicant Response:

The path towards Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) has been challenging for our individuals with intellectual and developmental needs. Several factors contribute to this challenge. One of the barriers to CIE for the individuals we support is the inadequate employment soft skills including but not limited to effective communication, timeliness, proper hygiene, adaptability, and teamwork. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, individuals with developmental disabilities are three times less likely to be employed than those without a disability. This gap, which has persisted since 2009, equals to almost 14 million more unemployed individuals with disabilities in 2021 compared to those with no disability.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Employment-population ratio - With a disability, 16 years and over," available at <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNU02374597>

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## 4. Applicant Question: Need for Project Question 3

Describe how the project will involve and benefit participants who are from diverse backgrounds

### Applicant Response:

Bridging the Employment Gaps Project focuses in supporting people with developmental disabilities in their communities towards attaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). The people and families whom we support represent a wide range of backgrounds including diverse languages, socioeconomic statuses, education levels, ethnic groups, racial groups, gender and sexual identities, and other identifiers. IGNITE Collective's Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) programs provide person-centered supports to a broad range of that racial and ethnic groups including but not limited to White/Caucasian, Black/African-American, Hispanic, Chinese, Korean, and Middle Eastern. Our Communication Support program provides communication support and training to our individuals who have little to no reliable speech by using Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC).

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## 5. Applicant Question: Approach Question 1A

For Business Focused Practices, Employment Preparation Services and Supports, Service Models for Individuals with High Support Needs, and Training and Implementation project types.

- Describe the objective for your project
  - Describe the new or innovative methods and activities that will be used that correspond to the proposed objective and project type that:
    - Use innovative, evidence-based, best, or promising practices, services and /or supports
    - Promote increased and meaningful opportunities for participants to make an informed choice for career options and prepare
-

for CIE

- Are designed to achieve, maintain, or advance individuals with I/DD in competitive integrated employment
- Are designed to be replicable

- Include how you used input from the community and/target population in the design of the project
- Describe any project deliverables

If your project is not Business Focused Practices, Employment Preparation Services and Supports, Service Models for Individuals with High Support Needs, or Training and Implementation, select "N/A".

### **Applicant Response:**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

*Develop soft skills to open gateways to Competitive Integrated Employment for individuals with developmental disabilities*

Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will specifically focus on our efforts in developing the soft skills needed to fill the gaps towards obtaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment for our individuals with high support needs. WIC (4869)(a)(1) establishes an Employment First Policy which states that opportunities for integrated, inclusive, and competitive employment be given the highest priority for our individuals with developmental disabilities regardless of the severity of their disabilities. Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will serve our individuals with complex needs including but not limited to Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users and individuals with high support needs for emotional regulation. The framework of this project is intended to provide individualized and person-centered supports to our individuals with developmental disabilities being served under IGNITE Collective's Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) programs towards achieving their employment goals.

The path towards Competitive Integrated Employment has been challenging for our individuals with intellectual and developmental needs. The individuals we support are three times less likely to attain their employment goals compared to individuals with no disability (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). Several factors contribute to this devastating numbers. One of the barriers our individuals face is the inability to get into an internship and professional skills training programs like Project Search after graduating from high school due to inadequate employability skills. This roadblock our individuals we support face in attaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment leads to transitional gaps that create numerous challenges. Our individuals who were unable to be a part of Project Search, College to Career (C2C), and other dedicated internship and professional skills training programs fall through the employment cracks.

Bridging the Employment Gaps project will serve our individuals with complex needs including but not limited to Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users and individuals with high support needs for emotional regulation. This project will apply a whole-person approach in filling the employment gaps by focusing on developing the soft skills needed to attain and retain Competitive Integrated Employment including but not limited to effective communication, emotional regulation, timeliness, proper hygiene, academic skills, adaptability, critical thinking, and teamwork. One of the major activities will involve reevaluation of cost statements of the people we serve to create strategies based on each individual's employment goals. Individuals will have their full inputs with supports from Mentors, Communication Partners, and Communication Support Specialists.

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#### **6. Applicant Question:** Approach Question 1B

For project type, Service Model Transformation

- A description of the transformation team that will be developing the action plan and includes representation by individuals with



ID/D, family members, those who provide direct support, and other relevant community members (e.g., businesses, peer organizations, partnerships, etc.)

- The objective and activities to be used in developing the action plan, including an outline of the areas to be addressed in the transformational planning and organizational change that will affect the CIE employment services.
- Include how you used input from the community and/target population in the design of the project?
- A detailed description of the planning process that will be used
  - Descript project deliverables
  - Describe how you plan to engage the regional center in the transformation plan

If your project type is not Service Model Transformation, select "N/A".

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**7. Applicant Question:** Sustainability Question 1

How will individuals served by the project continue receiving employment services and supports once the project has ended?

**Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective's dedicated community-based supports including Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) for our individuals will continue on providing personal and professional development training towards obtaining and retaining Competitive Integrated Employment. IGNITE's Kindling Studios is a working art studio that teaches art and entrepreneurial skills for our individuals with developmental disabilities. This program enables the people we support to pursue their creative, professional, and personal goals. These programs geared towards development of personal and professional skills will allow the bridges built to continue closing the employment gaps and create more pathways towards Competitive Integrated Employment.

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**8. Applicant Question:** Sustainability Question 2

How will your project continue its work after the grant funding has concluded?

**Applicant Response:**

IGNITE supports people with developmental disabilities in a variety of ways, including one-on-one and community-based programs (Tailored Services, Independent Living Skills, and Communication Support), interest-based groups (Kindling Studios, Outdoor Adventures, and Relationships & Sexuality courses), and professional services (Art Therapy, Educational Consulting, and Self-Determination Program supports). The soft skills gained and developed from Bridging the Employment Gaps Project will continue on with these programs with strong focus on data gathered from individuals who gained volunteering opportunities, internships, and the ultimate goal of Competitive Integrated Employment. Surveys will be conducted after conclusion of grant funding.

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**9. Applicant Question:** Sustainability Question 3

Describe your plan to engage the regional center for future sustainability of the project and individuals served.

### **Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective will actively report to each of the seven Regional Centers that fund the individuals we support for updates regarding employment outcomes and revisions of employment goals. Qualitative data gathered to assess progress and areas needing improvement will be provided during quarterly updates and the annual Individual Program Plan meetings. For the individuals that successfully obtain Competitive Integrated Employment, IGNITE Collective will reach out to corresponding Regional Centers to discuss readiness for transition towards Supported Employment providers.

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### **10. Applicant Question:** Organizational Capacity Question 1

Please include details about the history of the organization, its mission or purpose, summary of major programs, services and activities and details about how they tie to the target population. If from a large organization with multiple departments, provide a brief overview of entire organization and then focus on the department or program involved with this proposal. Describe any ongoing collaborative partners in your community.

### **Applicant Response:**

IGNITE was founded in 2013 to provide individualized supports to teens and adults with developmental disabilities in their communities. Since our inception we have grown to a family of passionate professionals who support people in Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, and Mono Counties in California.

We believe ...

- All people, regardless of diagnosis, speaking skills, conservatorship status, or any other factor can and should direct their own lives
- Everyone has the right to real relationships
- Speaking is not the only measure of intelligence
- The least dangerous assumption is to include all people in all opportunities
- Collaboration is key to success

### **Programs:**

- Independent Living Skills Program (ILS)
- Tailored Services (TS)
- Communication Support (Alternative and Augmentative Communication techniques)
- Kindling Studios
- Art Therapy
- Outdoor Adventures
- Relationships and Sexuality courses

IGNITE Collective collaborates with Autism Society of Ventura County, California Art Council & other organizations.

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### **11. Applicant Question:** Organizational Capacity Question 2

Describe your agency's experience supporting the proposed target population.

**Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective supports people with developmental disabilities in a variety of ways, including one-on-one community-based supports (Tailored Services, Independent Living Skills, and Communication Support), interest-based groups (Kindling Studios, Outdoor Adventures, and Relationships & Sexuality courses), and professional services (Art Therapy, Educational Consulting, and Self-Determination Program supports).

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**12. Applicant Question:** Organizational Capacity Question 3

Describe employment (or other relevant services) you currently provide.

**Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective has been actively involved in leadership workshops funded by Ability Central Philanthropy since 2020. These workshops are lead by professionals, many of whom are people with developmental disabilities and/or their family members. The people we support are actively engaged in presentations, curriculum development, paid workshops, consultation, and advisory roles.

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**13. Applicant Question:** Organizational Capacity Question 4

How will the grant help the organization/agency build expertise to support individuals with I/DD to achieve competitive integrated employment?

**Applicant Response:**

The grant will allow IGNITE Collective to retain our current Communication Support Specialists, Mentors, and Communication Partners to allow for continued support and development of our individuals with developmental disabilities that are getting funded by our Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) programs in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. This consistency is crucial for the people we support in developing their soft skills needed in obtaining and retaining CIE.

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**14. Applicant Question:** Organizational Capacity Question 5

Describe your organization/ agency experience and current capacity to support grant-based activities and reporting.

**Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective have earned annual grants from Ability Central Philanthropy since 2019. Members of IGNITE belong to advocacy groups including and not limited to TASH and Cal-TASH, Association of People in Support of Employment First, Lanterman Coalition, Wellspring Guild, CommunicationFIRST, Nonspeaking Community Consortium, American Educational Research Association, American Art Therapy Association, and Volunteer Eastern Sierra. Salesforce will be utilized during reporting process.

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**15. Applicant Question:** Engagement Plan Question 1

Describe how the organization/agency will recruit participants and/or families for participation in the project.

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**Applicant Response:**

This proposal expands upon our efforts to provide person-centered supports to our individuals with developmental disabilities towards their employment goals.

The core of Bridging the Employment Gaps is to include the individuals we serve every step of the way. They will provide all the inputs including but not limited to business establishments, schools, and family members they wish to involve in their goals of attaining Competitive and Integrated Employment. Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users will draft and send their emails with support from their Communication Partners. AAC users will provide inputs (what questions to ask, what role the person or establishment they're reaching out to will play, the level of involvement that person or establishment will have in their employment goals). Quarterly interviews and surveys will be conducted to get feedback, quantitative, and qualitative data throughout the 18-month duration of the proposed project.

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**16. Applicant Question:** Engagement Plan Question 2

Describe how the organization/agency will collaborate with other groups, organizations, employers, and/or agencies to achieve the objective of the project.

**Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective's Mentors, Communication Partners, and individuals with developmental disabilities will directly reach out to employers, organizations, and other groups by way of emails, video calls, phone calls, and in-person. IGNITE will continue to collaborate with organizations involved with our entrepreneurial art program, Kindling Studios, to continue elevating the employment readiness traits of the individuals we support. Support Staff and individuals served will also communicate with Regional Centers who are involved in this project to provide progress reports pertaining to Bridging the Employment Gaps project.

During this process, Support Staff (Mentors and Communication Partners) will observe and gather qualitative data of the soft skills being utilized and developed by the individuals supported. Communication skills, ability to regulate emotionally, timeliness of completion of tasks, proper hygiene, and teamwork will be especially observed and measured during this process.

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**17. Applicant Question:** Engagement Plan Question 3

Service Model Transformation Projects must also include a plan to make two community presentations to key stakeholders and community members. The first presentation is to receive feedback about the proposed changes within the agency. The second community presentation is to present the completed action plan. Describe your plan for these two community presentations.

If your project is not Service Model Transformation, please select "N/A"

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**18. Applicant Question:** Project Activities

Clearly and specifically state how the schedule of activities demonstrates the steps that the project will take to achieve its stated objective and measures. See [Attachment H](#) for instructions on entering objective and activities into GrantVantage.

#### **Applicant Response:**

##### **Meeting with individuals and/or family members to discuss employment goals**

This is to be conducted by Support Staff (Mentors and Communication Partners) while directly supporting the individual with developmental disabilities. Cost statements will be evaluated to explore professional interests and employment goals.

##### **Create and complete résumé**

Mentors and Communication Partners will provide direct support in completing this step. Communication Support Specialists and Program Coordinators will supervise Support Staff during this step. The individuals we support will have 100% input throughout this process.

##### **Simulate real-life employment situations**

Mentors and Communication Partners will conduct mock interviews and role-playing with the individuals they support. Individuals may choose to include their family member(s), teachers, and supervisors during this process.

##### **Gather qualitative measures of soft skills**

Support Staff (Mentors and Communication Partners) will observe the soft skills demonstrated by the individuals we support. Observations and assessments provided by teachers, job supervisors, and family members will be gathered by conducting interviews and surveys.

##### **Apply to businesses**

Mentors and Communication Partners will support individuals who have developed and demonstrated employment readiness skills throughout the project term. Individuals' inputs (job fields and interests) and qualitative data gathered will be considered 100%.

##### **Conduct follow-up phone calls to stakeholders**

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#### **19. Applicant Question:** Project Data

Provide a clear plan of how data will be collected to track project objectives, activities and measures (e.g., what data collection tools will be used, who will collect, software used, who will summarize, etc.).

### **Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective will collect qualitative data including information gathered through interviews, surveys, classroom observations, workplace observations, and informal conversations. These qualitative information will directly measure the soft skills Bridging the Employment Gaps Project aim to develop for our individuals with developmental disabilities. We will also rely on quantitative data including but not limited to:

- Number of Cost Statements with strong ties to employment goals
- Number of individuals with disabilities who have obtained volunteering positions and internships throughout the duration of the project
- Number of individuals we support who have obtained Competitive and Integrated Employment positions. This will apply to both full-time and part-time CIE positions.
- Length of time individuals we support are able to maintain their CIE positions. Initial collection of data is 30 days after CIE start date. Data will be collected every 3-6 months after that.

Mentors and Communication Partners will continue to engage with teachers, job supervisors, individuals we support and/or their family members, Communication Support Specialists, and Program Directors to collect these data that directly impact this project.

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### **20. Applicant Question:** Budget Template and Narrative

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.

### **Applicant Response:**

IGNITE Collective is asking for a funding amount of [REDACTED] for Bridging the Employment Gaps Project. This amount will cover personnel expenses for our Communication Trainer, Communication Mentor, and ten Communication Partners.

IGNITE Collective's Communication Support team will be directly involved in developing the soft skills of our individuals with complex needs including but not limited to our Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) users and our individuals with high support needs for emotional regulation. This amount will allow us to retain our highly-trained and qualified Communication Support team providing individualized and community-based supports to our individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the proposed 18-month period of this project. Both our Tailored Services (TS) and Independent Living Skills (ILS) programs provide needed one-to-one and person-centered supports to our individuals who uses Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) to communicate.

The operating expenses for this project will be absorbed into IGNITE Collective's overall operating expenses. IGNITE will also pay for the Communication Support administrator's salary.

The asking amount of [REDACTED] will directly go towards the salary of our Communication Support Team and Mentors.

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### **21. Applicant Question:** Budget Costs

Confirm that that budget does not include non-allowable costs or costs funded by other sources. See [Attachment D](#) for allowable and non-allowable costs.

### **Applicant Response:**

I Confirm

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**Section Name:** Proposal Certification

**Sub Section Name:** Certification

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**1. Applicant Question:** Confirm Proposal Discussion with RC(s)

Applicants are required to discuss their proposal with each RC(s) service area to be served. Have you discussed your proposal with each RC you are intending to serve?

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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**2. Applicant Question:** RC Contact

Applicants are required to submit their application concurrently to the Department and to each RC(s) service area the applicant is intending to serve. State the name(s) of the contact person(s) at each RC you have discussed your proposal with.

**Applicant Response:**

**Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center**

Roxy Ortiz, George De La Loza, Edith Hernandez

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center**

Pablo Ibanez

**Westside Regional Center**

Lidenira Amador

**No Reply:**

Harbor Regional Center

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

Tri-Counties Regional Center

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**3. Applicant Question:** Regional Center Service Provider

If you are a vendored regional center service provider, are you in compliance with [Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4652.5](#)?

If you are a not a vendored regional center service provider, please select "N/A".

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**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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**4. Applicant Question:** Confirm review of Standard Measures

DDS has developed standard project measures for each project type. Have you read the guidelines and agree to the standardized measures for your project type. See [Attachment C](#) for Standard Project Measures.

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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**5. Applicant Question:** Applicant Certification

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.

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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