

Application Report



Applicant Organization: Amigo Baby Inc
Project Name: Amigo Play
Application ID: App-22-659
Funding Announcement: FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant
Awarded Amount: \$90,000.00

Project Summary: Amigo Play is an application for IOS and Android systems to improve access to Early Start services, activities, resources and education for diverse and marginalized communities receiving Early Intervention. The application was developed by Amigo Baby, Inc, a Community Based Organization, non 501(c)3, that has been providing Early Intervention Services to Tri-Counties Regional Center and Kern Regional Center for the last 19 years. Amigo Baby has been providing education on Early Intervention for the last three years in Facebook and has 85K followers, but the capabilities to support the users are limited. The Amigo Play App has been in development for the last three years, beta testing in 2022 and ready to download in January 2023. The UCI number will be the user ID. The app will provide: initial developmental screen, daily activities and videos that will show the progress with child developmental progress, weekly live classes, and referral to local resources.

Section Name: Applicant Eligibility

Sub Section Name: Applicant Information

1. Applicant Question: Project Title

What is the Project Title?

Applicant Response:

Amigo Play

2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

\$90,000.00

3. Applicant Question: Organization Type

Choose the response that best describes your organization.

Applicant Response:

Community Based Organization, non-501(c)(3) EIN

4. Applicant Question: Description of Organization/Group

Provide a brief description of the organization or group. Explain what experience your organization has managing a project similar to the proposal and state the outcomes of that project. You may upload your brochure or add a website link.

Applicant Response:

Amigo Play is an application for IOS and Android systems to improve access to Early Start services, activities, resources and education for diverse and marginalized communities receiving Early Intervention. The application was developed by Amigo Baby, Inc, a Community Based Organization, non 501(c)3, that has been providing Early Intervention Services to Tri-Counties Regional Center and Kern Regional Center for the last 19 years. Amigo Baby has been providing education on Early Intervention for the last three years in Facebook and has 85K followers, but the capabilities to support the users are limited. The Amigo Play App has been in development for the last three years, beta testing in 2022 and ready to download in January 2023. The UCI number will be the user ID. The app will provide: initial developmental screen, daily activities and videos that will show the progress with child developmental progress, weekly live classes, and referral to local resources.

5. 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:

[2022-10-24 Amigo Baby Certificate of Status Secretary of State.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

6. 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?

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

Section Name: Grant Reapplication Information

Sub Section Name: Grant Reapplications Only

1. Applicant Question: Previous Award(s)

Did your organization receive DDS grant funding in fiscal year 2020-21 or 2021-22? If yes, go to question 2 to complete each column. If no, skip this category and go to category 3.

Applicant Response:

No

2. Applicant Question: Previous Grant Award(s)

Since fiscal year 2020, complete a row for each DDS Service Access and Equity grant your organization was awarded funding.

Applicant Response:

3. Applicant Question: Previous Grant Outcomes

Provide a brief grant summary of your project outcomes for fiscal year 2020-21 and/or 2021-22.

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

4. Applicant Question: Project Transition

If awarded, how will your current project(s) transition into the 2022-23 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand or 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.

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

Section Name: General Application

Sub Section Name: Proposal Summary

1. Applicant Question: Project Type

Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:

Applicant Response:

Education and Training

Attachment:

[Amigo Play Project.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

Applicant Comment:

Amigo Play App will provide Education and Training and improve access to Early Start services, resources and education for diverse and marginalized communities in Tri-Counties RC and Kern RC catchment areas.

The app includes an initial developmental screen in all areas of development (Cognitive, Language, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Socio-Emotional and Self Care). As the parents are using the daily activities and responding to the performance, new activities are presented at a higher level of complexity. Every six months, we will be able to obtain the new developmental levels of the child based on the parents responses to their daily activities. The anticipated progress will be at least of 6 month on each domain to prevent any further delays, and hoping to an increase of more than 6 months chronological. All the developmental activities were design considering cultural appropriateness and also the language used to describe the instructions. The activities are paired with videos to make it easier for the parents to implement. Last, each activity is supported with an explanation of the importance and how it helps developmentally. The developmental baseline under each domain will be obtain and also the percentage of progress at every 6 months intervals.

The app provides live interactive developmentally related classes and previous classes archives for the parents to see at their convenient time. During the 18 months of the grant process, approximately 30 classes will be completed. Each class will be delivered in English, Spanish and Mixteco. The format of the classes include a video and then an open forum of question and answer to support families with plain language. The classes will be determined based on the experience of frequent challenges observed by parents receiving early start services with Amigo Baby, Inc.

The app allows request for service feature using phone or email for the families to be contacted. The Project Director will be able to contact the family and guide them individually to meet their developmental needs and also with the generic resources that will improve the family's living condition. The app contact with the Project Director will allow an individualized support tailored to the family needs

2. Applicant Question: Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

Applicant Response:

18 months

3. Applicant Question: Regional Centers

Choose the Regional Center(s) that your project will serve. Check all that apply. If you are proposing a statewide project, select the All Regional Centers/Statewide option.

Applicant Response:

- Kern Regional Center
- Tri Counties Regional Center

Attachment:

[KERN RC POS-Expenditure-Report-Demographic-information-FY-2020-2021-v3.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[TCRC Services by Language in Homes.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

4. Applicant Question: Counties Served

List the county or counties your project proposes to serve. Check all that apply. If you are proposing a statewide project, the select All Counties / Statewide option.

Applicant Response:

- Kern County
 - Santa Barbara County
 - San Luis Obispo County
 - Ventura County
-

5. Applicant Question: 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.

Applicant Response:

Amigo Play will collaborate with Projecto Acceso to complete the translation to Mixteco of the videos and also during the live classes. The cost of the collaboration with Project Access is already paid by a DDS Grant. Amigo Play will be collaborating with Rainbow Connection FRC in Ventura County, and with the Disparity Service Coordinator at TCRC and KRC to make the application available to each family evaluated or receiving Early Start services in catchment areas.

Attachment:

[LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AMIGO BABY APPLICATION SERVICE ACCESS AND EQUITY GRANT.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[MICOP AMIGO BABY LOS 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[Rainbow Connection Letter of Support 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

6. Applicant Question: Multiple Organizations

Does your project include partnership 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:

Yes

Attachment:

[MICOP AMIGO BABY LOS 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[Rainbow Connection Letter of Support 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

7. Applicant Question: Strategies and Sustainability

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

Applicant Response:

Amigo Play has been developed by Amigo Baby, Inc an organization with 19 years of existence that will assure the sustainability. The grant funding will help demonstrate the improvement in equity and decrease in disparities to families receiving Early Start in the Tri-Counties RC and Kern RC. Once the benefits can be demonstrated in the regions, Amigo Play App can apply for larger grant that will help show the benefits statewide.

Sub Section Name: Target Population

1. Applicant Question: Ethnicity Groups Served

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

Applicant Response:

- Hispanic
- Other (list)

Attachment:

[MICOP AMIGO BABY LOS 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

Applicant Comment:

Amigo Play app has been developed in English and Spanish. It will include translations to Mixteco Language as there is no written language. Amigo Play has secured the letter of support from Project Acceso to support the translation of all content and live classes. Amigo Play app will improve the access to education for marginalized communities from multiple ethnicities and languages. DDS will be able to demonstrate an increase in services utilized by UCI. Amigo Play app will request the signature of consent to share data between Amigo Play and DDS.

2. Applicant Question: Ethnicity 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:

Ethnicity Group(s)	Individuals Served	Language(s)
Hispanic	2000	Spanish
Hispanic	200	Mixteco
White Caucasian	500	English

Attachment:

[KERN RC POS-Expenditure-Report-Demographic-information-FY-2020-2021-v3.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[TCRC Services by Language in Homes.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

3. Applicant Question: Age Group(s) Served

Select all Age Groups the project will serve.

Applicant Response:

- Birth up to Three (Early Start)
-

Section Name: Project Application

Sub Section Name: Project Application

1. Applicant Question: Project Summary and Organizational Experience

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 and how your organization will work with the local RC(s).

Applicant Response:

Amigo Baby, Inc has been providing Early Start services to monolingual Spanish and Mixteco speaking Hispanic families for the last 19 years in Ventura , Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties.

Amigo Play App will provide education, training and improve access to Early Start services, resources and education for diverse and marginalized communities in Tri-Counties RC and Kern RC catchment areas. Amigo Play App project will target families who were referred to early start and speaks Spanish and Mixteco and are marginalized families. The app has three main areas:

1. The app includes an initial developmental screen in all areas of development (Cognitive, Language, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Socio-Emotional and Self Care). As the parents are using the daily activities and responding to the performance, new activities are presented at a higher level of complexity. Every six months, the app will be able to obtain the new developmental levels of the child based on the parents responses to their daily activities. The anticipated progress will be at least of 6 month on each domain to prevent any further delays, and hoping to an increase of more than 6 months chronological. All the developmental activities were design considering cultural appropriateness and also the language used to describe the instructions. The activities are paired with videos to make it easier for the parents to implement. Last, each activity is supported with an explanation of the importance and how it helps developmentally. The developmental baseline under each domain will be obtain and also the percentage of progress at every 6 months intervals.
2. The app provides live interactive developmentally related classes and previous classes archives for the parents to see at their convenient time. During the 18 months of the grant process, approximately 30 classes will be completed. Each class will be delivered in English, Spanish and Mixteco. The format of the classes include a video and then an open forum of question and answer to support families with plain language. The classes will be determined based on the experience of frequent challenges observed by parents receiving early start services with Amigo Baby, Inc.
3. The app allows request for service feature using phone or email for the families to be contacted. The Project Director will be able to contact the family and guide them individually to meet their developmental needs and also with the generic resources that will improve the family's living condition. The app contact with the Project Director will allow an individualized support tailored to the family needs.

Amigo Play has been in contact with Tri-Counties Regional Center and Kern Regional Center for the collaboration and implementation of the Project.

2. Applicant Question: Data and Community Input

Explain why you have selected your priority population(s) using RC POS data and other data as supporting evidence of the disparity or inequity. Include how your organization used input from the community, target population, and RC to design the proposal.

Applicant Response:

The grant funding will help demonstrate an improvement in equity and decrease disparities to families receiving Early Start in Tri-Counties RC and Kern RC.

The App will decrease the knowledge gap caused by multiple barriers among the parents who have a child in Early Start and help build equitable services and prevent ongoing services after 3 years of age. The results attached for POS for TCRC and KRC show cost per individual child under 3 years of age at TCRC for Spanish speaking higher expenditure per capita. At Kern RC the per capita expenditure for under 3 years is less for Spanish speaking consumers. Being or near equal might not be enough to assure the adequate development based on the high level of barriers to developmental knowledge. In addition, in most homes, both parents are working long hours and most of the early start services are delivered to babysitters.

The app will help improve the knowledge gap the parents have when they are available after work. The families that speak Mixteco are receiving in most of the cases the services in Spanish or with basic translation to Mixteco. It will include translations to Mixteco Language as there is no written language. Amigo Play app will also improve the access to education for marginalized communities.

DDS will be able to demonstrate an increase in the percentage of services utilized by UCI. Amigo Play app will request the signature of consent to share data between Amigo Play and DDS.

Attachment:

[KERN RC POS-Expenditure-Report-Demographic-information-FY-2020-2021-v3.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[TCRC Services by Language in Homes.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

3. Applicant Question: Uniqueness

How is the proposed project unique from a currently funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and goals) in the proposed RC catchment area? If the project is similar to a currently funded grant listed on the Department's website, how is the proposed project different?

Applicant Response:

Amigo Play App is a unique innovative project that includes current access to technology, software development and knowledge in best practice to early start. The App has been developed uniquely considering cultural and linguistically appropriate needs of the families.

The technology uses the phone or tablet the families are already familiar with. It will not require the use data plans as they can download the app and all the programs can run except for the live classes. It has been developed using IOS and Android operating systems that are the majority of the devices of the families. The families will be able to download the app from the apple store or Google play for free using the UCI number to set up the user.

The software developed used pilot groups to determine design and wording to make it culturally and linguistically appropriate. In addition, the app has videos on the activities to make the process simpler for the viewer to implement.

The developmental knowledge and activities were developed using well developmental milestones accepted by the American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC.

4. Applicant Question: Improve Equity and Service Access

How will your project measurably improve equity, access, and reduce barriers to services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families?

Applicant Response:

Amigo Play App will improve equity and service access to the families receiving Early Intervention at TCRC and KRC catchment areas by making the app free to all families using the UCI to set up the account for free.

The app will be downloadable on the device the family is already familiar without the need to purchase a new one and will no additional cost. The app has been developed in English, Spanish and Mixteco to reduce language barriers and help the families understand the Early Start knowledge in their own language. The activities included in the app requiere either home made or inexpensive materials. Videos are used to show the implementation of activities and during live sessions to assists the families engage and understand the information by imitation. The app allows the parents to complete the activities and see the recorded classes at their available time and removing barriers to parents that have to work long hours.

5. Applicant Question: Support of RC Plan

Does the project support the RC plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in their catchment? If you are a RC, how does this project support your recommendations and plan to promote equity and reduce your identified disparities? How will your project collaborate with other organizations to promote community inclusion?

Applicant Response:

Amigo Play App Project has the support of Tri-Counties RC and Kern RC to promote equity and reduce disparities in their catchment areas. Amigo Play App Project has been in contact at Tri-Counties RC with Lilia Rangel, MA, MFTI, Multicultural Specialist and Omar Noorzad, Executive Director to support the project. Amigo Play App Project has been in contact at Kern RC with Kristine Khuu, Assistant Director of Clinical Services, Karina Proffer, Lilia Ran Multicultural Specialist and Michi Gates, Executive Director to support the project. The plan will be to educate the Service Coordinators serving Early Intervention in each Regional Center about the value the App brings to the children so they can promote it among their families and decrease barriers to service and knowledge to build the parents competence.

Amigo Play will collaborate with Rainbow Connection FRC and Project Access to make the live classes available to as many families participating as possible. Project Access will be completing the translation of all the videos to Mixteco language and the Rainbow Connection FRC to all their network of parents and post on their social media.

Attachment:

[LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AMIGO BABY APPLICATION SERVICE ACCESS AND EQUITY GRANT.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[TCRC Amigo Baby Letter of Support SIGNED.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[Rainbow Connection Letter of Support 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[MICOP AMIGO BABY LOS 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

6. Applicant Question: Project Activities and Measures

Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Activities Template located in the middle tab directly above.

The schedule of activities clearly and specifically demonstrates the steps that the project will take to achieve its stated objective and measures. Do the proposed measures appropriately track the project objective and activities, provide insight into the effectiveness of project, and demonstrate impact on the target population?

Applicant Response:

AmigoPlay will follow the activities in the numbered order. Hiring the correct Project Director will assure the follow up to all the other eight activities stated to meet the Objective: "AmigoPlay Application will improve access to Early Start services, resources and education for diverse and marginalized communities."

Amigo Play app has been developed for the last three years taking into consideration cultural and language appropriateness to assure family participation. The app has been in Beta testing during the 2022 year with focus groups to assure functionality in the different languages.

Usage:

The app will track the amount of logins of the users, and be able to determine the average length of time the app is open. The app will be able to track the primary language of the users to determine if their primary language is English, Spanish or Mixteco and determine the percentage of all the users enrolled. The app will capture the amount of users enrolled, and the amount of active users during the previous months.

Developmental activities:

The app has a developmental screening that every user will complete the first time they use the app based on their child. The answers will help establish the baseline under each developmental domain. The app will present in their language activities, video instructions, and importance of doing it for the long term success of the child. The app will measure the average months of progress after 6, 12 and 18 months of usage under each domain.

Live Classes and Recorded Classes

The app will record the number of users signed for a class. It will present a pre and post test survey to determine the knowledge gained. The questions posted to the chat will be answered and available for review as part of the Q&A of each class. The app will allow access to previous recorded classes. The person that will be viewing the recorded class will complete the pre and post survey to determine the increase in percentage of knowledge gained.

Request for services and/or generic:

The App will be able to generate the the baseline regarding the amount of services and generic resources the family is participating. The app will be able to track on a quarterly basis the the amount of services the family has been enrolled during the quarter using a survey. If the family is requesting additional support, the PD will be able to individualize the support. The initial survey will also determine the services being provided by TCRC and KRC at the beginning and also at 6, 12 and 18 months. It will work to promote equity and decrease disparities for some of the minority communities.

The above measures will allow provide the data to determine the effectiveness of the app.

7. Applicant Question: Budget Template and Narrative

Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Budget Template located in the tab directly above.

The project budget is consistent with the stated project objective and activities, and clearly and concisely explains how the proposed expenditures support the overall project design and outcomes. The project budget costs are clearly associated with the activities and does not include non-allowable costs or costs funded by other sources.

- Budget Template example is located at [Attachment C](#).

- Budget Details and Restrictions are available [here](#).

Applicant Response:

AmigoPlay Budget is based on the personnel expenditure and benefits for the 18 months of the existence of the project. AmigoPlay will have a project Director (PD). The cost of other services will continue to be assumed by Amigo Baby, Inc, the parent company like: additional software development, office rent, presenter wages, and web-hosting.

The role of the PD will be to assure good user experience and support, coordinate with the therapist the live class participation, schedule of classes, coordinate all video production, assure all videos are in the right language for the presentation, support the presenters during the live sessions to make sure all questions posted on the chat are answered, work with the developers to obtain quarterly all the data needed to support the measures to comply with the Grant requirements.

The PD will coordinate with the Service Coordinators and local Family Resource Centers presentations to help families receiving Early Start services understand the value brought to the families and assists with family enrollment.

The PD will respond to service requests and contact the families by phone or email depending on the family preference. The PD will be knowledgeable of the local resources in each of the four counties that represent TCRC and KRC catchment areas and support with education and guidance when the families request the service.

On a quarterly basis the PD will be able to complete all data requested by the grant and at the end of the 18 months present the final report.

Section Name: Proposal Certification

Sub Section Name: Certification

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

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?

Applicant Response:

Yes

2. Applicant Question: RC Contact

CBOs are required to submit their application concurrently to the Department and to each RC(s) catchment 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 emailed your proposal application. The RC contact list is available here at [Attachment F](#).

Applicant Response:

Lilia Rangel at TCRC

3. Applicant Question: Code of Conduct

Grantee Code of Conduct

The Department is committed to supporting services and programs with integrity that foster collaboration and professionalism. Grantees are expected to conduct project activities in a professional and respectful manner that include:

- **Valuing Diversity and Inclusion.** Grantees should embrace diversity that includes but is not limited to: ability, race, language, national origin, citizenship, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and religion.
- **Conducting Activities with Personal and Professional Integrity.** All activities with individuals, families, community organizations, regional centers, and state, local and federal agencies should be conducted with professionalism, dignity, respect, and fairness. Grantees should be open to listening to different points of view and fostering productive communication.
- **Providing a Positive Work Environment:** All projects should foster a positive and respectful work environment with their colleagues and other grantees.

Applicant Response:

- I acknowledge that I have reviewed the Code of Conduct.
-

4. 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
