

# Application Report



**Applicant Organization:** Acorns to Oak Trees  
**Project Name:** Harley's Hope Project  
**Application ID:** App-22-607  
**Funding Announcement:** FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant  
**Awarded Amount:** \$600,000

**Project Summary:** Acorns to Oak Trees is a non-profit Tribal Organization committed to cultivating relationships between tribal communities and regional centers, state and county agencies to better serve tribal families and tribal children with special needs. Acorns to Oak Trees is creating a Community Navigator program through grant funding that will help to improve equity and access, and reduce barriers for I/DD individuals and families in the Native American population. Through targeted outreach efforts with the primary source of healthcare for most within our population, Indian Health Services, we will drastically increase awareness of the RC system and how to qualify for free in-home services. We will be providing culturally competent outreach materials and multi-media options to access information about developmental milestones and how to identify early warning signs. We will make it easy for families to locate their local RC's to request an assessment by providing direct links, all of which are needed to be impactful within our community. We will work with the IHS programs to increase their awareness and understanding of the RC system, and create a referral system for them to provide families with the RC contact information. Through the Acorns to Oak Trees parent navigator program, families may request one-to-one support in navigating the RC system from a tribal organization. A tremendous amount of support is required by our tribal communities to reduce many of the service access and equity barriers. This requires a shared cultural background, extensive history in working in Indian country and working directly with the families to understand the complex needs that exist.

**Authorized Certifying Official:** Season Goodpasture    season@acorns2oak.com    760-638-9668  
**Project Director/Manager:** Season Goodpasture    season@acorns2oak.com    760-638-9668  
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**Compliance/Fiscal Officer:** Season Goodpasture    season@acorns2oak.com    760-638-9668

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**Section Name:** Applicant Eligibility

**Sub Section Name:** Applicant Information

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**1. Applicant Question:** Project Title

What is the Project Title?

**Applicant Response:**

Harley's Hope Project- Native Community Navigator Program

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**2. Applicant Question:** Awarded Amount

What is the total amount requested for the project?

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**Applicant Response:**

\$600,000

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**3. Applicant Question:** Organization Type

Choose the response that best describes your organization.

**Applicant Response:**

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

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**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:**

Acorns to Oak Trees is a tribally operated and led non-profit organization that was founded to solely address service access and equity barriers that tribal families with I/DD face when identifying and accessing services for their loved ones with I/DD. Acorns to Oak Trees has two branches: Education and Outreach and Culturally Tailored Therapeutic Interventions for Native American children and families with I/DD. In March 2022 Acorns to Oak Trees first launched Harley's Hope Project which created a storytelling video that followed 4 families and their journey of coming to terms with their child's diagnosis and trying to navigate the various systems of care to access resources. Harley's Hope Project has received a tremendous amount of praise and love by not only the tribal communities who have seen it, but also from others who have watched the video and heard about the story behind Acorns to Oak Trees and why this mission is so important to us. Our website is: [www.acorns2oak.com](http://www.acorns2oak.com)

**Attachment:**

[Acorns Brochure 11 x 8.5 \(1\).pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**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:**

[Certificate of Status\\_051363222.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[Acorns FTB letter.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**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:**

Yes

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**Section Name:** Grant Reapplication Information

**Sub Section Name:** Grant Reapplications Only

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**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:**

Yes

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**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:**

Year Awarded	Project Title	Grant Number	Award Amount
2021/2022	Harley's Hope Project	21-C09	155,000

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**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:**

Harley's Hope Project's pilot year has proven to be a very impactful one, we are just nearing the end of the second quarter and have reached almost 300 families, done outreach events at three different reservations, two universities, 4 large tribal organizations (SCTCA, Tribal Justice Collaborative, Tribal STAR, and Tribal TANF), California Indian Day, and we were featured as the keynote speaker for the 1st annual California American Indian Disability Symposium.

100% of the attendees we engaged with, whether it was a tribal family, tribal leader, or professional colleague, all reported that they had no idea how high the prevalence rates of I/DD were within tribal communities and all reported that the storytelling video was incredibly impactful and brought many of them to tears and felt compelled to act or get involved in some way. Many expressed that the personal stories were very touching and quite a number of people shared how much this video meant to them because of how relatable it was and it triggered a lot of feelings related to their own experiences with their child or family member and how comforting it was to have that shared experience with someone from their own culture.

In addition to the outreach events we've hosted, we have also made substantial impacts of raising awareness about service access and equity barriers for tribal families with some other key individuals who work and serve in Indian country in California. One key person we did outreach to, given her role as the Yurok Tribal Judge and well-respected figure in Indian country is Judge Abby Abinanti who was the 1st female Native American attorney in California. Judge Abby was astounded by the statistics of tribal children affected by I/DD and admitted that she sadly had no idea that this was the case and said that she felt like she had let these families down also. Judge Abby pledged her commitment to helping Acorns to Oak Trees raise awareness of this important issue in her areas of Northern California and would also work with Acorns to Oak Trees in hosting outreach events.

Another important relationship that was established was with Beverly Miller, the Director of Indian Health Services for the state. After watching Harley's Hope Project Storytelling video, Director Miller stated that she also had no idea how high the rates were and admitted that not much was being done or discussed at IHC's across the state to serve I/DD families and there was no funding for these kinds of services. Director Miller was also unaware of the Regional Center System and their role in serving families with I/DD. Director Miller also pledged her commitment to working with Acorns to Oak Trees to increase awareness of I/DD in tribal communities and will work with Acorns to Oak Trees to provide education and outreach through their clinics across the state should we be awarded this grant.

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### **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:**

Acorns to Oak Trees' Harley's Hope Project would continue the same activities that we are currently being funded for by continuing to do outreach events in tribal communities, but we would be expanding our project's service area to include Central and Northern California Tribes as well as the 44 tribal and urban health programs under IHS.

Given the impact Harley's Hope Project has had on the tribal communities in the SDRC and IRC catchment areas, we believe that we have the unique ability to engage with and impact many other tribal communities with our same heartfelt and purpose driven approach. In addition to engaging with the families directly, we have also decided to also hold education/outreach events with the Indian Health Services programs across the state given that the majority of our tribal populations will receive their medical care for themselves and their children there. It is imperative that the Indian Health Clinic's pediatricians and OBGYN's are knowledgeable about I/DD and the prevalence rates so that they are encouraging prenatal screens for mothers and are familiar with regional center services and are making timely referrals for children who they suspect have I/DD.

For our education/outreach events with IHS programs we will be developing a pre and post survey to measure participants knowledge of I/DD, DDS and Regional Center Services pre and post events to gauge increased awareness as this will likely result in increased utilization of services by tribal families.

The primary differences of Harley's Hope Project's pilot year and this year are: expansion of catchment service area to include Central and Northern tribal communities and also expanding our target group to include IHS programs statewide in an effort to increase pediatrician referrals and increase Native American RC utilization of services. IHS has a total of 88,227 registered active patients which means that we have a huge potential to reach a very large number of Native Americans

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**Section Name:** General Application

**Sub Section Name:** Proposal Summary

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**1. Applicant Question:** Project Type

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

**Applicant Response:**

Community Connector

### **Applicant Comment:**

Acorns to Oak Trees is creating a Community Navigator program through grant funding that will help to improve equity and access and reduce barriers for I/DD individuals and families in the Native American population. Through targeted outreach efforts with the primary source of healthcare for most within our population, Indian Health Services, we will drastically increase awareness of the RC system and how to qualify for free in-home services. We will work with Indian Health Services which has 44 programs that provide healthcare to Native families, as well as other tribal organizations we currently partner with to implement a referral program. We will be providing culturally competent outreach materials and multi-media options to access information about developmental milestones and how to identify early warning signs. We will make it easy for families to locate their local RC's to request an assessment by providing direct links, all of which are needed to be impactful within our community. We will work with the IHS programs to increase their awareness and understanding of the RC system and create a referral system for them to provide families with the RC contact information. Through the Acorns to Oak Trees Navigator program, families may request one-to-one support in navigating the RC system from a tribal organization. A tremendous amount of support is required by our tribal communities to reduce many of the service access and equity barriers. This requires a shared cultural background, extensive history in working in Indian country and working directly with the families to understand the complex needs that exist. There are few people or organizations who are equipped to meet their needs or who have the established relationships that we do.

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### **2. Applicant Question:** Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

#### **Applicant Response:**

24 months

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### **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:**

- All Regional Centers/Statewide
- 

### **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:**

- All Counties / Statewide
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### **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.

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**Applicant Response:**

We will be working with Indian Health Services (IHS), Indian Child Family Preservation Program (ICFPP), and University of Southern California University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities ( USC UCEDD). We will provide training and information to all 44 IHS programs statewide and ICFPP and serve as a community navigators for the families they refer to our parent partner program. We will plan joint outreach events with USC UCEDD and cross-refer families to each other's programs.

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**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:**

No

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**7. Applicant Question:** Strategies and Sustainability

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

**Applicant Response:**

We will continue to serve as a community navigator for tribal communities across the state to help families understand the Regional Center system and provide them one to one assistance on navigating their system and also identifying other generic services their child may benefit from. We are becoming a recognizable figure across Indian Country in California and we receive multiple calls or emails every week with a new family or organization seeking our assistance and guidance. We believe that our relationships with our tribal member communities and tribal organizations will allow us to continue to be a trusted organization that will be seen as a resource for our tribal families with I/DD.

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**Sub Section Name:** Target Population

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**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:**

- Native American
- 

**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).

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**Applicant Response:**

Ethnicity Group(s)	Individuals Served	Language(s)
Native American	1000	English

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**3. Applicant Question:** Age Group(s) Served

Select all Age Groups the project will serve.

**Applicant Response:**

- Birth up to Three (Early Start)
  - Three to Five
- 

**Section Name:** Project Application

**Sub Section Name:** Project Application

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**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:**

Acorns to Oak Trees will provide a statewide community navigator for tribal communities through our established partnership with Indian Health Services who serve Native American families through its 44 health programs statewide. Acorns to Oak Trees will have quarterly trainings and meetings with IHS executive staff and IHS program staff and will develop a referral system that allows IHS healthcare programs to refer families to our parent navigator program where we will provide one to one assistance to the family to request assessments and access RC resources. We will develop culturally competent informational videos about what some early warnings signs of I/DD are and what Early Intervention is in order to reduce the "Let's wait and see...." theme that often happens with parents and pediatricians when considering seeking services. We will also develop a culturally competent app that provides a developmental milestone tracker, tips for culturally adapted activities that promote healthy development, and a feature that allows parents to enter their zip code to see what RC serves them and a direct link that takes them to that specific RC so that they can request an assessment. We will also work with Native American families who have children who are over the age of 3, to learn about accessing resources if they have missed the Early Start program age range but suspect that their child has I/DD, to address the many Native American children who were failed to be found through the Child Find system due to Covid-19 or service access and equity barriers. These videos will build upon our first Harley's Hope Project Storytelling video which helps to break down some of the barriers tribal families face when coming to terms with their child's I/DD because it will serve as a transition into an introduction to what those services that their family will receive actually look like and how they will help with their child's development. The videos will feature Native American families and Native American clinicians predominantly. Acorns to Oak Trees will also partner with Indian Child Family Preservation Program and train staff to be part of our parent partner program to help with families in the Central California region. Acorns to Oak Trees will hire a lead Northern California parent partner who will serve our tribal communities in that region. The IHS programs will use our referral forms to refer their families to one of our Parent Partner programs based upon their region. The IHS programs will also have Acorns to Oak Trees newly developed culturally tailored outreach materials we will have developed with them through another grant which will include brochures, a developmental milestone booklet, and IEP toolkit. We will also supply each Regional Center with a digital version of our materials to provide to their Native American families so they can be used as a resource and so families are able to reach out to us for additional information and support

**Attachment:**

[Acorns Brochure 11 x 8.5 \(1\).pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**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:**

See attached word document

**Attachment:**

[DDS Grant Proposal Question 2 of 7.docx](#) - WORD DOCUMENT

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**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:**

There are no programs that currently work to build relationships with Indian Health Services and their 44 Native health programs across the state to connect with Native American families. Indian Health Services is the number one most utilized healthcare program by Native American families in California and across the U.S.. Acorns to Oak Trees reached out IHS Director, Beverly Miller, and shared Harley's Hope Project Storytelling video and about our organization's mission and she admitted that she was unfamiliar with what a Regional Center was. This is astounding because she is the Director for IHS in our state and if their leadership is unfamiliar with the system, it points to lack of awareness across all of its 44 programs. Director Miller pledged her support of our initiative and our efforts to created a statewide community navigator program to raise awareness about this vital service and to help connect families with the information and support they need to access services. This program will be incredibly impactful within our tribal communities, having the potential to reach over 88k families that are registered patients.

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**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:**

Our project will help to improve equity, access, and reduce barriers for I/DD individuals and families in the Native American population because we will be targeting our outreach efforts to their primary source of healthcare for themselves and their families at the 44 IHS programs, thus drastically increasing their awareness of the RC system and how to qualify for free in-home services. We will be providing culturally competent outreach materials and multi-media ways to access information about developmental milestones and helping them identify early warning signs and making it easy for them to locate their local RC's to request an assessment by providing direct links, all of which are needed to be impactful within our community. We will work with the IHS programs to increase their awareness and understanding of the RC system, create a referral system for them to provide families with the RC contact information and Acorns to Oak Trees parent navigator program so they can request one to one support in navigating the RC system from a tribal organization. A tremendous amount of support is required by our tribal communities to reduce many of the service access and equity barriers, it requires a shared cultural background, extensive history in working in Indian country and working directly with the families to understand the complex needs that exist and there are few people or organizations who are equipped to meet their needs or who have the established relationships that we do.

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**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:**

Acorns to Oak Trees Harley's Hope Project is dedicated to working with any RC to establish or improve relationships with their tribal communities to promote equity and reduce disparities in their catchment areas and will be happy to assist if requested.

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**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:**

Yes, the proposed measures clearly track how we will measure our effectiveness in meeting our objectives.

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**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:**

Yes, the project budget is clearly tied to grant activities and project staff to complete grant activities and objectives.

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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)

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

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## 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:

See attached letter sent to RCs and the contact list used.

### Attachment:

[RC Navigator email 102422.docx](#) - WORD DOCUMENT

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## 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.
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## 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

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