

Application Report



Applicant Organization: The Alliance for Community Wellness DbA La Familia
Project Name: La Familia Service Access Program (SAP)
Application ID: App-22-562
Funding Announcement: FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant
Awarded Amount: \$740,000

Project Summary: La Familia Service Access Program (SAP) will expand to integrate a Promotores Model to deliver culturally and linguistically competent services to Hispanic and Spanish-speaking individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Our train-the-trainer framework empowers parents and caregivers who have lived experience navigating Regional Center services to implement effective outreach, engagement and leadership strategies to promote full utilization of Regional Center services and reduce disparities within Latino Families.

Authorized Certifying Official: Aaron Ortiz aortiz@livelafamilia.org 510-432-6738
Project Director/Manager: Edda Banuelos ebanuelos@lafamiliacounseling.org 510-376-4050
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Section Name: Applicant Eligibility

Sub Section Name: Applicant Information

1. Applicant Question: Project Title

What is the Project Title?

Applicant Response:

La Familia Service Access Program (SAP)

2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

\$740,000

3. Applicant Question: Organization Type

Choose the response that best describes your organization.

Applicant Response:

Community Based Organization (CBO), 501(c)(3)

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:

La Familia was founded in 1975 to advance health equity through increased access to culturally appropriate mental health services for the Latino Community and other underserved populations. Our agency remains committed to our mission of providing underserved multicultural communities with the tools and support necessary to build resilience, wellness, and economic power

Since 1977, under contract with the Regional Center of the East Bay, La Familia has provided case management and advocacy to thousands of individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities and their families. Since 2018, La Familia has been the recipient of the Promoting Service Access and Equity program grant and has served over 6,000 individuals and families.

Feedback from participants and stakeholders has demonstrated that our program successfully increases access to RCEB services and reduces disparities for Latino Regional Center clients. Please refer to our website at www.livefamilia.org for more information.

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:

[FTB Status 10.24.22.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:

Yes

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
2019-2020	La Familia Disparity Funds Program	19-C13	\$320,428
2020-2021	La Familia Disparity Funds Program	20-C13	\$330,500
2021-2022	La Familia Service Access Program (SAP)	21-C13	\$250,000
2018-2019	La Familia Disparity Funds Program	18-C13	\$314,278

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:

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, May 2021 to April 2022, La Familia provided outreach to over 3,600 Spanish-speaking individuals and engaged over 400 individuals to increase their usage of RC Services. We hosted 12 virtual orientations with a total of 291 participants, conducted 31 training and workshop sessions with a total of 1,155 participants, and created parent support groups consisting of fathers to share their experiences and perspectives on the challenges they face navigating services for their children. Based on pre/post surveys, 100% of Parent Leaders expressed that participating in the activities programmed by La Familia SAP (monthly orientations, workshops, Latino Equity Summit, etc.) has helped them increase their knowledge and confidence. They mentioned having a stronger understanding of services not only from the RCEB, but generic resources such as IHSS, SSA, and MediCal, and the ability to provide 1:1 assistance and transfer their knowledge to other parents who are seeking access to services.

As stated in our final report, we conducted the second Latino Equity Summit (Segundo Encuentro Latino de Equidad). This event was an open and welcoming space for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families to share their input about their needs and barriers to obtaining services and ideas for improving service access equity among the Spanish-speaking population. For this event, we collaborated with RCEB Equity and Diversity Specialists who attended to share a presentation on the topic "The Long Path to Equity." This event took place virtually on February 12, 2022, and brought together 260 participants: including 61 RCEB consumers, 129 caregivers, 58 other family members, and 12 professionals who attended this event. (See attached report)

During the fiscal year 2020-21, La Familia served over 300 RC clients and their families. La Familia implemented innovative outreach and engagement strategies including the facilitation of 10 orientations with a total of 119 attendees, 10 parent workshops reaching over 360 parents, 10 trainings for parent leaders, and 20 one-on-one mentoring sessions. As reported in the quarterly report, 80% of orientation attendees reported feeling more comfortable with Regional Center services and their ability to self-advocate and 100% of Parent Leaders expressed a feeling of increased confidence in their ability to help other families. All objectives and deliverables proposed in the Project Measures Worksheet were successfully met with evidence showing increased service access and ensured equitable support for Latinx RCEB clients and their families. (See attached report)

Throughout the pandemic, SAP played a critical role in maintaining connection with families and providing information and updates on DDS directives to RC's, RCEB community meetings, and other basic resources including COVID-19 testing, vaccination scheduling, and community-based PPE and food distribution events.

Attachment:

[Final Reporting FY 2020-21.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[20-C13 La Familia - Overview Report FY2021-22.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[21-C13 La Familia Counseling Services-TransactionReport-10212022 \(1\).pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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:

La Familia's current project period will end April 30, 2023. Upon award, services will continue with the new project term starting May 1, 2023. Key staff for this project are hired and trained, with infrastructure in place to ensure a seamless continuation of all current activities including, monthly orientations and outreach activities in alignment with DDS guidelines and project objectives. The La Familia Service Access Program (SAP) has consistently implemented program activities, meeting and exceeding objectives. All current services, such as outreach, education and development, will continue to be conducted in-person and virtually.

To expand on our current project, La Familia will evolve its promotores curriculum and leadership development training series to targeting Hispanic, Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers of children with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. Promotores will have hands-on opportunities to further develop self-advocacy and public speaking skills, increasing their confidence in assisting other families with accessing RC services and generic resources. Participants will attend lecture-style training sessions, committee meetings, and community workshops and outreach events.

As part of the standardized measures, La Familia will conduct pre/post assessments to measure impact and report on all 9 sections of the set measures. La Familia anticipates enrolling at least 10 promotores in the curriculum, with 90% reporting increased confidence in self-advocacy, public speaking, digital literacy, and ability to navigate services inside and outside the RC system.

La Familia proposes the integration of a promotores model to cultivate community leaders and self-advocates who can assist other families while developing their own capacities, leading to career development and pathways beyond our agency. Our program has led to career advancement, economic opportunities, and upward mobility for Latino families.

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:

Community Connector

Applicant Comment:

La Familia has selected the Community Connector project.

2. Applicant Question: Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

Applicant Response:

24 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:

- Regional Center of the East Bay
-

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:

- Alameda County
 - Contra Costa 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:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

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

7. Applicant Question: Strategies and Sustainability

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

Applicant Response:

La Familia SAP is committed to increase service access and equity with the purpose of increasing the likelihood of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities being able to reside in the least restrictive environment and having the ability to choose if they stay with their family or live independently. La Familia has established deep-rooted relationships in the community and continues to explore partnerships and funding opportunities to expand our existing services. The staff for this proposed project are active leaders in the developmental disabilities network as members of the Developmental Disabilities Council in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, Congreso Familiar, RCEB-Diversity and Equity Committee, Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee, Autism Star Conference, and the State Council of Developmental Disabilities. Our agency is committed to partnering with local and statewide organizations to advocate for the Latinx community.

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

Applicant Comment:

People who identify as Hispanic, Latino, Latinx, or Indigenous and are primarily Spanish speaking.

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	500	Spanish

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
- Three to 21
- 16 to 21
- 22 and older

Applicant Comment:

Services will target the Regional Center of the East Bay consumers or potential consumers and their families who identify as Hispanic, Latino, Latinx, or indigenous and are primarily Spanish speakers of all ages, with emphasis on families living below the federal poverty line.

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:

La Familia has over 45 years of experience providing case management, health education and advocacy services for Latino, Spanish-speaking residents in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. La Familia has successfully managed DDS grant funding since January 2018, reaching over 6,000 individuals and families who are eligible for Regional Center (RC) services.

La Familia Service Access Program (SAP) will provide individualized support to a total of 250 clients annually in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, providing outreach to an additional 3,600 individuals. Services will target Regional Center East Bay (RCEB) consumers or potential consumers and their families who identify as Hispanic, Latino, Latinx, or indigenous and are Spanish speakers of all ages, with emphasis on families living below the federal poverty line. While La Familia services will directly target RCEB consumers, our reach goes beyond our immediate service area and has increased RC service awareness and utilization among neighboring communities such as Yolo, Sacramento, Merced, San Mateo, Sonoma, Fresno, and other counties.

In alignment with the Community Connector project, our program design will integrate our Promotores Model to deliver culturally and linguistically competent services and activities, implementing Community Connectors in a Promotores role, reshaping our current Parent Leader position to encompass outreach, peer support, and leadership development. Promotores are not only characterized by sharing similar lived experience navigating RC services and overcoming barriers to service access and delivery, but have a sense of responsibility to their families and the larger community in ensuring that the needs of children and individuals with disabilities are met.

Their passion, “Servicio de corazón” (service from the heart), scholarship and self determination are what allow parent support groups to successfully navigate the service system and go on to educate their peers and fellow community members.

Monthly orientations in Spanish are facilitated by the Program Supervisor. The Family Support Specialist engages directly with each client and serves as a point of contact for 1:1 consultation. Parents are encouraged to participate in monthly workshops that cover topics such as Individualized Program Plan (IPP), Self-Determination, Living options, RCEB services and generic resources available such as Special Education, IHSS, SSDI/SSI, Supported Decision Making (SDM), and immigration support services.

La Familia has demonstrated success in engaging Latino community members in need of RC services. Our agency is committed to continuing this work over the 24 month period and will continuously adapt implementation to effectively address barriers, increase utilization, build trust and promote equity. See attached annual report for FY 20/21.

Attachment:

[Final Reporting FY 2020-21.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[20-C13 La Familia - Overview Report FY2021-22.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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:

La Familia is dedicated to Spanish-speaking families with children experiencing developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. RC POS expenditure data for FY 2020-21 unveils inequities between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking children, with seven RCs, including RCEB, having disparities that exceed \$5,000 in favor of White over Hispanic Children. In FY 2020-21, six regional centers had rates of unserved children exceeding 40% of the total eligible population, with RCEB at 52%, the highest deprivation rate among all regional centers.

Input is collected via focus groups, anonymous surveys, listening sessions, community outreach, and 1:1 interviews. Many report feeling overwhelmed as they navigate RC and social services. This is consistent with RC POS data showing that utilization of services for children ages 3 to 21 has decreased over time, suggesting that services offered by the RC's are not easily attainable for Hispanic families.

La Familia is a trusted voice in the Hispanic community and maintains strong partnerships within the health, social services and legal systems to promote inclusivity and cultural awareness as a pillar of County health programs. La Familia has developed curriculums and training courses for Promotores to engage parent-led support groups who then form cohorts of families banded together to educate, inform and problem-solve to reduce barriers, improve quality of care for individuals with disabilities and ensure high utilization of RC services.

Attachment:

[La Familia SAP Testimonials \(1\).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:

La Familia's proposed Community Connector project will be an extension of our current SAP program, which has been funded by DDS since 2018. Unique to this project is the integration of a highly-structured promotores model, a train-the-trainer framework that empowers parents and caregivers who have lived experience navigating RC services to implement effective outreach, engagement and leadership strategies to promote full utilization of RC services. Our promotores-led approach is a new program component to further reduce barriers that prevent families from seeking services and exercising their rights while continuing to strengthen trust between public systems and the Latino Community.

All SAP staff and Promotores (previously known as Parent Leaders) are Hispanic and bilingual. The promotores curriculum will enhance existing services by adding new parent-led support groups, strengthening efforts around community needs assessment and collecting consumer feedback, and increasing overall impact of SAP services. Simultaneously Promotores will train and encourage their peers to become trusted messengers that guide Latino families as they navigate RC services and other public resources, laying the foundation to transform and build community capacity. The link between Latino communities sharing information through interpersonal communication via social networks, community gatherings, and health and social service agencies is a culturally responsive solution to the disparities present.

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 Promotores are trusted messengers who share similar life experiences, values, language, and ethnic identity with our Latino population. Promotores have deep roots, strong social connections and a commitment to serve as trusted links between disability service providers and the community to increase family access to needed resources. The cultural competence and humility of Promotores allow them to deliver messages about public services available to individuals with disabilities in a manner that is well-received and less likely to be condescending and threatening.

Our Promotores model aims to build community capacity and reduce disparities through various activities such as outreach, community education, counseling, support groups, and advocacy. Promotores work in diverse settings throughout Alameda and Contra Costa, including unincorporated, rural and urban neighborhoods. Within these diverse settings, our Promotores engage marginalized communities who live in areas that are hard to reach or have limited resources and provide them with the tools and information needed to seek access to services. Our engagement within Latinx communities provides insight into the issues and barriers they face as well as pivotal information that may help agencies offer services in appropriate and supportive ways.

La Familia publishes all, brochures, and digital content in Spanish, including our newsletter and utilizes digital platforms to raise awareness of services. See attached media.

Attachment:

[SAP Media Portfolio 2022 .pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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:

To promote equity and reduce disparities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, La Familia will increase the utilization of RCEB services for Spanish-speaking clients and families. In alignment with the DDS 2022-2023 Grant Priorities, La Familia SAP will support the outlined list of activities, with an emphasis on community connectors and promotores to promote service access for Latino RCEB clients and potential clients of all ages, improve access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services, develop Latino leaders within the RC community; and establish community partnerships. La Familia will continue to work with RCEB in alignment with 2022 Disparity Measures Report to strengthen outreach efforts in underserved communities and support local community-based organizations with participation in events, dissemination of information and data, and other targeted outreach as needed.

La Familia has many established partnerships such as with the Alameda County District Attorney's office by conducting workshops with law enforcement to deter people with disabilities from the criminal system and into RC services and treatment for care; with Congressman Eric Swalwell by advocating for several legislative campaigns and measures to support the health outcomes of people with disabilities; and with UC Davis MIND Institute in support of programs and research opportunities to disseminate information about RC services.

Attachment:

[Alameda County District Attorney's Office .pdf](#) - PDF FILE
[Alameda DD Council Letter of support.pdf](#) - PDF FILE
[CEDD MIND Institute - UC Davis - Letter of support.pdf](#) - PDF FILE
[DD Council Letter of Support for La Familia 9.30.22.pdf](#) - PDF FILE
[SCDD - La Familia DDS Equity Support Letter 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE
[Letter of support Congressman Eric Swalwell .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:

Yes, La Familia's proposed measures effectively track project objectives and activities, provides insight to help guide project success, monitor key indicators of community wellbeing to inform improvement strategies when accessing RC services, and demonstrates an impact in reducing disparities among Latino populations.

La Familia will provide pre-and post-assessments to measure the project's impact on participants and is aware of the standardized measures (nine sections) required to report on post-award. Per RFP the set performance measures and objectives were not modified and La Familia will work closely with DDS to modify them as advised upon contract execution.

The set standardized measures for the community connector/promotores project type directly correlate with La Familia SAP project objective and will allow for proper evaluation and thorough assessment of impact. La Familia will track qualitative and quantitative data for each of the nine standardized measures as a source of information for the effectiveness of a promotores model on reducing disparities among Latinx communities statewide.

Quantitative measures such as the # of participants in our promotores program, POS expenditures before and after our program implementation, # of orientations, # of attendees at orientations, committee meetings, parent support groups and trainings; and demographic information of attendees allow program staff to evaluate effectiveness in reaching La Familia SAP's target population. Furthermore, qualitative measures such as client satisfaction surveys, open-ended questions conducted by 1:1 interviews and focus groups will provide insight into individual experience and impact.

Collectively, these measures provide comprehensive data to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of La Familia SAP services. Data is reviewed monthly and discussed during Local Advisory Committee meetings to identify opportunities for improvement and changes that can be made to increase the engagement of Latinx families who have children with developmental disabilities in RC services.

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:

See completed Budget Template with justification and narrative.

Attachment:

[LA Familia SAP Staff Resume 2022 .pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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:

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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.

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
