

Application Report



Applicant Organization: California Tribal Families Coalition

Project Name: Year 2 of Protecting and Strengthening Tribal Families with Developmental Disabilities Project

Application ID: App-22-661

Funding Announcement: FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant

Awarded Amount: \$297,615

Project Summary: The objective of Year 2 of Protecting and Strengthening Tribal Families with Developmental Disabilities Project is to educate and empower tribal leaders and tribal representatives (social workers, TANF employees, head start staff, etc.) to increase access to intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services for tribal families involved in child welfare by creating materials, providing statewide trainings, and building relationships between Regional Centers (RCs) and tribal communities. The project will provide statewide trainings related to service access, the RC system (including how tribal service providers can become vendors and caretakers within the RC system), consumer advocacy, culturally appropriate services, and developmental disabilities within the realm of child welfare. The project will engage with the 21 RCs and tribal nations in California. The project will increase the knowledge of tribal leaders, tribal justice systems and child welfare systems on topics relating to the intersection of Indian children with IDD in state and tribal child welfare cases. The project will also create model tools on how to deploy best practices in leveraging RC services in child welfare case planning. The program will build upon materials developed in the first year (2021-22) of the project so tribal leaders and representatives can better serve tribal families navigating IDD services and child welfare systems.

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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:

Year 2 of Protecting and Strengthening Tribal Families with Developmental Disabilities Project

2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

\$297,615

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:

CTFC was established in 2017 by tribal leaders to provide a strong and unified voice on behalf of tribal children. The organization was initially formed to implement the comprehensive findings of the California ICWA Compliance Task Force. CTFC now works with member tribes to work on key legislation, train stakeholders, improve policy, and be present in courtrooms in state ICWA cases. Our mission is to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal children and families, which are inherent tribal governmental functions and are at the core of tribal sovereignty and tribal governance. CTFC has managed a number of statewide projects, one solely focused on early intervention in tribal communities, and has proven to be successful in engaging key stakeholders (e.g. tribal leaders, tribal social workers and CDSS) to achieve program objectives. Most recently, the organization managed a DDS SAE grant in 2021-22 that this proposal builds upon. <https://caltribalfamilies.org/>

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_1666379032271 10-22.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:

Yes

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
FY 2021-22	Eliminating Barriers and Bias in Tribal Child Welfare Cases - the Intersection of ICWA and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	21-C30	250,000.00

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:

In FY 2021-22, we were funded both through an SAE grant and another related intellectual and developmental disability project. We are now a little over halfway through Year 1 of both projects and to date, we have conducted five (5) tribal listening sessions, launched the 1st Annual California Indian Disability Symposium, and drafted five (5) different sets of curriculum aimed at training Regional Centers (RCs) about engaging with tribal communities and at tribal leaders and social workers about how to connect tribal families to RC services. Because of the relationships between tribal communities and RCs we are building and awareness about available services we are raising, we know of at least six (6) new trainings that RCs held in tribal communities that they had never engaged in before. Additionally, we have started making changes in our own legal practice in state dependency cases governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). For example, because we are building our internal capacity and knowledge on the topic of IDD and Regional Centers, we have connected four (4) families with a total of eight tribal member children (because of sibling connections) involved in child welfare cases with getting assessments – they are now going through the process of determining eligibility for RC services. Recommending RC assessments did not used to be a part of our regular practice or trainings, and now it is. We have engaged with at least 31 tribal communities in Year 1 of the projects and six (6) RCs.

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:

This builds on our current project by including 2 former and adding 2 new activities. Our IDD work in 2021-22 included hosting listening sessions and building relationships between tribes and RCs. Lessons learned through that work were twofold – tribal representatives need more training on how 1) to help tribal families access IDD services; and 2) tribal service providers can become vendors or certified caretakers. Proposed changes to address these two lessons include:

1) Build on Year 1 Activity 4 curriculum by developing model documents to be used to improve access to RC services in child welfare and train up to 5 new tribal communities. We propose this because we heard that having model documents would expedite the process for tribal social workers to change practice immediately.

2) Maintain, update, and make a publicly searchable database building on the database established in Year 1 Activity 1. We propose to continue this activity in Year 2 because we heard from tribes and RCs it would be useful in case planning and outreach and engagement.

3) Work with tribal communities and tribal caretakers to become vendors/certified and create an online training module that other tribal service providers and caretakers can follow. We propose this because we heard in Year 1 that even if children qualify for services, they often cannot access because of transportation. However, some tribes and caretakers already offer services. If we increase local vendors and caretakers, tribal members who reside far from a RC location, could still access services. We also know respite care is the service most needed by Native RC consumers. If caretakers from the community were certified and could provide respite care through the RC, families could stay closer to home and improve quality of life.

4) Continue and expand the 2nd Annual California Indian Disability Symposium so it includes training about services for ages 3+.

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

Applicant Comment:

- **Education and Training -**

Increase self-advocate/family knowledge about topics relating to service access, the regional center system, leadership development, business development, advocacy, independent facilitation, implicit bias, and developmental disabilities.

2. Applicant Question: Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

Applicant Response:

12 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:

- 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
-

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:

N/A

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:

CTFC regularly trains and hosts events in tribal communities, so once we have developed the curriculum and internal capacity, we will be able to continue the project by including trainings in existing events. We will also continue spreading awareness through a myriad of platforms including statewide ICWA conferences, CDSS Office of Tribal Affair meetings, and through CTFC’s website, social media, newsletters and mailers. CTFC has a variety of funding streams with tribal donations and contract work being the largest contributors to our operations budget. While grant funding is needed for the first several years of the project to establish infrastructure, because we started relationship building and training in at least 31 tribal communities in Year 1 of our DDS projects, we are confident we will be able to fundraise and source other funding to continue the project when grant funding has concluded because tribes are invested in seeing the work continue for such an important population.

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:

- 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).

Applicant Response:

Ethnicity Group(s)	Individuals Served	Language(s)
Native American	100	English

3. Applicant Question: Age Group(s) Served

Select all Age Groups the project will serve.

Applicant Response:

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

Applicant Comment:

We have other funded work to focus on ages 0-3, so this project will focus on tribal members aged 3+

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:

California Tribal Families Coalition is uniquely equipped to provide education and training to tribal communities and to develop a statewide 'best practice' model for how tribal representatives and tribal justice systems can improve access for tribal families to IDD services. CTFC's sole mission is to promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of tribal children and families. While we have primarily worked towards this mission in the field of child welfare, this project now provides the opportunity to improve the child welfare system in a new way – by increasing system knowledge about IDD services that so many Indian children involved in child welfare desperately need.

CTFC is a statewide tribal organization that represents almost half of all tribes in California. The organization was founded by and continues to be driven by a board of directors comprised entirely of duly elected tribal leaders. All members of CTFC's staff have dedicated their careers to helping and serving tribal communities with combined experience of 92 years of service in Indian Country.

The *Protecting and Strengthening Tribal Families with Developmental Disabilities Project* will educate and empower tribal leaders and tribal representatives (social workers, TANF employees, head start staff, etc.) to increase access to intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services for tribal families involved in child welfare by creating materials, providing statewide trainings, and building relationships between Regional Centers (RCs) and tribal communities.

The project will provide statewide training related to service access, the RC system (including how tribal service providers can become vendors and caretakers within the RC system), consumer advocacy, culturally appropriate services, and developmental disabilities within the realm of child welfare. The project will engage with all 21 RCs and tribal nations in California. The project will increase the knowledge of tribal leaders, tribal justice systems and child welfare systems on topics relating to the intersection of Indian children with IDD in state and tribal child welfare cases. The project will also create model tools on how to deploy best practices in leveraging RC services in child welfare case planning. The program will build upon materials developed in the first year (2021-22) of the project so tribal leaders and representatives can better serve tribal families navigating IDD services and child welfare systems.

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:

According to RC POS data reports for RCs in 2019, Natives make up less than 1% of consumers served. We do not have clear data about how many Natives in CA have an IDD, but Native people nationally have disproportionately higher rates of disabilities generally. Additionally, according to the DDS *Background and Process for Developing Disparity Measures* published in March 2019 in FY 2015/16, average POS expenditures were \$11,952 for consumers who identify with a racial/ethnic group other than White, while POS expenditures for White consumers averaged \$22,140. That paired with the fact that there is little Native specific data available within the DDS system because Natives are lumped into the "Other" category in most DDS performance measures, we can infer that Native families are going underserved by the system. CTFC also conducted a survey in 2019 to gather information from tribal leaders and tribal social workers. Based on survey responses and interviews, we designed this project to address the biggest areas of concern (e.g. lack of education and resources) through education and training. This Year 2 proposal is also based on feedback we received in Year 1 of our DDS-related work. We held 5 listening sessions and had numerous conversations with tribal representatives about what more is needed to improve access to services in their communities. This proposal builds upon the trainings we are creating and piloting in Year 1.

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:

After reviewing the list of recently funded DDS projects, we found this proposed project to be unique in the systems-change approach we are taking to address the issue of inequity in access and barriers to services in tribal communities through educating tribal leaders, tribal representatives and tribal justice systems. Additionally, no other funded programs have developed advocacy and training tools designed exclusively for tribal communities to promote best practice in developing model child welfare guidance tools for tribal children with IDDs. While the proposal is similar and builds on our other DDS funded work aimed at increasing education around Tribal Early Start, this proposal is distinct and separate as it focuses on a tribal youth population aged 3+ and on those tribal children involved in child welfare, allowing us to provide education and training on the full spectrum of tribal RC consumers.

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:

The project will provide tribal leaders, tribal representatives, and tribal justice systems with education and advocacy tools so they have the knowledge needed to identify tribal families who have, or are at risk of having, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and the system knowledge necessary to access them. Often, tribal families are underserved by state systems because the system, and folks working in the system, lack the knowledge and experience needed to effectively serve and engage tribal families and tribes. This project will leverage CTFC's trusted standing within tribal communities around the state to ensure maximum tribal input and engagement are used to inform RC services and outreach.

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:

This project supports the RC's plan to promote equity and reduce disparities in their catchment areas by addressing some of the most reported barriers: lack of understanding about developmental and intellectual disabilities, lack of understanding of the RC system and services, and the lack of understanding the eligibility criteria and the appeal process. The project will accomplish this by providing education and training to perhaps the RCs most underserved population, tribal families. The project will collaborate with tribal social service departments, tribal justice systems, and state courts who all serve tribal children with IDD's in the child welfare system.

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:

The schedule of activities is designed to ensure maximum tribal community engagement and input as well as the development of critical relationships with RCs, all of which will be used in the development of grant activity deliverables and provision of trainings and listening sessions. All grant activities demonstrate steps towards providing the tribal communities with the education they need in order to understand RC functions, increasing the likelihood of better access and equity of service for tribal families. CTFC will measure completion of proposed activities including, the number of educational materials developed, the number of trainings provided, and the number of tribal service providers engaged in project activities. To measure the effectiveness of these activities on increasing issue awareness and advocacy confidence, CTFC will conduct pre and post surveys with providers trained and engaged that measure the reported increase in advocacy confidence and issue awareness. By gathering data and documenting narratives about successes throughout the program, CTFC intends to measure the effect of the increased knowledge and confidence in the number of tribal providers that report increased discussion of screening and referral with families, state courts, and state child welfare systems. CTFC will measure the number of tribal providers trained that report increased referrals to regional center services. CTFC will also analyze available regional center purchase of service demographic data pre and post project (dependent on publicly available regional center data) to further measure the project's effectiveness in reaching the objective.

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:

The project budget is consistent with our project and activities because funding is directly allocated to personnel who have the capacity and who will be responsible for the development of or the training of culturally appropriate materials and curricula, developing a culturally appropriate outreach plan and tools consistent with tribal community standards, the development of measurement tools for program measures and project evaluation, and implementation of training in multiple platforms (e.g. social media, website, and in-person). The budget also reflects travel and related support to host five trainings in tribal communities around the state as well as to create an online training module that can be used for years to come.

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:

We work closely with 3 RCs (Kern County Regional Center, Far Northern Regional Center, and San Diego Regional Center). This proposal builds upon our Year 1 funded project which was developed in close partnership with the three RCs we work with.

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
