

# Application Report



**Applicant Organization:** The Regents of the University of California, Irvine  
**Project Name:** Increasing Access Through Education & Screening  
**Application ID:** App-22-535  
**Funding Announcement:** FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant  
**Awarded Amount:** \$343,000

**Project Summary:** Our project design is primarily an interactive parent training effort. Parents will learn about their children's conditions and needs, with more than 30 training events planned for this proposal. They will learn about therapies, services and community supports that are beneficial and they will learn how to access these programs. Parents will be able to access ongoing support and social connection if they choose through our Spanish Support Group, Parent Navigation Groups, English Parent-to-Parent Group, and/or Developing Parent Advocates/Empowering Women of Color Group.

**Authorized Certifying Official:** Erika Blossom    erika.blossom@uci.edu    (949) 824-2237  
**Project Director/Manager:** Peter Chung    CHUNG PJ@HS.UCI.EDU    -  
**Project Manager/Coordinator:** Maureen Dillon    mdillon@hs.uci.edu  
**Compliance/Fiscal Officer:** Griselda Duran    griseld@uci.edu    (949) 824-6828

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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:**

Increasing Access Through Education and Screening

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**2. Applicant Question:** Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

**Applicant Response:**

\$343,000

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**3. Applicant Question:** Organization Type

Choose the response that best describes your organization.

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**Applicant Response:**

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

**Attachment:**

[Chung 2671431 Model Agreement 10.25.22.docx](#) - WORD DOCUMENT

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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:**

As part of UC Irvine Health, the Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders (CAND) is a multidisciplinary center that seeks to provide help and hope to children, adolescents, young adults, and their families living with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other neurodevelopmental disorders through excellent clinical care, innovative research, quality education and training, and community engagement. We provided educational events and developmental screening to over 850 families during our DDS Disparity Program grant that ended in April of 2022. We are currently implementing several training and screening activities funded through the DDS Disparity Funds Program. Our website is <https://www.thecenter4autism.org>

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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:**

[Supporting doc--UC Tax ID and status\\_22.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:**

Not Applicable

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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

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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
2020-2021	Increasing Access Through Education and Screening	20-C32	260000
2021-2022	Increasing Access Through Education and Screening	21-C32	250000

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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:**

During fiscal year 20/21 we provided 3 virtual developmental screening events for 46 children/families, and 26 parent training events reaching over 660 individuals/families. We also held our first virtual Spanish conference on Transition to Adulthood with over 135 participants.

During fiscal year 21/22 so far we've held over 15 parent training and support group events with over 370 participants. Additionally, our Spanish transition to adulthood series had 748 attendees. Our second annual Spanish conference was attended by over 160 people. We held a virtual developmental screening event with Illumination Foundation and screened 10 children and provided information and resource connection to their families who are experiencing homelessness. We've established our new Empowering Women of Color Group. With our LEAD-ABC scholar interns, we developed a virtual resource toolkit for families that identify as Black, African American, Caribbean and multiracial, which we hope to disseminate throughout the next year. We have made several new connections with other agencies and individuals working to support African American, Black and Multiracial families and continue to develop opportunities to collaborate with these and other groups in our community. We are currently planning several events that will be completed by the end of our current grant year in February 2023.

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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:**

If awarded, we will be able to continue providing several of our educational workshops and support group for families in Spanish, specifically:

All About ABA, Supporting Early Childhood, Support Group, Empowering One Parent to Another, Parent-Child Self-Care Series and Annual Conference.

Based on feedback from families that have attended our workshops, support group and input from our Latino FAC, we are proposing the following new educational events in Spanish: Expanded Series on Accessing Adult Transition Related Employment and Young Adult Services with 10 sessions, Technology/Virtual Meetings training, Parent Navigation Group, Quarterly Spanish Newsletter.

We plan to continue the following workshops and groups for families that identify as African American, Black and Multiracial: From Power Struggle to Partnership, All About ABA, Supporting Early Childhood and Developing Parent Advocates/Empowering Women of Color.

We plan to engage 2 parents from the Empowering Women of Color group to begin forming a Family Coalition for families that are African American, Black and/or Multiracial and support outreach efforts to families to attend our trainings and groups and provide information on the Regional Center of Orange County. These parents will attend meetings with our team, provide input on grant projects/curriculum and outreach efforts, and provide feedback throughout the grant cycle.

We plan to continue our parent-to-parent group in English and our developmental screening events.

Based on feedback from families and our Center’s experience in providing clinical care for adolescent and young adult patients, we have planned an English series on transition. We understand advancing person-centered services and supports for transition-age youth is a priority area of focus and this series will include information about person-centered planning and inform families about the variety of supports available as they plan for adulthood.

**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:**

To reduce disparities in access to Regional Center (RCOC) services for Hispanic and African American families in Orange County, we propose providing over 30 training events, 3 developmental screenings, parent navigation meetings, monthly parent support groups, empowerment training and dedicated outreach efforts to Spanish-speaking Latinx families and families that are African American, Black and Multiracial. We will continue fostering the leadership development among our Latino FAC parents through grant projects and initiate a parent advocacy effort for African American, Black and Multiracial families with children with 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:**

- Regional Center of Orange County
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### **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:**

- Orange County
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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.

#### **Applicant Response:**

We will be working with Help Me Grow Orange County for each of our developmental screening events. We will hold one developmental screening event in collaboration with Illumination Foundation to reach families experiencing homelessness. We will host one screening event in partnership with the LEAD-ABC scholars from UCI and community partners that support African American, Black and Multiracial families. Please see attached letters of support.

#### **Attachment:**

[Illumination Foundation LOS.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[CAND LOS\\_Help Me Grow \\_10.20.22.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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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?

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**Applicant Response:**

We intend to record some training events hosted with Zoom Webinar so they can be available for anyone to view on our YouTube page. We are part of a larger university-based autism research collaborative with several locations across the US, and we often take the lead on efforts to reduce disparities particularly for Latino families when we are working with the other programs on projects, and share our materials and strategies. We are involved in 2 projects with Equity in OC aimed at improving health, wellness and quality of life outcomes for persons with disabilities in Orange County. Our Center also leads ECHO programs (a virtual learning networks to support health care providers in delivering evidenced-based care for their patients with autism) such as our upcoming ECHO Autism: ABA Therapy Provider series starting in 2023. We can disseminate information through our ECHO network and Equity in OC collaborative workgroups.

**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:**

- African American
- Hispanic
- Other (list)

**Applicant Comment:**

"Other" includes families that identify as multiracial and includes families experiencing homelessness.

**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/Latinx	415	Spanish
African American/Black/Multiracial	120	English
Families experiencing homelessness	10	English/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

**Applicant Comment:**

Parents of children birth-21 will be served through these projects.

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**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:**

To reduce disparities in access to Regional Center (RCOC) services for Hispanic and African American families in Orange County, we propose providing over 30 training events, 3 developmental screenings, parent navigation meetings, technology/virtual meeting training, a quarterly Spanish newsletter, monthly parent support groups, empowerment training and dedicated outreach efforts to Spanish-speaking Latinx families and families that are African American, Black and Multiracial. We will continue fostering the leadership development among our Latino FAC parents through grant projects and initiate a parent advocacy effort for African American, Black and Multiracial families with children with developmental disabilities.

Our project design is primarily an interactive parent training effort. Parents will learn about their children's conditions and needs. They will learn about therapies, services and community supports that are beneficial and they will learn how to access these programs. Parents will be able to access ongoing support and social connection if they choose through our Spanish Support Group, Parent Navigation Groups, English Parent-to-Parent Group, and/or Developing Parent Advocates/Empowering Women of Color Group. We have demonstrated our successful educational efforts for Spanish-speaking families with previous DDS grants, and have continued to reach hundreds of families throughout the pandemic with virtual events and the support of our Latino Family Advisory Committee (FAC) and bilingual parent-staffed outreach team. We attribute much of the success in reaching so many families to the leadership capacity that has developed among our FAC parents over the past 7 years since we launched the FAC. Our FAC parents have grown in their roles over time and now undertake many of the components of our educational events including developing and giving presentations. They are true leaders in their communities and share their knowledge and lived experience with families they encounter. Our African American Parent Advocate and Educator has embarked on a similar effort with African American, Black and Multiracial families with her launch of the Empowering Women of Color group this year. Our efforts engaging African American, Black and Multiracial families with children with developmental disabilities in Orange County is unique and the feedback from parents who are involved in our trainings and groups has underlined the continued need. Parent leadership development takes time and we are actively engaging with community partners and our own involved parents to continue this effort. We hope to establish parent advisors with individuals involved in our Empowering Women of Color group who can help us grow outreach efforts to African American, Black and Multiracial Families. We will provide RCOC with all flyers for our events to share with families.

Please see the attached plan summary document for additional details about each educational event.

**Attachment:**

[CAND DDS Plan Activities Detailed Descriptions.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:**

RCOC presented FY 2020-21 POS Expenditure data on March 16, 2022 and consistent with the last several years the largest disparity exists for the Hispanic population. Expenditure for Hispanics is lower across all age ranges. Forty-nine percent (over 1,000 individuals) of Spanish-speaking consumers ages 3-21 had no POS. Feedback comments during the Zoom presentation included in the report to DDS indicate that Latinx/Spanish-speaking families continue to experience challenges in communicating with their service coordinators, understanding what services and supports are available, and gaining access to needed services. We also receive this feedback from families that attend our trainings and express appreciation for learning about services and how to request them from RCOC. We developed our project with our Latino FAC parents and Outreach Team members who are bilingual Latinx parents of children with autism, please review their attached letter.

POS data from RCOC shows disparities for Black/African American families. For FY 2020-2021, African American consumers ages 3 to 21 had per capita expenditures of \$5,984 compared to \$10,084 for White consumers. We have received feedback from families attending our workshops similar to the feedback from Spanish-speaking families regarding the helpfulness of these educational events. We specifically met with parents in the Empowering Women of Color group for their input on this proposal. Please review their attached letter.

**Attachment:**

[LOS- LFAC- 2023-2024.docx.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[CAND DDS grant parents letter Oct 2022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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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:**

We have reviewed the current funded projects on the Department's website and we are the only organization specifically providing outreach, education and training for Hispanic/Spanish-speaking families and African American/Black and Multiracial families in Orange County. Our virtual developmental screening events are also unique to our catchment area, including our developmental screenings for families experiencing homelessness.

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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 improve equity, access and reduce barriers through the following:

- Providing educational events to Hispanic/Spanish-speaking families and African American families about developmental disabilities and effective interventions and support services available through RCOC and in the community
  - Providing information about how to access services, navigate systems and deal with barriers
  - Decreasing stigma about developmental disabilities and reducing social isolation through virtual, interactive training events
  - Providing educational events about the importance of planning for transition to adulthood and information on specific programs for young adults
  - Supporting the empowerment of parents to identify the unique needs of their children and how to participate in IEP and IPP processes in order to access appropriate services and support
  - Identifying young children with developmental delays and assisting their families in connecting with Regional Center for Early Start services and/or other community-based programs through developmental screening events
  - Increasing knowledge about early childhood development, ways to encourage play in children and develop early learning skills while strengthening family bonds
  - Increase knowledge of technology and how to attend virtual meetings, appointments and events and be an active participant
  - Increasing knowledge about mental health, sleep hygiene and nutrition and community resources to support these areas
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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:

RCOC has reported to the community and DDS that the largest disparity exists for the Hispanic population in Orange County. A position for a new bilingual Spanish-speaking educational consultation was filled at RCOC this past year, and some Hispanic consumers with no POS are now receiving more intensive case management services through RCOC. The RCOC presentation and letter to DDS do not detail extensive RC plans to promote equity and reduce disparities.

Our proposal provides several interactive educational opportunities and group navigation meetings for this community in Spanish so that families can be better informed of services and learn skills to advocate for their children. We are in ongoing conversations with RCOC about opportunities to collaborate on efforts to provide outreach and more support to African American and Black families. If we are able to further involve parents from our Empowering Women of Color as advisors with the support of this grant, we will include them in any opportunities to share their experiences and provide input on outreach efforts or other strategies to reduce disparities for this community in collaboration with RCOC.

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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:

Our proposed measures include both qualitative and quantitative data. Quantitative data include post workshop surveys, the number of attendees attending each workshop, the number of children who attend a Developmental Screening (as well as the number of children who are referred to RCOC following the screening). After attending a workshop or workshop series, all attendees will answer questions about how confident they are about knowledge relating to Regional Center services on a Likert Scale (1= Strongly Disagree; 5= Strongly Agree") via a Zoom poll. Zoom poll will ensure that all attendees answer the post- workshop survey. For example, after attending our Supporting Early Childhood workshop, attendees will answer the question "I now understand that my child may continue to be eligible for Regional Center services after the age of 3." We will aim for a "post-workshop average" of 4 for each question and provide each post-workshop group average to DDS. These post-workshop group averages will help us appropriately track our project's objective to reach 555 individuals and help them Agree to Strongly Agree that they now know how to access Regional Center services. Qualitative data includes narrative responses (success stories and challenges) from attendees who participate in our workshops/workshop series and developmental screenings. These narrative responses will help our Center to learn more about how the attendees' participation in our workshops has impact on the lives of their family members.

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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:

Our budget costs include 3 clinicians who identify as African American/Black (1 medical provider and 2 psychologists), 1 Community Education Specialist who identifies as an African American a mother of children with developmental disabilities and parent advocate, 4 providers who are Spanish-speaking (1 medical provider, 2 social workers, and 1 BCBA) as well as 3 Community Education Specialists who are bilingual Spanish-speaking parents of children with autism. These budget costs are necessary in order to increase awareness of and access to Regional Center and Generic Community services among Latinx/Spanish-Speaking and Black/African American families in Orange County. Our other operating costs consist of software subscriptions and materials (photocopying handouts and postage to mail out these photocopies to families who attend our events virtually, as well as telecommunications to call families) that will allow us to host our events virtually. Based on feedback from families, virtual events are easier to access because they do not require transportation costs or childcare. We can confirm that our budget does not include non-allowable costs or costs funded by other sources.

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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:

Larry Landauer llandauer@rcocdd.com

Kaitlynn Truong ktruong@rcocdd.com

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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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