Application Report



Applicant Organization: Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project

Project Name: MICOP Acceso Year 5

Application ID: App-22-556

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

Awarded Amount: \$750,000

Project Summary: Proyecto Acceso (ACESSO), if approved, would enter its 5th year as a DDS SAE project whose target population is Indigenous children ages 0-21 and their family caregivers. This Project will conduct outreach and education, case management, and empowerment activities and opportunities in order to reduce disparities in access among Indigenous migrant communities.

Authorized Certifying Official: Victor Espinosa victor.espinosa@mixteco.org 805-850-8327

Project Director/Manager: Victor Espinosa victor.espinosa@mixteco.org 805-850-8327

Project Manager/Coordinator: Liliana Manriquez liliana.manriquez@mixteco.org

Compliance/Fiscal Officer: Victor Espinosa victor.espinosa@mixteco.org 805-850-8327

Section Name: Applicant Eligibility

Sub Section Name: Applicant Information

1. Applicant Question: Project Title

What is the Project Title?

Applicant Response:

MICOP Acceso Year 5: Promoting Service Access among Indigenous Communities

2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

\$750,000

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:

MICOP's mission is to support, organize, and empower the Indigenous migrant communities on California's Central Coast. MICOP houses over 20 programs that focus explicitly on in-language services to Indigenous language-speaking community members. Services are provided in Mixteco, Zapoteco, Purepecha, and Spanish languages. Programs focus on direct services, and community organizing. MICOP manages multiple large-scale, multi-year grants that are funded by the state of California. Proyecto Acceso is a project of MICOP currently in its fourth year as a DDS SAE grant. The program is designed to eliminate barriers to access among Indigenous migrant populations by delivering culturally and linguistically relevant linkages to local regional centers, in addition to education, outreach, and advocacy on behalf of the underserved population of Indigenous migrant families.

MICOP Website

Proyecto Acceso Page

Proyecto Acceso Facebook

Attachment:

ACCESO flyer.pdf - PDF FILE

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:

MICOP Entity Status Ltr.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
2022	MICOP Proyecto Acceso IV: Mixteco and Indigenous Family Access, Advocacy and Empowerment	21-C37	375000
2021	MICOP Acceso III: Empowering Mixtec/Indigenous Families to Disrupt Service Inequalities	20-C37	384000
2020	Proyecto Acceso: Addressing Service Disparities Among the Mixteco/Indigenous Community	19-C56	279327

3. Applicant Question: Previous Grant Outcomes

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

In FY 20-21, Proyecto Acceso met all anticipated project outcomes. Accesso reached 2, 575 Indigenous families and 140 families through in-person, radio, and social media outreach. 288 Indigenous families and 25 Latinx families were directly served through case management and systems navigation, resulting in 163 Indigenous consumers and 25 Latinx consumers enrolling in Regional Center Services. Pre-and-post survey results indicated an increased awareness among Indigenous and Latinx families of available services, as well as increased confidence in consumers' and family caregivers' ability to advocate for services.

Acceso has assisted 103 indigenous families in the first half of the 2021-22 fiscal year. 70 of 103 families have received regional center services, while 31 have received generic services - such as other state and federally-funded services and school district service - as a result of Acceso linkages. Acceso reached over 1,053 community members through various community outreach events. Acceso has hosted 6 development-themed workshops for 25 participants. Acceso collaborated with Amigo Baby Inc on over 21 short, web-based live transmissions. Planning for parent workshops, parent mentorship, and the annual parent conference has not yet been completed but is underway for the second half of the fiscal year.

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:

The Acceso staff met in early September to create a work plan and update project goals for the upcoming year. The project will transition into the proposed project by continuing existing outreach and case management activities while planning achievement milestones for the upcoming fiscal year. This project is seeking additional funds to expand staffing capacity. This additional capacity is critical to meet the growing needs that Acceso has seen for services to the Santa Maria Indigenous migrant community in the last two years. The additional capacity will add an additional full time staff to complete outreach and case management activities in the city of Santa Maria, which currently has only 1 staff member. The project has enhanced its radio outreach by adding public service announcements, guest appearances, and the production of special episodes to its radio programming, where prior years included only public service announcements. The project has also emphasized empowerment by including leadership training and advocacy skills development for parent leaders and supporting civic engagement with RC at public RC meetings and community input sessions. The production of short, Indigenous language educational videos was also added. The intention is that other resource centers, RC's, and service providers beyond Acceso's service area will be able to access these videos and present them to Indigenous families who seek information and services at their respective organizations. The Acceso team has met with the TCRC Cultural Specialist and calendared quarterly RC meetings with RC for the upcoming project year.

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:

This project most aligns with the Community Connector project type. The project relies on a *Promotora* model to provide outreach, education, systems navigation, and empowerment. *Promotoras* are Community Health Workers who identify as part of the community. In this case, staff are Indigenous language-speakers, migrant and Indigenous communities, which include Mixteco and Zapoteco, and have deep understandings of, and are able to respond to community cultural and linguistic needs. Families are supported in entering and navigating the systems of care, in particular regional center services. In addition, community leaders are identified who can be supported in advocating for both their individual family, and for systemic change.

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:

• Tri Counties Regional Center

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:

- Ventura County
- Santa Barbara 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.

Amigo Baby: Collaborate on "Pláticas con Acceso" live transmission, and as primary partner in the annual parent conference. MICOP and Amigo Baby share similar communities of interest and trade areas of expertise and language capacity. Rainbow Connection: TCRC-affiliated family resource center with whom MICOP collaborates, to provide linguistic and cultural resources for Rainbow's services. Alpha Resource Center: Santa Barbara County resource center whom MICOP shares cross referrals.

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:

In this cycle of SAE, Acceso's strategy is to apply for a 24-month grant. This will allow the program to maintain continuity as internal systems and processes are researched, developed and implemented, and as staff receive the additional support needed to enhance the level of service provided.

With respect to SAE funding, staff anticipate preparing themselves and identified leaders in State-level advocacy that will support the continuance of SAE funding. In the event that funds are not re-granted, MICOP would need to consider transitioning from a direct service program, and limit activities to general information and resource services provided by the broader organizational outreach. MICOP would also seek other funding sources and grant opportunities that are administered through TCRC, or adjust its program components in order to acquire additional funding. MICOP's annual fundraising gala and foundation funding would also allow for continued services.

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
- Native American
- Other (list)

Applicant Comment:

The program serves ethnic Indigenous Mexican families as well as some ethnic Hispanic families. Complex social histories in both the United States and Mexico make ethnic categories necessarily incomplete. The Categories of Native American, Hispanic, and Other were selected here, however, these reflect multiple understandings of ethnicities encompassed by the community, rather than discrete and separate ethnic communities.

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	100	Spanish	
Native American/Other (Indigenous from Latin America)	400	Mixteco, Zapoteco	

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 21

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).

Proyecto Acceso, which translates in English to, Project Access, is a Service Access Equity, Community Connector project of the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP). MICOP was founded in 2001 in the city of Oxnard to serve Indigenous migrant families. MICOP has since expanded to serve the Central Coast, which includes Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

As an organization, MICOP has 21 years of experience working directly in and with Indigenous migrant communities to provide access to essential services and community empowerment opportunities. Proyecto Acceso (ACESSO), if approved, would enter its 5th year as a DDS SAE project whose target population is Indigenous children ages 0-21 and their family caregivers. The primary two catchment areas for Proyecto Acceso are the counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara, with the vast majority of client participants living in the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and Santa Maria. This region is served by Tri-Counties Regional Center.

This Project will conduct outreach and education, systems navigation, and empowerment activities and opportunities in order to reduce disparities in access among Indigenous migrant communities. The program activities involve community outreach, virtual and in person education through radio and live online interviews, and direct service referrals to Tri Counties Regional Center. The program will also host its annual parent conference, and continue to engage and partner with Tri-Counties Regional Center to ensure that the needs of the community are met. By participating in Acesso, Families will learn about the stages of development, the names and types of developmental disabilities, their symptoms and treatments, and available services and how to access them.

The Indigenous community, which is largely monolingual, will benefit from receiving information in their own language about the development of their child or family member, which they would otherwise not access because existing programs are limited to English and Spanish, making them inaccessible to Indigenous parents who only speak Mixteco, Purepecha, Zapoteco or Triqui. Indigenous communities are already known to experience social isolation, which is compounded for families of children with special needs. Thus Indigenous families benefit from social support from other families experiencing similar challenges. Children and their parents or family caregiver, who often have little to no literacy skills, will be provided case management and systems navigation in order to ensure that referrals are completed and submitted, and that follow-ups and evaluations are received.

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.

MICOP's target population has remained since its founding, the Indigenous migrant and farmworker community. TCRC POS data alone is particularly limited with respect to capturing the needs and scope of disparities experienced by Indigenous migrant communities. The limitations are compounded by the complex social histories of ethnic Indigenous people in the United States and Mexico. The TCRC POS data limitations state, "POS expenditure data... does not give a clear indication that disparities exist in POS spending...." (See attached POS Data Variance Report for DDS May 2022.)

Nevertheless, social determinants of health frequently experienced by the community, the presence of cultural and linguistic, and social barriers, and MICOP's professional expertise as a leading agency advocating for the needs of Indigenous people at local and state levels indicate existing disparities. Acceso staff often hear from community members while completing outreach activities, and receive in-depth feedback from the community once a case has been opened. Case managers record general community input and feedback narratives in regular reports, which are then used to inform quarterly reports to TCRC and to identify community needs and program objectives. A report from the Public Counsel, confirms that racial and ethnic disparities continue to persist. (See attached 2022 Disparity Report California Developmental Services Regional Centers.)

Attachment:

POS Data Variance Report for DDS May 2022.pdf - PDF FILE 2022-Disparity-Report_Californai-developmental-services_regional-centers.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?

MICOP's Acceso program is unique in our RC's catchment area because it focuses exclusively on Indigenous migrants. MICOP is the only local agency that primarily serves Indigenous migrants and that provides services in multiple Indigenous languages. This focus makes the program culturally competent, language accessible, and community driven in ways that other funded programs who cater to the broader community do not.

ACCESO's strategic approach to services are influenced by Indigenous cultural norms and customs. Staff come from the Indigenous migrant community they serve, and activities like peer-to-peer and one-one-on mentorship are prioritized because they model Indigenous communal styles of learning. This ensures that Inidgenous children with disabilities are getting the proper services, treatment and education to become active and productive members of the community.

As a program of MICOP, ACCESO is also uniquely positioned to access a constellation of other resources under MICOP's umbrella. These resources include outreach and education through *Radio Indigena*, which has a daily average audience of 25,000, the *Indigenous Language Services Program*, which has trained translators on-hand who speak 4 or more Indigenous languages, and an existing army of Promotoras, Case Workers, and Community organizers who come from and work in the community to provide access to health, basic needs, labor justice education and workforce training.

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:

MICOP and its Acceso program measurably improve equity and access by recruiting and hiring staff who come from and speak the Mixteco Indigenous languages. This provides both language access and cultural connections to the families with a disability in their family. Acceso also improves service access by linking Indigenous families to clinical, educational, and therapeutic services. Once the family is assessed and referrals are made, Acceso staff also provide translation and support to ensure those services are accessible and that families stay connected. Because parents frequently work and are unable to receive or make phone calls during regular business hours or on certain days of the week, Acceso's promotoras are able to reach parents outside of normal business hours - sometimes on evenings and weekends, or to contact them via a Whatsapp number. This provides an extra safety net for parents whose referral to RC services may be closed as a result of missing RC phone calls, changing telephone numbers, or missing or being unable to read their mail - all issues that stem from poverty, migratory labor, and limited educational attainment. Cultural customs and traditions can be barriers to Western medicine. Acceso reduces cultural barriers by ensuring that Indigenous families have trusting relationships with staff, and by ensuring that staff leverage their shared culture and languages to bridge any knowledge gaps or eliminate distrust of service providers.

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?

This project supports the RC to promote equity and reduce disparities in the Tri-Counties Regional Center catchment. (See attached 2022-2024 Strategic Performance Plan.)

TCRC's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan includes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as one of four strategic focus areas. Within this area, TCRC plans two areas of focus: 1) Implicit Bias training, and 2)Support Language Access and Cultural Competency across the organization. Acceso aligns particularly with the second focus area: Support Language Access and Cultural Competency. Acceso staff share 4 languages between them, including Spanish, Mixteco, and Zapoteco. Acceso is designed explicitly to reach Mixteco and Zapoteco-speaking communities, a capacity that is limited within TCRC.

TCRC's plan to address data limitations includes increased community outreach to CBO's and families aligns with Acceso's plan to advocate with and behalf of the Indigenous community for their service needs. In efforts to mitigate gaps in information and data limitations on disparities, TCRC plans to conduct outreach and education to community and community based organizations in order to encourage participation in providing feedback. Acceso's plan to empower parents for self-advocacy and systems change will include attendance at, and participation in, public meetings and committees in which community input is sought.

Attachment:

SPP 2022-2024 TCADD Approved Nov 6 22.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?

The proposed activities include community outreach, case management including referrals to TCRC and other generic services, radio and video production, live web transmissions, parent workshops as well as leadership training and empowerment, and an annual parent conference.

Standard Community Connector measures, including pre and post-tests will measure changes in participant knowledge of developmental issues a

24 community outreaches will be completed per year, in which program information is provided to, and contact information is collected from, local Indigenous community members. Outreach is conducted at community spaces and congregate areas, such as farmers markets, laundromats, 24 Outreaches.

Short-term case management includes direct service referrals to RC, follow-up calls to family caregivers, assessment for additional services and areas of unmet need, follow up with RC as needed. 200 new and unduplicated cases per year. Referrals to generic services and other resources are also provided.

Indigenous language radio production will include Acceso staff guest appearances on existing live radio programming, and pre-recorded 30-second Public Service Announcement messaging, and the production of special episodes, either live or pre-recorded, on the topic of development and developmental disabilities, and other related themes. Outcomes will be measured in the production of 2 PSA's, 2 Live interviews, and 1 Live or pre-recorded special episode per year.

The production of 12 short, Indigenous language videos per year is intended to target Indigenous-speaking families by creating a small video library that is accessible to statewide service providers who work with Indigenous clients.

Indigenous-language education activities conducted virtually, monthly via live transmissions on Facebook live, entitled, "Pláticas con Acceso."

Leadership and empowerment outcomes are measured as milestones, which include: Identifying community leaders for advocacy, provide community leaders with advocacy and basic technology skills needed to attend public meetings, select and community-defined advocacy issues, and conduct advocacy by meeting with RC and attending and participating in public meetings. 10 parents per year will be trained.

4 Parent workshops per year will be conducted. Parent workshops demonstrate topics tailored to special needs populations, persons with developmental disabilities, and parents. Topics may include appropriate play for corresponding ages, activities to encourage child development. 4 workshops per year.

The annual parent conference is a key milestone. The conference brings together parents and family caregivers and their children, and includes workshops, social activities for children and family caregivers, food and prizes. Attendance will be measured, as well as qualitative narratives on conferences successes, learningas, and areas for improvement.

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.

The total budget for this 2-year project is \$1,038,962. The proposed 2-year budget includes salaries, program expenses, and indirect expenses. No unallowable costs are allocated. Program expenses include technology, such as tablets and software, and program supplies for everyday business, such as notepads, pens, and poster paper, as well as for planned workshop activities such as demonstration materials. Food is only used for participants in order to support working families' attendance at workshops and evening activities. No food will be purchased for staff meetings, team lunches, etc. Indirect expenses include finance department, ADP payroll processing fees, and office phone and internet. Indirect expenses are also allocated to Radio Indigena 94.1FM for radio staff technical support and air time.

This budget is consistent with the proposed staffing and activities of the project, which includes outreach, case management, leadership training and empowerment, parent workshops, radio production, and an annual parent conference. Thus, outreach materials, case management software, workshop and demonstration materials and food for participants, conference venue fees, and radio production costs are included. Proyecto Acceso is housed within MICOP's Wellness Programs department, which is overseen by a Director of Wellness Programs. Thus partial allocation of Director of Wellness's time will be allocated toward Proyecto Acceso and is therefore factored in to staff salaries.

Transportation costs are required in order to coordinate activities and provide supervision across two offices in separate counties. This activity requires travel to and from the city of Santa Maria from the city of Oxnard, which is a 200 mile round trip. Mileage is paid at .65 cents per mile. Total estimated annual mileage was multiplied by the reimbursement rate to reach the annual mileage allocation.

Section Name: Proposal Certification

Sub Section Name: Certification

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

CBOs are required to discuss their proposal with each RC(s) the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, have you discussed your proposal with each RC you are intending to serve?

Applicant Response:

Yes

2. Applicant Question: RC Contact

CBOs are required to submit their application concurrently to the Department and to each RC(s) catchment the CBO is intending to serve. If you are a CBO, state the name(s) of the contact person(s) at each RC you have emailed your proposal application. The RC contact list is available here at Attachment F.

Applicant Response:

Lilia Rangel Reyes, Tri-Counties Regional Center

Omar Noorzad, Tri-Counites Regional Center

Nancy Gomez, Tri-Counties Regional Center

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

Attachment:

2022 RAINBOW LOS.pdf - PDF FILE 2022AMIGO BABY LOS.pdf - PDF FILE 2022 ALPHA LOS.pdf - PDF FILE