

Application Report



Applicant Organization: Family Support Network
Project Name: Developmental Screening
Application ID: App-22-656
Funding Announcement: FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant
Awarded Amount: \$150,000

Project Summary: Family Support Network will collaborate with Regional Center of Orange County to provide 14 free, comprehensive Developmental Screenings for diverse and under-served communities in Orange County. The intent of the program is to increase access to Early Intervention programs and Early Start/Provisional Lanterman services throughout the Orange County area.

Section Name: Applicant Eligibility

Sub Section Name: Applicant Information

1. Applicant Question: Project Title

What is the Project Title?

Applicant Response:

Developmental Screening Program

2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

\$150,000

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:

Family Support Network is a community based, non-profit organization located in Orange, CA. We have been serving Orange County for 37 years. Our mission is to "provide services offering resources and advocacy for families with children with social, emotional, intellectual, and physical needs so they may reach their full potential." FSN began as an organization serving families with children with special needs and has expanded to serve families at risk. We have been providing free, comprehensive, Developmental Screenings in the county for over 25 years. These screenings are provided for children aged 0-5 who would benefit from early intervention services. FSN provides connection, resources and follow-up to assure that families are receiving appropriate services. We are also vendors of the Regional Center of Orange County for Parent Education and with the Department of Rehabilitation to provide language assistance devices to those with significant language disabilities.

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

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:

No

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:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| | | | |

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:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

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:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

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:

Engagement and Outreach

Applicant Comment:

Family Support Network will collaborate with Regional Center Orange County and other CBOs to provide fourteen free, comprehensive Developmental Screenings for diverse and under-served communities within Orange County. Family Support Network will secure venues and coordinate the schedule for screenings, conduct community outreach, facilitate the screenings and follow-up with families post-screening to assess satisfaction, assure connection to provided resources, and to collect pertinent data. The intent of this program is to increase access to Early Intervention programs and Early Start/Lanterman services throughout the Orange County area.

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
-

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
-

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:

Family Support Network subcontracts with: Intervention Center for Early Childhood; Beyond Blindness; Share Speech; and Healthy Smiles, OC. These organizations provide the professional, licensed screeners. Regional Center of Orange County is also on site during the screening to explain ES, Provisional and Lanterman services. FSN's behavioral coaching program (Bloom) for parents provides the ASQse evaluation during the screening and offers multiple behavior coaching sessions after the screening.

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:

Yes

Attachment:

[ShareSpeech Letter of Support.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[ICEC letter of Support.docx](#) - WORD DOCUMENT

[HSK Letter of Support DDS 22-23-FSN.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[Beyond Blindness Letter of Support.docx](#) - WORD DOCUMENT

7. Applicant Question: Strategies and Sustainability

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

Applicant Response:

In support of DDS's promotion of Early Start Services to diverse communities, FSN will mitigate barriers to accessing those early interventions by providing comprehensive, developmental milestone screening and then providing referrals and direct linkage services for parent education for behavioral coaching, community outreach services, primary care physicians, school district services and other needed resources (including lifeline resources). We have programs within FSN that will support this community in a "whole-child" approach, including our behavior coaching program, Bloom, and our systems navigation mentors who support the families and clients of the Regional Center. The screening program has been in existence for over 25 years and the sustainability of it has been a direct result of the continuity of the service, the support of community partners and grant funders, and the continued support and assistance of the Regional Center of Orange County.

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
- Vietnamese

Applicant Comment:

Because of the program format and the community-based outreach, all children, regardless of ethnicity or economic status are eligible for our Developmental Screening Program. Historically, however, we anticipate a high engagement rate with those of Hispanic heritage. We do, however, serve all communities within our county and provide the necessary information for them to access early intervention services. The selection of host sites depends on the demographic of the community and the targeted population.

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 | 175 | Spanish |
| Vietnamese | 50 | Vietnamese |
| African American | 8 | English |
| Korean | 8 | Korean |
| Japanese | 4 | Japanese |
| Middle Eastern | 5 | Farsi |
| Cambodian | 2 | Khmer |
| Chinese | 3 | Mandarin/Cantonese |
| Caucasian | 25 | English |

3. Applicant Question: Age Group(s) Served

Select all Age Groups the project will serve.

Applicant Response:

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

Section Name: Project Application

Sub Section Name: Project Application

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:

Family Support Network (FSN) has been providing Developmental Screenings to Orange County families for more than 25 years and providing resources and community connections to families at risk for the last 37. We have worked with the Regional Center of Orange County to provide system navigation and parent education for their persons served through our mentoring programs. Our commitment to serve our community begins with early intervention. We know that reaching these families and children early will provide better long-term educational, social and emotional outcomes for the child and the family. That is at the heart of why we began the Developmental Screening program. During this grant period, FSN will offer 14 screenings. These screenings are held throughout Orange County at places like Family Resource Centers, Boat People SOS, Boys & Girls Clubs, community centers, and pre-schools. Regional Center of Orange County works closely with FSN to provide on-site support for immediate referral for Early Start services, Provisional Lanterman and Lanterman services. The Developmental Screenings are held in neighborhoods where there are diverse and under-served populations in Orange County. This project gives families with children age birth-five years an opportunity to check on their child's physical, cognitive, and emotional development to make sure they are developing on track. The screenings offer hands-on assessments that are conducted by licensed therapists and specialists covering the following areas of development: vision, fine and gross motor skills, speech and language, emotional/behavioral health, general overall health, and dental wellness. Each focus area has its own station where the parent/caregiver can meet with the therapist or specialist individually to discuss any concerns they might have about their child. Translators and bilingual specialists are available to assist non-English speaking families. Every family is given a copy of their child's Developmental Screening results as well as any recommended referrals including the Regional Center, LEAs, Optometrists, Dentists, Mental Health, Primary Care Physician and FSN Behavior Intervention and Coaching (Bloom) program. Every family receives follow up calls to assure that they were able to access the recommended services and to assist them if there was a barrier of any kind. FSN checks with the families to assess their need for lifeline resources such as food and housing. If they family needs assistance accessing those services, FSN directs them to those resources. The developmental screenings increase access to early intervention and offer families the opportunity to connect to other necessary resources within our community such as MediCal and CalFresh services.

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:

We align the ethnic communities we serve with overall county population percentages. According to Regional Center data and the utilization of census data reflecting the population ethnicity demographic for Orange County, we have focused our planning and outreach to address the Hispanic, Asian, and African American communities as our target populations. According to Kidsdata.org, the census data (2020) for Orange County children aged 0-17 reflect the following: African American 1.6%; Asian 17%; Hispanic/Latino 46.7%; Non-Hispanic/White 29.2% and those who identify as multiracial represent 8.2%. All other groups represent less than 1% of the population. As of October 2021, RCOC served 4277 Asian individuals in both Early Start and Lanterman programs (18.5% of total persons served). Comparing the current data with data from past years, RCOC had only served about 13% Asian population in 2017, and 17.3% Asian population in 2019. The Vietnamese segment is the third largest in Orange County, so we will be committing our outreach efforts to focus on that community. For the Hispanic and African American communities, we will continue to outreach and to provide screening locations in those neighborhoods. In the past year we have screened 359 children with 287 referrals for follow up services. The ethnicities of those screened align accurately with our county population and ethnicity data.

3. Applicant Question: Uniqueness

How is the proposed project unique from a currently funded grant (e.g., strategies, activities, and goals) in the proposed RC catchment area? If the project is similar to a currently funded grant listed on the Department's website, how is the proposed project different?

Applicant Response:

There are no other currently funded programs supporting in-person developmental screenings on this broad scale. We have received grant funding in a variety of ways to keep us going through the years. Most recently, last year, RCOC received this grant to assist us in maintaining this unique and necessary program. The community has been incredibly supportive over the years, and we continue to outreach and fill in "gaps" in the community. Because of our longevity in this space, and our reliability, we have been tapped by a wide swath of organizations and agencies who need a comprehensive screening and want to offer it to their clientele. We work closely with Family Resource Centers, BPSOS, Boys and Girls Clubs, school districts, and other site hosts. Primary care pediatricians and school districts have come to acknowledge our referrals as reliable, and they act accordingly. Our community partners have grown to include the Social Services Administration who sometimes recommend their foster/resource parents to our screenings. Regional Center is on site with us at all of our screenings and so referrals are immediate. This program is unique to Family Support Network.

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:

Family Support Network has 37 years of experience serving families who are non-English speaking. We know that often, they aren't comfortable traveling outside of their neighborhoods or communities. The stigma on disabilities and cultural differences creates barriers to accessing needed services. Developmental Screenings in local neighborhoods with bilingual staff and/or interpreters on-site will increase the opportunity for families to bring their child to a Developmental Screening and obtain needed services. Staff from RCOC are always present at the screening site to assist families with the intake process for Early Start and Provisional Lanterman Programs. We provide behavior coaching for families whose children are identified through the ASQse2 and through interview. We provide referrals to school districts and primary care physicians for further follow-up. After the screenings, our staff reach out to complete the circle of care for families by offering warm linkages. FSN has been an integral partner in many of the county resource platforms like OC Navigator and Unite Us. Through these connections and continued collaborations with community partners, we can provide resources that align with the needs of the children and families. This one-on-one attention increases trust and improves equitable access to the services children need to live up to their full potential.

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:

Under-served families are less likely to access Developmental Screenings due to lack of transportation, fear of going to unfamiliar places, as well as lack of knowledge of the importance of early intervention. By providing Developmental Screenings in the neighborhoods of non-English speaking families (i.e., at local family resource centers, community clinics, pre-schools, etc.) with bilingual staff and/or interpreters available on-site, more under-served families will be able to access RCOC services, helping to diminish the current disparity. Family Support Network will collaborate with the Regional Center of Orange County and other community-based organizations that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to share in the outreach efforts to promote the screenings and to secure locations in communities that represent gathering spaces for the target populations. Follow up phone calls with participants will allow FSN to offer resources and supports that the families will be able to access in order to minimize feelings of isolation while building confidence in accessing equitable early intervention services for their child, giving a sense of an improved long-term outcome.

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:

Family Support Network will collaborate with Regional Center and the other community-based organizations that provide the screening services. We will schedule fourteen Developmental Screenings in diverse and under-served areas of Orange County. Family Support Network will work to secure venues and coordinate the schedule for the screenings; conduct community outreach; conduct the screenings; complete follow-up with families post-screening; and collect data. Data will reflect: the total number of children served; the number of children within the target populations; the number of referrals made to Regional Center; the number of community referrals given; the number of emergency needs resources provided; and the number of outreach efforts made in each target community. FSN will conduct at least one follow up phone call for each screening participant and will assist families in accessing 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:

The Developmental Screening Program has the objective of increasing accessibility to early intervention services for some of the most underserved children in our community. Family Support Network will provide 14 comprehensive Developmental Screenings over the course of a 12-month period. It is estimated that at a minimum, 280 children will be screened, and referrals will be made for services including Early Start services through the Regional Center of Orange County. The grant request amount of \$150,000 will fund these screenings which will cover the costs of FSN personnel who will oversee the program, the subcontractors who will provide the licensed professionals who will complete the screenings, the outreach marketing materials to promote the event, and other necessary operational costs.

The breakdown of expenses is detailed in the budget report: Personnel expenses: \$94,783 for 1.5 FTE employees and 13% of the Executive Director' FTE. Translators are hired per diem.

Operating Expenses include subcontractor costs, copy cost for intake/referral paperwork; mileage; marketing materials, etc. That amount comes to \$47,150.

Administrative and Indirect Costs at \$8,067 to maintain the IT/Website; financial audits, and costs associated with accounting services.

It is important to mention that this screening program has been in existence for 25 years. FSN already have staff in place who have the Developmental Screening as their job responsibility. Our subcontractors have worked with us for many years, and we are experienced in knowing approximately how many staff from each specialty area will be needed for each host location. The subcontractors submit invoices to FSN for the number of staff attending the screening at a set rate (\$300 per therapist/specialist, per screening event. The number of screeners varies based on host site and outreach efforts.). Paperwork needed for the screening has already been translated and it is necessary only to reorder when needed. Family Support Network utilize volunteers whenever possibly to help defray staffing costs.

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:

Regional Center of Orange County: Kaitlynn Truong, Larry Landauer and Kathleen McFarlin

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
