Application Report

Applicant Organization: Ives Torres Foundation/ Padres con Poder

Project Name: Acceso y Equidad en Servicios para Todos

Application ID: App-22-649

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

Awarded Amount: $225,000

Project Summary: Ives Torres Foundation is comprised of parent professionals and experts trained to assist families who have a loved one with a disability to navigate the regional center system as well as the education system. With the support of this grant, we want to develop a series of 9 workshops aimed at providing training to parents in a sequential manner to ensure maximum knowledge in different areas of parenting to access services in an equitable manner. This will be provided by zoom for 1.5 hours and 30 minutes of Q&A. These workshops will be provided in two different schedules Mornings and evenings for a total of 18 sessions to ensure that all parents and caregivers have access to the information at their most convenient schedule. 3 in-person sessions to provide communication tools through technology such as: setting up email accounts, zoom accounts, and navigation of the regional center website, to try to eliminate the barrier of the use of technology in communication with the regional center. The target population will be Spanish-speaking families The Catchment area will be the Inland Empire and Fresno County. The intention of our project is to try to reduce the lack of equity in the acquisition of services for at least 70 Spanish-speaking families, as well as to provide them with the tools so that they can be an active part of the development of their children's plans and reduce the communication barrier due to the lack of use of technology by parents and caregivers.

Authorized Certifying Official: Isabel Torres   isa.torres@ivestorres.org   951-733-2489

Project Director/Manager: Isabel Torres   isa.torres@ivestorres.org   951-733-2489

Project Manager/Coordinator: Javier Torres   javier.torres@ivestorres.org   951-733-1797

Compliance/Fiscal Officer: Javier Torres   javier.torres@ivestorres.org   951-733-1797

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:

Acceso y Equidad en Servicios para Todos (AEST)

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2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

 What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

$225,000

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3. Applicant Question: Organization Type

Choose the response that best describes your organization.

Applicant Response:

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

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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:

Our organization has been providing support to families for over 17 years with the Padres con poder support group. Over the years we have offered monthly training related to services for people with disabilities such as Regional Center Services, IHSS, special education, SSI, and advocacy tools to name a few. Our workshops are provided to Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers in the Inland Empire. We also provide opportunities for parents, caregivers, and people with Intellectual disabilities to socialize and create or increase their support network.

Over the years we have collaborated with the Regional Center, Autism Society of the Inland Empire, San Bernardino County Department of Education, EPU children center, and the Mexican Consulate in San Bernardino, also we are an active member of C.L.A.S.E Community of practice

Our past workshop was developed in two series with a consistent attendance of more than 40 parents per workshop series by zoom we had positive feedback from parents

Attachment:
Nuestra Mision (2).png - PNG FILE
2022-08-18 (5).png - PNG FILE
2022-08-18 (7).png - PNG FILE
Encuesta de talleres para asistencia (Responses) - Form Responses 1.pdf - PDF FILE
Teak Modern Tips To Learn New Language Flyer.jpg - JPEG FILE
Segunda serie de talleres PDI-2022 (Newsletter) 2.png - PNG FILE
testimony.jpg - JPEG FILE

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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:

Taxes 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

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 complete each column. If no, skip this category and go to category 3.

Applicant Response:

No

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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:

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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:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

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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:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment

Not Applicable

Section Name: General Application

Sub Section Name: Proposal Summary

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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:

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.

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2. Applicant Question: Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

Applicant Response:

18 months

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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:

- Inland Regional Center
- Central Valley Regional Center

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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:

- Fresno County
- Riverside County
- San Bernardino County
- Los Angeles County
- Tulare County
- San Diego County
- Orange County
- Madera 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:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

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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?

Applicant Response:

We are planning to reapply next year to give continuity to the project.

Our organization will also continue its work with the Spanish-speaking community by providing monthly workshops on different topics related to the acquisition of services for people with disabilities and collaborating with organizations such as the regional center and school districts and support groups.

Sub Section Name: Target Population

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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

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 / 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 21
- 22 and older

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:

Ives Torres Foundation is comprised of parent professionals and experts trained to assist families who have a loved one with a disability to navigate the regional center system as well as the education system.

With the support of this grant, we want to develop a series of 9 workshops aimed at providing training to parents in a sequential manner to ensure maximum knowledge in different areas of parenting to access services in an equitable manner. This will be provided by zoom for 1.5 hours and 30 minutes of Q&A.

These workshops will be provided in two different schedules Mornings and evenings for a total of 18 sessions to ensure that all parents and caregivers have access to the information at their most convenient schedule.

3 in-person sessions to provide communication tools through technology such as: setting up email accounts, zoom accounts, and navigation of the regional center website, to try to eliminate the barrier of the use of technology in communication with the regional center.

The target population will be Spanish-speaking families

The Catchment area will be the Inland Empire and Fresno County.

The intention of our project is to try to reduce the lack of equity in the acquisition of services for at least 70 Spanish-speaking families, as well as to provide them with the tools so that they can be an active part of the development of their children's plans and reduce the communication barrier due to the lack of use of technology by parents and caregivers.

Ives Torres Foundation has more than 17 years of experience working with families that speak Spanish with the support group Padres con Poder, we provide monthly workshops to families on different topics related to the disability and acquisition of services, and we have had a successful attendance of about 45 constant participants for the last 12 workshops.

Our organization has been part of several committees such as IRC Taskforce (2017), and parent representatives that attended grassroots this April 2022. Also collaborated with different organizations such as EPU Children Center (2020 DDS grant) Autism Society member of C.L.A.S.E since 2018, and CABE(California for Bilingual Education since 2015) Supporting special education workshops for their conferences, Mexican Consulate in San Bernardino and Fresno county, Department of education in San Bernardino, Corona-Norco Unified School District and support groups in the catchment area.

Our organization's intention is to work closely with the regional centers in order to provide the most current information to parents and to bring in experts from the regional center to assist us with questions from the community.

ivestorresfoundation.org

See the attachment for workshops topics

Attachment:
project summary -workshops details.pdf - PDF FILE
Segunda serie de talleres PDI-2022 (Newsletter) 2.png - PNG FILE
Nuestra Mision (2).png - PNG FILE
2022-08-18 (5).png - PNG FILE
Encuesta de talleres para asistencia (Responses) - Form Responses 1.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:

According to data provided by the RC, the Hispanic population is one of the most underserved by the regional center, especially the Spanish-speaking population in comparison to other populations such as the white population. This results in a lack of equity for regional center consumers. Data provided by the regional center demonstrates this created need.

The fiscal year 2020/2021
- Hispanic Consumers = 16.365 (all ages)
  - No POS 4,829 = 29.5%
- Spanish-speaking consumers = 7.819 (all ages)
  - No POS 1,879 = 24%

Per our experience working with Spanish-speaking families, the lack of knowledge of how the system works and the barriers of language, technology, immigration status, beliefs, and culture are factors that influence access to services

and result in a great disparity.

Attachment:
testimony.jpg - JPEG FILE
Letter of support Acceso y Equidad en Servicios Para Todos 10.22.pdf - PDF FILE
Encuesta de talleres para asistencia (Responses) - Form Responses 1.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:

Our project aims to reach families that regardless of their level of education or training have the opportunity to receive the knowledge necessary to support their loved one with a disability. Our extensive knowledge of working with Hispanic families for 17 years will translate into strategies for families to participate and get the maximum benefit from the information.

Currently, our organization has 150 active members in the Inland Empire that refers other parents to take our workshops, we have an outreach support group that offers services in Fresno County one of catchment areas and our virtual workshops are joined by families from different counties. Our reach through social media is 2,299 followers on Facebook, and Instagram platforms.

Strategies:

- Having 3 in-person sessions to help them with the technology in terms of setting up their email and zoom
- Reminder calls, texts, and emails for each workshop a day before
- Two different schedules for the workshops: morning and evening sessions to ensure that all parents and caregivers have access to the information at their most convenient schedule.
- The content of the curriculum will be designed to be accessible for all levels of parents' and caregivers' education.
- We will be using visuals and video material
- We will be using parent engagement strategies
- Opportunity for parents to ask questions or share experiences.
- Copy of the material will be sent to parents for a future reference
- A glossary of acronyms for parents to be familiar with.

Attachment:
testimony.jpg - JPEG FILE
SURVEY GRAPHS-ITF2022.pdf - PDF FILE

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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 increase access to services for people with intellectual disabilities and their families by training parents in their language and using strategies that support access to knowledge for all.

Communication barriers will be eliminated by providing them with strategic one-on-one training aimed at improving communication with their CSC (consumer service coordinator) through the use of email which will help them follow up on agreements in a timely manner.

Parents will acquire the skills necessary to navigate their regional center's website so they can search for information and resources and access additional communication services from the regional center.

Self-advocacy tools to increase their confidence when they talked about their children's needs.

Teach parents how to develop a life plan for their person with a disability that will transfer into identifying the services needed to achieve it (an increase in POS).

Equity will increase as parents receive the knowledge, as facilitators will apply instructional strategies to ensure that parents actually put what they learn into practice.

The activities are designed in a way that ensures the objective, using tools that have been proven to work for Spanish-speaking parents in the catchment area.

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:

Our organization has collaborated with the regional center for years by having constant communication with their cultural specialist and we have also joined forces by being part of their TASK FORCE project to reduce the inequity in services. This has given us a complete understanding of the need for Spanish-speaking families and how to align our project to reduce barriers in our catchment areas and with constant communication and collaboration with RC, this will be possible.

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 objective of Acceso y Equidad en Servicios para Todos - AEST (Access and Equity in Services for All)
is to increase parents' knowledge by providing them with tools to help them overcome the barriers that prevent them from
accessing the services offered by the IRC and CVRC

Ensure that parents' communication barriers are eliminated by providing them with strategic one-on-one training aimed at
improving communication with their CSC (consumer service coordinator) through the use of email which will help them follow up
on agreements in a timely manner.

Parents will acquire the skills necessary to navigate their regional center's website so they can search for information and access
additional communication services from the regional center.

They will learn how to create a zoom account in order to have access to online training and benefit from the information

Parents will be given online instruction specifically designed for Hispanic families in the native language, with a series of
workshops designed first to create self-awareness of how their communication, cultural and technological barriers affect the
decisions they make regarding the services they are accessing for their children.

Self-advocacy tools to increase their confidence and negotiation skills. And how to develop a Life Plan for a person with a
disability.

An introduction of the 4 core programs offered by the regional center. Closing with a motivational session to achieve an elevation
of parents' self-esteem.

The activities are designed in a way that ensures the objective and effectiveness of the project, using tools that have been
proven to work for Spanish-speaking parents in the catchment area.
 Measurement of the activities will give us the data needed to demonstrate program benefits as well as information to help us
update activities if necessary.

Attachment:
improve equity and reduce barriers.pdf - PDF FILE

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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:

The proposal for this project is for a duration of 18 months to develop the stated objective. The project is designed for a series of virtual workshops as well as in-person sessions for assistance in setting up e-mail accounts, zooming, and navigating the regional center's web pages. For both the virtual and in-person sessions, materials and other staff and technology resources, office space rental, and utilities are included, as a translation of materials, translation into English at the workshops, instructional materials, facilitators, travel related to training for the population served, as well as publicity and outreach to the community in the catchment area.

The budget also includes the following staff: The project Manager who will dedicate 75% of his time to the project, the Project Supervisor 75%, the Data Clerk 25%, Community Outreach 40%, and the Advertisement and Social Media Coordinator 40%. All personnel will be working directly with the project to ensure execution, quality, and community outreach.

The project will incur indirect expenses such as costs of facilities and technological resources in the sessions that will be virtual as well as Accounting and human resources software to monitor grant funds and personnel assigned to the grant project, and general management percentage related to the grant.

I have reviewed the budget restrictions and all the items listed in the budget template do not include non-allowable costs or pay funded by other funding sources.

Attachment:
Letter of support Acceso y Equidad en Servicios Para Todos 10.22.pdf - PDF FILE

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:

Lavinia Johnson Ljohnson@inlandrc.org

Maria Rodriguez Mrodriguez@inlandrc.org

Ed Araim earaim@cvrc.org

Natasha Ambriz nambriz@cvrc.org

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