

# Application Report



**Applicant Organization:** Ohana Center AV  
**Project Name:** Trust, Equity, Access and Healing (TEACH)  
**Application ID:** App-22-640  
**Funding Announcement:** FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant  
**Awarded Amount:** \$180,000

**Project Summary:** Conduct outreach and engagement in the efforts to under-served and under-resourced individuals and families to ensure that gaps in services and support are decreased within Black/African American populations. The aim is to help families, specifically the Antelope Valley, how to engage their local, regional center service provider. To support services that increase overall well-being, outreach efforts will be conducted in a culturally inclusive manner that utilizes community outreach events and strategic social media campaigns using regional data analytics and our mobile wellness platform within the Antelope Valley.

**Authorized Certifying Official:** Aziza Shepherd ohanacenterav@gmail.com -  
**Project Director/Manager:** Aziza Shepherd ohanacenterav@gmail.com -

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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:

Trust, Equity, Access, Community and Healing (TEACH) Educational Outreach and Engagement Program

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## 2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

### Applicant Response:

\$180,000

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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

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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:**

Ohana Center AV was founded in 2015 by two African American women who connected over a belief that the community can become your family that both have a family members who have received Regional Center services. Ohana Center's mission is to provide families with the tools they need to stay on the road to stability. We are constantly engaging, collaborating, and networking with community-based organizations and businesses within the Antelope Valley and the greater Los Angeles area. Since 2020 Ohana Center has participated in the Transforming LA cohort funded by the Department of Mental Health. The Transforming LA initiative is a program focused on community outreach and engagement in acquiring mental health coping skills. We continue to build on the principles of engaging the most challenging to-reach communities to ensure they have equitable access to the services necessary to increase their quality of life.

website: ohanacenterav.org

instagram: ohana.centerav

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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

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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 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

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**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:**

Engagement and Outreach

**Applicant Comment:**

Conduct outreach and engagement efforts to under-served and under-resourced individuals and families to ensure that gaps of services and support are further decreased within BIPOC populations. The aim is to help families in the Antelope Valley on how to successfully engage their local regional center service provider. In order to support services that increase overall well being, outreach efforts will be conducted in a culturally inclusive manner that utilizes community outreach events and strategic social media campaigns utilizing regional data analytics and our mobile wellness platform within the Antelope Valley. The results of these outreach activities will be an increase in awareness of services offered by Regional Center by empowering families to be proactive advocates for themselves and family members.

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**2. Applicant Question:** Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

**Applicant Response:**

12 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:**

- North Los Angeles County 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:**

- Los Angeles 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

**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:**

Ohana Center currently has relationships with several philanthropic organizations, CBO's and the Department of Mental Health that focus on equity driven practices that support serving African American communities in high need areas. We believe our current partnerships will continue our efforts to focus on African American special needs families. We will continue to advocate, outreach and engage after grant funding has concluded by integrating the program goals into our overall organizational framework and fiscal planning for the near future.

**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

**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)
African American	225	

### **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
- 22 and older

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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:**

The TEACH Project will outreach to black/African American families in the North Los Angeles County Region of Antelope Valley through community-based engagement activities. The rapid population growth and changing demographics occurring in the Antelope Valley over the last 30 years has greatly affected the service needs of local regional center consumers. Census data (1990, 2000, 2010, 2020) and Los Angeles County public health data (2017) has revealed an increasing breakdown in the quality and effectiveness of engagement experienced by Black families dependent on regional center services. The results of proposed outreach activities will be an increase in awareness of services offered by the Regional Center and the empowerment of families to be proactive advocates for themselves and family members. By creating and mobilizing an infrastructure of community-based healing and service acquisition, Ohana Center will conduct family-centered education and engagement workshops that provide information on how to access new services and also increase awareness of other community service providers beyond regional center. Since its inception, Ohana Center has specialized in outreach efforts for individuals experiencing homelessness, providing support for special needs and medically fragile families, addressing disparities in infant and maternal care, and by designing and delivering both online and in-person community-based wellness and outreach services. In our experience within the community, this cross-section of the local demographic is currently suffering from insufficient representation and may be served by the regional center more effectively. The Executive Director of Ohana Center is not only the parent of a medically fragile special needs child she is personally familiar with the experience of being a regional center consumer. Dr. Aziza Shepherd is also a new board member for the Help Me Grow LA Community and Family Engagement Council (HMG LA CFEC) which is an advisory group made up of Parent Champions familiar with the experiences of children with or at risk of behavioral and developmental delays. The primary goal of HMG LA CFEC is to help create a system of early childhood support and equitable care services that enables families to increase awareness of and access to available services. Ohana Center leadership promotes the organization's mission of "Helping Families One Hand at a Time."

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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:**

Due to the damaging legacy of systemic racism and continuing challenge of cultural mistrust, the Black/African American population in the Antelope Valley has and is still experiencing high rates of inequity and disparity of care in regards to service allocation and resource allotment. According to the report conducted by the LA County Regional Center, 8.4% of consumers surveyed identify as African American. From 2020-2021, though more than 3,000 Black/African American consumers were eligible for services from the North Los Angeles County Regional Center, only 25% of those eligible received any services. This proposal was designed through input from community members and the lived experiences of Ohana Center leadership. Collaborative efforts with local CBO's allows Ohana Center to work within the intersectional realm of advocacy and healing.

### **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:**

This proposed project is uniquely positioned to target a region that is under-resourced and covers the largest and most underserved geographic area of all service planning areas in Los Angeles County jurisdiction. The services being provided are not traditionally offered in the community and are designed to have an emphasis on culturally inclusive practices and methodological frameworks. We will educate and engage this region, as well as support ongoing efforts by building a community mobilization network. In this process, Ohana Center will further support the increased utilization of services and resources available to families eligible for regional center services. By removing barriers and bridging the gap between consumers, families and regional center service providers, our project will be unique in that we are facilitating the creation of a more equitable future for families in the Antelope Valley.

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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:**

Ohana center believes in engaging the community on their terms. This specifically means by meeting participants in their community in a natural setting in order to build rapport, reduce barriers such as transportation and linguistic challenges. We will utilize platforms that are appropriate for the visually and hearing impaired, as well as develop resources and tools that are concise, informative and within a reading level that is accessible to a large audience. Furthermore, we will utilize pre and post surveys to assess an individual or families current knowledge of services provided by the regional center in order to establish a baseline of knowledge and to assess how much their knowledge and ability to access services have increased. These findings will be carefully entered into a database that will provide valuable data for further statistical analysis. We will work with the regional center staff to identify key positions and individuals that can serve as a warm handoff when working with families. Ohana Center will host monthly workshops and invite regional center staff to present in a cordial environment that allows for direct engagement and relationship development with underserved Black/African American families.

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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:**

The project aims to promote education and engagement services in a cultural congruent manner that meets the needs of Black/African American families. The Ohana Center currently has partnerships with The Alliance which is a partnership of six Black Led and servicing CBO's who have built a community based infrastructure to support the connection and direct support services to the African American Community in the Antelope Valley. In addition we have a partnership with the department of mental health, which would allow us to refer individuals and families to therapeutic interventions as needed. We will be intentional about our organizational engagement efforts to include and raise awareness about the concerns and lack of access to services that families are experiencing with their loved ones who are consumers of regional center services.

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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:**

The Ohana Center utilizes a 'Mixed Method Approach' to evaluate the impact of its programs. For programs that are educational in nature, pre and post test evaluations are used. Data from pre and post tests, helps us to understand increase in knowledge. When conducting outreach and individual encounters, the Ohana Center utilizes open-ended questionnaires, and focus groups to better understand our programs strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. We also would like to see individuals and families empowered to advocate for their educational needs and be able to learn, access and leverage available ancillary services that support the success of their education goals.

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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:**

Due to the damaging legacy of systemic racism and continuing challenge of cultural mistrust, the Black/African American population in the Antelope Valley has and is still experiencing high rates of inequity and disparity of care in regards to service allocation and resource allotment. According to the report conducted by the LA County Regional Center, 8.4% of consumers surveyed identify as African American. From 2020-2021, though more than 3,000 Black/African American consumers were eligible for services from the North Los Angeles County Regional Center, only 25% of those eligible received any services. This proposal was designed through input from community members and the lived experiences of Ohana Center leadership. Collaborative efforts with local CBO's allows Ohana Center to work within the intersectional realm of advocacy and healing.

**Attachment:**

[Budget Report \(1\).pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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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:**

Ruth Janka [rjanka@nlacrc.org](mailto:rjanka@nlacrc.org)

Michael Fernandez [Mfernandez@nlacrc.org](mailto:Mfernandez@nlacrc.org)

Liliana Windover [Lwindover@nlacrc.org](mailto:Lwindover@nlacrc.org)

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**3. Applicant Question:** Code of Conduct

**Grantee Code of Conduct**

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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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