

# Application Report



**Applicant Organization:** Special Needs Network  
**Project Name:** Pipeline to Treatment for LA County Foster Youth  
**Application ID:** App-22-701  
**Funding Announcement:** FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant  
**Awarded Amount:** \$250,000

**Project Summary:** Special Needs Network will establish a streamlined referral process pilot with the Los Angeles County Foster Care Hub. For the pilot 50 foster children will be identified and tracked along the process. The existing complicated process causes serious delays in treatment. As a compliment, parents will receive advocacy training, and a training module will be created to be shared state-wide with other hubs.

**Authorized Certifying Official:** Juan Carlos Garcia    juancarlos@specialneedsnetwork.org    -  
**Project Director/Manager:** Daniel Mendoza    daniel@snnla.org    213-948-9641  
**Project Manager/Coordinator:** Ken Kabukuru    kkabukuru@snnla.org    213-948-9641  
**Compliance/Fiscal Officer:** Edguin Castellanos    edguin@snnla.org    323-309-9368

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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:**

Pipeline to Treatment for LA County Foster Youth

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**2. Applicant Question:** Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

**Applicant Response:**

\$250,000

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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:**

<https://snnla.org/mission-values/>

Special Needs Network, Inc. (SNN) is a non-profit grassroots organization responding to the crisis of autism and other developmental disabilities in underserved communities. We recognize the intersectionality of individuals with disabilities and that their fight for disability rights is inextricably tied to the fight for racial justice and the civil rights of all people. SNN Provides a myriad of programs which include; parent advocacy training, legislative advocacy, and direct service through inclusive summer camps, and behavior therapy. Our proposed project is a referral program with the Los Angeles County Foster Care Pediatric Hub for behavioral services. SNN has been promoting awareness of developmental disabilities for 18 years, in order to insure that the diagnosis gap is lessened between children of color and their white peers. The outcomes for the proposed project are in line with all of our previous work - access to service for all.

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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:**

[Certificate of Status\\_1660320927292.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:**

No

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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:**

Yes

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**2. Applicant Question:** Previous Grant Award(s)

Since fiscal year 2020, complete a row for each DDS Service Access and Equity grant your organization was awarded funding.

**Applicant Response:**

Year Awarded	Project Title	Grant Number	Award Amount
2021	Stepping Stones	20-C21	\$300,000
2022	Stepping Stones	21-C21	\$350,000

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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:**

Our previously funded Stepping Stones program continues to hit all its benchmarks. The outreach and recruitment of the 0-5 population continues to thrive and grow. To date over 100 parents have participated in our signature PAM advocacy training, and we have also hit benchmarks in children who have now entered into direct behavior services with SNN.

In July SNN co-hosted a workshop with CalABLE around the impact of how health is impacted based on economic circumstances. Individuals with disabilities shared how a CalABLE account could help pull individuals out of the "poverty cycle" many of our people with disabilities face due to financial savings limitations which in turn impact workability.

As we plan for our fall series of PAM in October, the SNN Programs team has held several meetings with and attended Parent meetings with community-based organizations serving preschool and school-aged children to raise awareness on the trainings and our community relationships as a supportive bridge to vital special needs and other family resources. We are working with our Regional Center Family Resource Centers at SCLARC, Westside, and Harbor to build on collaborative parent education strategies that will effect more and better service access by our families of color, specifically targeting the 0-5 families.

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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:**

Community Connector

**Applicant Comment:**

N/A

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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:**

- South Central Los Angeles 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

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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

**7. Applicant Question:** Strategies and Sustainability

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

**Applicant Response:**

This project will be evaluated at its conclusion to assess the effectiveness of the health advocates and promotors in assisting the client families in navigating the system of care. When the pilot program is successful, we anticipate buy-in from the County of Los Angeles, to provide funding and support the program. The successful reimbursement of services will also allow for some expenses of the program to fold into SNN's operational budget. In addition, there is a training program built into this program where we can invite other foster care county hubs across the state to share our model and support our efforts.

**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
- African American
- Pacific Islander (list)

**Applicant Comment:**

Philipino

**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)
N/A	N/A	N/A

### **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

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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:

### Pipeline to Treatment for Foster Care Youth

#### **Project Summary and Organizational Experience**

Due to delays in eligibility evaluations and some confusion about the reimbursement process for non-managed care foster patients, Special Needs Network is prepared to establish a pilot referral program, partnering with the County of Los Angeles. As Special Needs Network prepares to open its Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (C.A.A.D) this winter on the campus of Martin Luther King Hospital in the Watts/Willowbrook area of South Los Angeles, we have begun to collaborate with fellow tenants in the Jacqueline Avant Children and Family Center. This is the new modular building we will be moving into in December 2022. The agency who will be one floor up from our space is the Los Angeles County Medical Hub for Foster Youth. After discussions with Dr. Janet Arnold-Clark, MD, who is the director of the hub, it has been established that a seamless and efficient referral program is necessary to ensure that SNN can provide behavioral health treatment to these children in the same building where they receive their pediatric care.

#### **The Need**

- Solve the reimbursement process for service between "fee for service" and managed care to ensure a seamless process. (See Uploaded Document)
- Navigating the systems of care and insurance is an arduous task for families.
- Advocacy training for this population is essential to navigate the complex insurance system and its relation to regional care services.
- Delays in diagnosis and treatment for autism and other related developmental disabilities is detrimental to the development of this kids.

#### **The Solution**

- Establish a pilot referral program with the Los Angeles County Foster Care Hub.
- The pilot will aim to identify 50 kids through the Regional Center process and get them in service.
- Health promotors and advocates will take on a case load of families to navigate them through the system.
- Foster families will participate in a cohort of Special Needs Network's flagship Parent Advocacy Mentor Program (PAM)
- Specialized trauma-trained SNN clinicians will serve this unique population.
  
- Evaluators will follow families through the process, and track progress and outcomes.

#### **Experience**

Special Needs Network has over 18 years of experience working with the developmentally disabled community. One of our organizational priorities since our inception has been to eliminate the diagnosis gap between children of color and their white counterparts. This project continues on that path and focuses on the very specific foster care population. According to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, there are 28,196 children currently in the foster care system. One of the largest age groups in the system is the 0-5 group. We are determined with the help of the pediatric foster care hub, to identify children children with potential disabilities in that age range and up to 12 years old and get them into behavioral treatment asap.

#### **Attachment:**

[Foster Program Need Cont'd \(2\).pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[Special Needs Network 10-25-2022.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:**

The decision to address the needs of the foster care population was simple. After the discovery that the process for identification, evaluation, and treatment of these children is so arduous after discussions with both regional center representatives, DHCS, and the LA County Pediatric Hub, it was beyond evident that there is a disparity issue that needs to be addressed. Although our project is specific to our services, we hope that solving the issue will lead to a system-wide impact and more streamline referral and reimbursement process for foster care patients throughout the state.

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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:**

The proposed referral program is unique in a couple of ways. First and foremost, this is a program that is in partnership with a local county agency. We are in a unique circumstance as mentioned in our project summary where we will be in the same building as our partner and look to bridge our services to create a compliment of options for these families under one roof. With over 60,000 children in Foster care in California, we are confident that this project will also lead to state-wide impact as we prepare a training curriculum for other foster care hubs to utilize.

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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:**

This project through a robust program that will include health promoters, highly trained and experienced advocates, and culturally-sensitive clinical providers, will measurably improve equity to access for patients in the foster care system that have or potentially have a developmental disability. Once the referral and reimbursement process is standardized, and patients are identified, parents will participate in a specialized cohort of our Parent Advocacy mentor Program. An intense 6- lesson training that not only shows them how to successfully navigate the systems of care, but also addresses other issues including their own mental health, mentoring others in their social groups, and sitting on boards at regional centers or other public entities, and participating in legislative advocacy.

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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:**

This project absolutely supports the regional center's plan to promote equity and disparities. The foster care population in LA County is 60.4% Hispanic, and 23.9% Black. These are disproportionately high numbers for communities that traditionally have to battle systemic racism in the systems of care. The added disadvantage of being foster families with obstacles to service exacerbates an already difficult landscape to maneuver.

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### **6. Applicant Question:** Project Activities and Measures

**Note: Before answering this question, applicants must complete the Activities Template located in the middle tab directly above.**

The schedule of activities clearly and specifically demonstrates the steps that the project will take to achieve its stated objective and measures. Do the proposed measures appropriately track the project objective and activities, provide insight into the effectiveness of project, and demonstrate impact on the target population?

### **Applicant Response:**

Our proposed measures are appropriate and will provide deep insight into program effectiveness and impact. We will undertake both number and narrative project measures, including feedback from families, and staff from both agencies that include pre- and post-training surveys. The successful completion SNN is wholly committed to evaluating our programmatic progress and impact, as well as to sharing these outcomes with stakeholders. We have extensive experience using the methods described above to assess the progress of our programs and participants to determine if our stated goals have been met. We will build off this track record to successfully measure this new apprenticeship program.

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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 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 not include non-allowable costs or costs funded by other sources.

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**Section Name:** Proposal Certification

**Sub Section Name:** Certification

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

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

**Applicant Response:**

No

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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:**

Dexter Henderson - South Los Angeles Regional Center

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

**Grantee Code of Conduct**

The Department is committed to supporting services and programs with integrity that foster collaboration and professionalism. Grantees are expected to conduct project activities in a professional and respectful manner that include:

- **Valuing Diversity and Inclusion.** Grantees should embrace diversity that includes but is not limited to: ability, race, language, national origin, citizenship, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and religion.
- **Conducting Activities with Personal and Professional Integrity.** All activities with individuals, families, community organizations, regional centers, and state, local and federal agencies should be conducted with professionalism, dignity, respect, and fairness. Grantees should be open to listening to different points of view and fostering productive communication.
- **Providing a Positive Work Environment:** All projects should foster a positive and respectful work environment with their colleagues and other grantees.

**Applicant Response:**

- I acknowledge that I have reviewed the Code of Conduct.
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**4. Applicant Question:** Applicant Certification

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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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