

Application Report



Applicant Organization: FNRC
Project Name: Developing Connections with Tribal Families and Eliminating Barriers to Early Start Services
Application ID: App-22-599
Funding Announcement: FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant
Awarded Amount: \$350,000

Project Summary: With the outreach and engagement project, Developing Connections with Tribal Families and Eliminating Barriers to Early Start Services, FNRC will continue the work already started with California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC) in providing education and meaningful outreach to tribal communities. The specialized staff leading this project will continue to work with CTFC, an established organization in the Native American community, to expand their knowledge, meet tribal leaders, and participate in trainings about FNRC. They will build relationships and have more presence in the Native American community through outreach at local community events and with Tribal agencies and organizations. The reduced caseload will allow these 2 specialized staff to travel throughout our expansive catchment area to reach the numerous tribes residing within it. A resource list specific to Native American resources and a cultural competency training for FNRC staff will be developed. FNRC will also examine and improve our data collection process so that we can determine what areas we need to work on to make the intake and referral process more effective. The overall goal of the project is to build trust with our Native American families so they feel comfortable in reaching out to FNRC which will lead to increased service access and Early Start referrals and intakes.

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Section Name: Applicant Eligibility

Sub Section Name: Applicant Information

1. Applicant Question: Project Title

What is the Project Title?

Applicant Response:

Developing Connections with Tribal Families and Eliminating Barriers to Early Start Services

2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

\$350,000

3. Applicant Question: Organization Type

Choose the response that best describes your organization.

Applicant Response:

Regional Center (RC)

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:

Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) is one of the 21 RC's in California serving individuals with developmental disabilities over nine mostly rural counties. Our catchment area has rich Tribal history with 7 Rancherias located across various counties. FNRC has been working to develop relationships with tribal leaders and historically it has been difficult because of the trust barrier that exists and the rural and hard to reach areas that communities reside in. FNRC has been a part of the tribal engagement pilot project working alongside California Tribal Families Coalition (CTFC) to help break down barriers and engage with this important community. CTFC has strong ties to organizations such as tribal social service departments, tribal courts, and health clinics. They have already introduced FNRC staff to some tribal leaders and held listening sessions and we would like to continue the work already in progress.

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:

Not Applicable

Section Name: Grant Reapplication Information

Sub Section Name: Grant Reapplications Only

1. Applicant Question: Previous Award(s)

Did your organization receive DDS grant funding in fiscal year 2020-21 or 2021-22? If yes, go to question 2 to complete each column. If no, skip this category and go to category 3.

Applicant Response:

Yes

2. Applicant Question: Previous Grant Award(s)

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

Applicant Response:

Year Awarded	Project Title	Grant Number	Award Amount
2020-2021	Peer Connections Cafe	20-FNRC	200,858

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-not reapplying for previous grant

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

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:

Far Northern Regional Center is in a region with extensive tribal history with almost all counties having Rancherias. According to the 2021 US Census Bureau data, there are over 20,300 Native American individuals living across the nine counties served by FNRC. We currently are only serving approximately 1% of the total Native American individuals living in our catchment area. Studies show that 2 of 5 Native Americans have a disability indicating that we need to improve our outreach and engagement with this community to assure that we are reaching the individuals that need our services. Historically, it has been difficult to reach this community due to the mistrust in government or perceived government entities and due to the remote areas where many of our Native American communities reside. New strategies and constant presence in their communities is required in order to start to build a relationship and increase the amount of individuals reached, especially children who qualify for Early Start services. This project attempts to address this barrier by providing staff in the form of 2 Senior Service Coordinators who will engage consistently with this community and offer more targeted and specific outreach activities. They will actively increase their knowledge and act as subject matter experts for trainings and outreach materials as well as work collaboratively with CTFC to form relationships with Tribal leaders and tribal agencies in order to build trust within the community and participate in trainings about FNRC services.

2. Applicant Question: Duration of project

Choose the duration of your project.

Applicant Response:

24 months

3. Applicant Question: Regional Centers

Choose the Regional Center(s) that your project will serve. Check all that apply. If you are proposing a statewide project, select the All Regional Centers/Statewide option.

Applicant Response:

- Far Northern Regional Center
-

4. Applicant Question: Counties Served

List the county or counties your project proposes to serve. Check all that apply. If you are proposing a statewide project, the select All Counties / Statewide option.

Applicant Response:

- Butte County
 - Glenn County
 - Lassen County
 - Modoc County
 - Plumas County
 - Siskiyou County
 - Shasta County
 - Trinity County
 - Tehama 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:

We will continue to partner with California Tribal Families Coalition to learn how to provide meaningful outreach and engage individuals in a respectful manner. CTFC will provide direction on culturally appropriate educational materials and with their help, we hope to meet more tribal leaders to begin to create relationships within the different communities. Our ultimate goal is to help tribal families learn about our services, especially Early Start services to increase access and equity.

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:

FNRC plans to maintain the relationships created and sustain collaboration efforts with CFTC. We expect to develop partnerships with various Tribal agencies who can help breakdown the barriers that are preventing access to our Early Start services and all other regional center services. We will also continue our outreach efforts and maintain a constant presence in this community with the goal of significantly increasing Early Start referrals. In order to provide adequate services and equity, funding for one new service coordinator for every 40 newly eligible referrals to Early Start services is needed.

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:

- Native 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)
Native American	700	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
 - Three to 21
 - 16 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:

According to the 2021 California Census data, there are over 20,300 Native American individuals residing in FNRC's catchment area, many of whom are hard to reach because of the rural and remote locations in which they live. Outreach and engagement with this population will bridge the information and resource gap so that individuals access services needed, especially Early Start services. Our vision with this project is to start making real and lasting connections and developing relationships with the different tribes in each of the nine counties we serve so that we can provide information and education about the DD system and supports available and therefore increase Early Start referrals. FNRC plans to accomplish this by getting to know tribal agency partners, learn about their services and provide outreach and education. We plan to have a stronger presence in the different communities by participating in more local events, having staff present at local, recurring community events and collaborating with agencies and/or stakeholders that are familiar to the different Native American tribes across the nine counties. The addition of two Senior Service coordinators with a reduced caseload (no more than 40), who will actively find appropriate events and contacts within the communities will be instrumental. They will be the leads on this project and will coordinate with the service coordinators that work in the different counties to target our outreach. Goals include collaborating with the various Rancherias and/or tribal agencies and attending various outreach events. Increased presence and access to FNRC staff is key to create relationships and trust in order to reach our goal of increased service access and equity, especially in Early Start.

A culturally appropriate resource list relevant to each of the different counties/regions of FNRC's catchment area will be developed over time as the Senior SC's collect the information and this specialized staff will be subject matter experts for training and outreach materials to the Native American community. They will work closely with California Family Tribal Coalition (CFTC) to help bridge the gap between RC staff and tribal families, facilitate intake referrals, attend workshops and conferences related to Native American culture and engagement practices, and participate in different trainings to tribal families and service providers.

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 the 2021 California Census data, the percentage of Native American individuals residing in FNRC's catchment area (4%) is greater than the statewide average of 1.7%. FNRC currently serves approximately 2% of Native American individuals. Of the 2% served, 12.5% are receiving Early Start services. The POS data shows that in the last three years, FY's 20-21; 19-20 and 18-19 the percentage served has not changed while Early Start Native American consumers with No POS services has only grown: FY 20-21 = 12.5%; FY 19-20 = 11.8%; and FY 18-19 = 0%. This demonstrates a clear disparity which FNRC is determined to address. Upon review of our data collecting processes we also determined we need to improve these in order to have accurate data on the number of referrals and intakes coming in. At a listening session facilitated by CFTC, tribal leaders commented that they are aware of FNRC but feel like they are not able to serve the community because of the lack of presence, services, and overall knowledge of what FNRC can provide. Our project will enable staff to provide consistent culturally appropriate outreach to tribal families in their communities in order to start building trust so that families feel comfortable asking about and accepting FNRC services. Having staff in the tribal communities will also allow for building of relationships with tribal agencies which can further help build trust and increase Early Start referrals.

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 project is unique because there has not been any other that targets this historically marginalized community. FNRC will be working collaboratively with CFTC's currently funded project, Protecting and Strengthening Tribal Families with Disabilities-The Intersection of ICWA and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Tribal Children which aims to help increase outreach to tribal families, educating on early intervention and developing culturally sensitive educational materials about developmental and intellectual disabilities. CFTC will provide access to tribal leaders and other contacts and resources, which has not been done previously and FNRC will benefit greatly from this collaboration. We have a common goal but FNRC will provide more consistent and specific outreach to the tribal communities in our catchment area. We hope to create lasting relationships within the Native American community and provide needed education about FNRC so that current clients have a better understanding of supports and services available; and we can reach potential new clients and increase referrals, especially to Early Start.

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 targets a hard to reach population that presents difficult geographic and trust challenges along with lack of understanding of developmental disabilities and RC services. These are barriers that FNRC intends to lessen with dedicated staff and targeted outreach so that both tribal agencies/organizations and families gain a good understanding of both developmental disabilities and FNRC's role and services which will result in increased Early Start referrals.

Having specialized staff, Senior Service Coordinators specifically assigned to work with this population is key in order to build relationships with tribal agencies, organizations and families. Cultural Competency is also of utmost importance and equity will not be reached without it, which is why this specialized staff will strive to continue expanding their knowledge on how to best reach the Native American consumers and will collaborate with CFTC to learn best practices and assist with trainings to tribal families and service providers. This project will provide a foundation to build upon so that we can improve equity and access to services for tribal families.

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 supports FNRC's plan to promote equity and reduce disparities by providing specific and targeted outreach and engagement to a historically marginalized and underserved community. Providing staff who are knowledgeable and have a good understanding of appropriate cultural practices is key to any ethnicity. The Senior SC's assigned to this project will collaborate with CFTC who has trusted standing within the tribal community and they will also work to identify other tribal agencies/organizations they can partner with. This project also addresses significant barriers such as trust and possibly fear due to lack of knowledge of the DD system, role of Regional Centers, and services and supports available. The ultimate goal is to increase referrals and therefore lessen the disparities in accessing and utilizing services for tribal families, with a focus on Early Start.

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 proposed measures are appropriate to track our objective of breaking down barriers and increasing Early Start referrals and intakes for Native American individuals. In order to accomplish this, we have to build trust within this community and therefore our activities reflect an increased presence through a number of outreach events, participants reached and number of partnerships/collaborations with local tribal agencies and organizations (i.e. tribal clinics, head starts, Rancherias, Tribal TANF etc.). The Senior Service Coordinators assigned to this project will play an important and key part in the development of good working relationships with Tribal agencies and organizations and therefore the overall success of this project. They will continue to collaborate with CFTC to gain insight on best practices for Tribal engagement, meet tribal leaders, and participate in trainings about FNRC. The SSC's will continue to increase their knowledge as they will be the subject matter experts and in turn will train FNRC staff on best practices. Improving our referral tracking system to obtain more accurate data is also very important in order to determine if there are areas in the intake/referral process we need to improve. The measures are designed to continue the work we have been already doing with CFTC in reaching the Native American community and increasing Early Start referrals and intakes.

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 objective and activities because the majority of the budget is allocated to continued funding for the staff needed to accomplish our goal of increasing Early Start referrals and intakes for the Native American individuals in our catchment area. This includes two Senior Service Coordinators with reduced caseloads who will be completing the project activities, and one Service Coordinator hired to backfill the cases for the SSC's reduced caseloads. The reduced caseloads will allow the SSC's to dedicate the time needed for the project activities. Our catchment area is extensive and reaching some of the Rancherias are a significant distance apart from our offices in remote areas. Increased travel time to build relationships with the different Tribal communities in our large catchment area is necessary. The SSC's will also be key in researching, attending and providing outreach at different tribal events and developing culturally appropriate outreach materials. The outreach plan also involves continued work with CFTC to provide outreach and provide training to FNRC staff which are all included in the budget. Non-allowable costs are not reflected in the budget.

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:

Not applicable

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

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
