

Application Report



Applicant Organization: South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
Project Name: SCLARC Self-Advocate Ambassadors Project
Application ID: App-22-584
Funding Announcement: FY 22-23 Service Access and Equity Grant
Requested Amount: \$40,000

Project Summary: SCLARC will recruit self-advocate and family caregivers to partner with SCLARC as peer ambassadors to conduct community outreach to underserved individuals.

Authorized Certifying Official: Dexter Henderson Dexterh@sclarc.org 213-744-8412
Project Director/Manager: Kiara Lopez kiara@sclarc.org -
Project Manager/Coordinator: Kiara Lopez kiara@sclarc.org -
Compliance/Fiscal Officer: Robert Johnson RobertJ@sclarc.org 213-744-8417

Section Name: Applicant Eligibility

Sub Section Name: Applicant Information

1. Applicant Question: Project Title

What is the Project Title?

Applicant Response:

Ambassadors Advocating for SCLARC

2. Applicant Question: Awarded Amount

What is the total amount awarded for the project?

Applicant Response:

\$40,000

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:

SCLARC is a non-profit organization coordinating supportive services for individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities, young children with developmental delays, and their families. SCLARC provides intake, assessment, diagnosis, case management, and lifelong service coordination for close to 20,000 individuals diagnosed with, or at risk for, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, and Intellectual Disabilities.

SCLARC engages with stakeholders in several advisory groups which inform the agency's work to improve equity in service provision. The Self-Advocate Advisory Committee, Parent Advisory Committee, Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee and Vendor Advisory Committees of SCLARC provide valuable insight, feedback, and direction to SCLARC staff on how to improve services and address the needs of those it serves. In FY 19-20, SCLARC worked with Children's Hospital of Los Angeles to develop the first Regional Center Leadership Academy for SCLARC stakeholders.
www.sclarc.org

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:

[FTB Entity Status Letter 8-17-22.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

[SCLARC Certificate of Good Standing \(2022\).pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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
2020-21	Navigator Program	20-SCLARC	465708
2021-22	Navigator Program	21-SCLARC-01	450000
2021-22	Early Childhood Outreach & Screening Program	21-SCLARC-02	150000

3. Applicant Question: Previous Grant Outcomes

Provide a brief grant summary of your project outcomes for fiscal year 2020-21 and/or 2021-22.

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

4. Applicant Question: Project Transition

If awarded, how will your current project(s) transition into the 2022-23 proposed project? Does your proposed project expand or continue your current project, if so how? What activities, measures, or target groups are being added? Provide a summary of the differences and reasons why you are proposing the change.

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

Applicant Comment:

Not Applicable

Section Name: General Application

Sub Section Name: Proposal Summary

1. Applicant Question: Project Type

Choose the project type that best describes your activities from the list below:

Applicant Response:

Community Connector

Applicant Comment:

This project will empower self-advocates and parent leaders to become community ambassadors who conduct peer to peer outreach and education with the goal of connecting individuals to regional center intake and 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:

- South Central Los Angeles 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:

- Los Angeles 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:

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:

The implementation of the Ambassadors Advocating for SCLARC project will continue beyond the initial project funding by offering a comprehensive capacity building opportunity for 10 self-advocate and parent stakeholders. These individuals will learn both information about the regional center system and skills to support underserved communities in their journey to support. The project will establish a group of outreach specialists with lived experience, either having received services from SCLARC, or having raised a child with a developmental disability, who can connect with individuals who are new to the system, or who feel unconnected. Their training will allow them to continue outreach and community support beyond the 24 month implementation of the project.

Sub Section Name: Target Population

1. Applicant Question: Ethnicity Groups Served

Select the ethnicity group(s) the project will serve. For "Indian", "Pacific Islander", "Slavic" or "Other" use comment section to list specific groups.

Applicant Response:

- African American
 - Hispanic
-

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)
Latino	506	English, Spanish
African-American	154	English

3. Applicant Question: Age Group(s) Served

Select all Age Groups the project will serve.

Applicant Response:

- 22 and older
- 16 to 21
- Three to 21
- Three to Five

Section Name: Project Application

Sub Section Name: Project Application

1. Applicant Question: Project Summary and Organizational Experience

Provide a clear and concise project summary that includes a defined target population, catchment area, and project design. Specifically describe what your project will accomplish and how it will benefit the community served. In your answer, include what experience your organization has working with the target population and how your organization will work with the local RC(s).

Applicant Response:

The Ambassadors Advocating for SCLARC project will support the training and development of 10 stakeholders to become community outreach specialists, offering a peer to peer model of connecting new individuals to the regional center, or increasing services for underserved populations.

While SCLARC has a well-established staff team to represent the agency at community events, the addition of individuals served by SCLARC, and caregivers, will enhance outreach activities, as the community may feel a better sense of connection to those with shared lived experience. Ambassadors will represent the diversity of the SCLARC community, with participants selected from across different diagnoses, ages and ethnicities. The effectiveness of the Ambassadors will be through their ability to connect to underserved individuals and families with their own personal experiences in the regional center system. They will be able to speak to the services and benefits available through SCLARC, and provide advice on navigating the system based on their lived experience.

SCLARC will develop an application identify 10 self-advocates and parent leaders who will commit to a 6-month Ambassador Training Program, and to supporting SCLARC staff at outreach and education events for at least a year after training. The Ambassador Training Program will provide training and capacity building activities in the topics of regional center system and services, the IPP process, person centered planning, and motivational interviewing. Ambassadors will also be expected to attend training on generic systems of care serving individuals with developmental disabilities, to better equip them to support the community with connecting to vital supports.

Each Ambassador will receive a \$300 stipend to be used toward internet service or travel depending on if the training is completed in person or virtually. Ambassadors will commit to representing SCLARC during community outreach or education events at least once per quarter after completion of training, and will receive a stipend for outreach conducted. They will speak to community members about regional center eligibility and services, and will have iPads to help submit intake referrals online, or send messages to SCLARC staff if following up on current issues. Ambassadors will help raise awareness among individuals and families of the Family Portal App, which allows people to access their case file, directly message the staff and access the SC and PM's contact information.

Ambassadors will record short videos aimed at individuals and families entering the system for the first time, to use on the agency website and YouTube channel, and will play on agency waiting room televisions. Ambassadors will also work with SCLARC staff and a project intern to host a community resource fair featuring tables representing different regional center departments and teams, and community partners serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

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 target population for this project proposal is Latino, Spanish-speaking, and African-American individuals not currently connected to SCLARC, or those who are served by SCLARC, but do not have sufficient POS support or feel unconnected to the agency. Of the close to 20,000 individuals served by SCLARC, 70% are Latino, 22% are African-American, 2% are White, 6% Other, and 42% are monolingual Spanish-speakers. SCLARC's 2020-21 data shows inequity in POS services, as 15% of Latinos over the age of three have no POS, and the average per capita POS expenditure for Latinos was \$18,476, compared to a per capita expenditure for African-Americans of \$37,859.

SCLARC regularly collects input from stakeholders through public meetings including the annual Town Halls, Board of Directors meetings, and through monthly meetings with the Parent Advisory and Self-Advocate Advisory Committees. In a recent survey of parents of school aged children served by SCLARC, parents were asked about their experiences and needs. When asked how SCLARC could better provide families with information about service options, programs and resources, parents across the board asked for more information to be provided through handouts and through community outreach. Parents asked that SCLARC "come to schools," "attend community festivals," and conduct "outreach with specific topic trainings." Parents also asked for more events where current parents can meet others that share their experience.

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:

Working collaboratively with adults served by SCLARC and caregivers to increase community outreach will offer a unique perspective and an opportunity for peer to peer connection that does not exist in other projects funded within our community. While ambassadors will receive formal training to increase their knowledge of eligibility and the full breadth of services offered through SCLARC, their lived experience offers a level of expertise that no professional can match. The implementation of this project will develop 10 ambassadors, all of whom have personally navigated SCLARC services, who are trained in a curriculum that supports their ability to connect with underserved individuals and guide them in receiving needed POS services from SCLARC.

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 will empower a group of 10 self-advocates served by SCLARC and parent caregivers to gain knowledge and skills in community outreach and system navigation. While it is expected that the lives of the 10 ambassadors will be improved by gaining expertise that could translate to new career opportunities, it is also expected that the work of the ambassadors will improve outcomes for the SCLARC community. The outreach work conducted by the ambassadors will increase community awareness of the regional center system, increase referrals of individuals in need of assessment, and connect underserved SCLARC individuals to new POS, or to other supports that improve outcomes. The individuals who train as Ambassadors will either be individuals who currently receive services from SCLARC, or who are a primary caregiver of an individual served by SCLARC. Their lived experience will be enhanced by capacity building training in the areas of person centered planning, motivational interviewing and in understanding various systems of care.

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 aims to improve equity in service provision for Latino and African-American individuals served by SCLARC by increasing authorized services for individuals with insufficient services, and by increasing referrals of new individuals to the regional center. This supports SCLARC's efforts to improve equity among the Latino and African-American individuals served, and the larger effort from the agency to ensure that individuals are referred for assessment as early as possible. This project will focus on outreach throughout SCLARC's service area, at both events hosted by SCLARC and those held by community partners. Ambassadors will attend community resource fairs and events, offering on the spot support with submitting new referrals for assessment, enrolling individuals and families in the Family Portal App, and reconnecting individuals who are underserved to POS or other supportive services.

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:

This project targets underserved individuals who are not currently connected to the regional center, or current individuals who are not receiving POS. A group of 10 self-advocates and caregivers will complete a comprehensive training development program, building interpersonal skills and system knowledge to prepare them for their role as community outreach specialists. After receiving training in person centered planning, regional center, the IPP, motivational interviewing and other systems of care, Ambassadors will commit to attending at least 1 event per quarter for up to 18 months.

A project intern, under the supervision of SCLARC's Training Manager, will coordinate schedules for the Ambassadors, keeping a calendar of upcoming community events, and working with the team to schedule them for events that work with their schedules. Ambassadors will often attend events with other SCLARC staff, increasing the outreach ability of the agency, and connecting to individuals by sharing their lived experience.

The project measures for this project will be captured through the number of Ambassadors who complete all required training modules and a pre/post knowledge survey before and after the training program. In addition, the project will report the number of events that Ambassadors attend, the number of referrals of new individuals for assessment, of individuals who they connect to the Family Portal App, and the number who they support with requesting POS or receiving other support from SCLARC.

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

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:

SCLARC is a Regional Center.

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
