Grant Cycle 43 Excess Funds Project Proposal

Project: Virtual Training Resource Center

Recommended Funding: $75,000

Goal Areas: All

Background:

Historically, SCDD regional personnel have spent significant time planning and delivering training in each of the Council's 6 goals and in 10 or more of the 14 objectives. Often, trainings are provided multiple times in different locations and at different times for accessibility.

Due to COVID-19-related restrictions (which were implemented throughout the state, beginning in March of 2020), the Council's trainings were shifted from in-person classes/trainings to a virtual delivery, provided 'live' through a Zoom platform. This shift allowed regional staff to collaboratively organize and deliver trainings, providing a robust program even in the midst of crisis and social isolation.

During this regional programming shift, staff has reported that a virtual platform has achieved higher participation numbers across the board – with family/self-advocates, professionals and others within the community. The data from regional activity reports reinforces these claims. Prior to this shift, staff averaged approximately 70 trainings per month, reaching an average of 25 individuals per training and 1,750 individuals per month. Since shifting to a virtual platform, staff has averaged nearly 40 trainings per month, reaching nearly 50 individuals per training and 2,000 individuals per month. The reduced time spent on trainings has allowed staff to focus on other activities related to impacts of the current public health crisis (e.g. PPE distribution, increase in requests for information and/or technical assistance [TA], resource distribution, etc.).

In documenting these results, our analytical team has seen the immediate success of this service delivery method, as well as the notable increase in the number of people reached - even given the reduced number of trainings actually provided, which was largely due to other demands on staff time (e.g. regional distribution of personal protective equipment [PPE], etc.). Staff also sees an opportunity to expand the current model into a

comprehensive Virtual Training Resource Center that would allow trainings to be uploaded and accessed at any time by any individual.

Project Details: Virtual Training Resource Center

- Record and upload high quality trainings in core topic areas

- Create a searchable online library of all trainings available in each service/goal/objective area

- Provide training links for surveys, related materials, and resources

- Create a platform for Continuing Education Units (CEU's)

- Funding would be used for:
  - ✓ Web developers
    - Expand website to support Resource Center
    - Online Training Platform and Library
  - ✓ Video/Audio equipment for each Regional Office
  - ✓ Extra licensing for Adobe video editing software

Project Outputs and Outcome(s):

- Reduced staff workload – to allow more time and resources for follow-up clinics, technical assistance, systems change projects and planning/response activities associated with emerging issues

- Increased reach

- Focus in-person trainings on more advanced topics

- Standardized, streamlined, statewide trainings

- Accessible training (in re: to locations, dates/times, etc.)

- Certifications/CEUs available for professionals (e.g. vendors, RC personnel, attorneys/judges/LE officers, hospital/EMS personnel, etc.)

Other Recommendations:

Any leftover funds from this project may be used for the 6.1 web platform project, if needed.