

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT CYCLE 46

PROPOSALS SELECTED FOR FUNDING

Grantee: The Arc San Francisco

Recommended Funding: \$80,962.50

Project Area: Employment

Number of People Served: 500

Proposal Summary: The Arc San Francisco will collaborate with an existing network of businesses, business associations and service providers to create a stakeholder network that is committed to inclusive hiring. This network will be available to support both employees and employers to determine ways that access needs are being met in other organizations, where these practices can be implemented and what assistance is available from entities such as the Department of Rehabilitation and The Arc San Francisco.

This project will reach adults (18+) with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their span of care, employers interested in hiring individuals with developmental disabilities, service providers, government entities and employers that advocate for and support inclusive hiring.

Agency Description: The Arc San Francisco is part of the nation's oldest and largest network of support service agencies for individuals with developmental disabilities. For over 50 years, The Arc San Francisco has partnered with individuals with developmental disabilities to design their lives and support them in achieving their short- and long-term goals. Currently The Arc San Francisco works closely with healthcare providers, social workers, employers, teachers, volunteers, mentors, families and ensure that individual needs are met. The Arc San Francisco has shown commitment to ensuring that available resources are known and easily accessed through creation of training tools, speakers' series and councils to support specific needs like advocacy, volunteer and business development supports.

Grantee: Build Rehabilitation Industries dba BuildAbility

Recommended Funding: \$95,499

Project Area: Employment

Number of People Served: 400

Proposal Summary: BuildAbility's Employment Grant Project will focus on Supported Employment Outreach and Education for businesses located within the Los Angeles area. BuildAbility will develop a generalized, engaging and informative video presentation that will be paired with printed materials and a live presenter to answer general and specific questions to meet with groups of employers at one time. This presentation will provide information about the regional center system, Paid Internship Program, Supported Employment Program, and the overall benefits of hiring individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). It may also include testimonials from businesses who have had a positive experience employing people with I/DD.

Individuals with I/DD, through video presentation or in-person at live events, will be invited to speak about what employment means to them, the impact it has had on their life, and how participation in Supported Employment has helped them be successful at their job.

In addition to live presentations, social media will be utilized to showcase employers of individuals with I/DD, highlighting the advantages of employing individuals with I/DD, and educate the public about I/DD and employment to increase awareness and to publicly encourage businesses to hire more individuals with I/DD.

Agency Description: Since 1967, BuildAbility, a non-profit agency, has provided Supported Employment services and supports to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the San Fernando Valley. We are vendored with North Los Angeles County Regional Center to provide these services, which are funded by the Department of Developmental Services. Additionally, BuildAbility is contracted with the Department of rehabilitation to assist individuals with I/DD prepare for employment and provide support while on the job. BuildAbility routinely receives CARF's (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) highest accreditation level of three years and has received excellent feedback from families and clients. BuildAbility's mission is to assist individuals with disabilities and other barriers in achieving their highest potential and enhance their quality of life.

Grantee: Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action

Recommended Funding: \$71,625

Project Area: Self-Advocacy

Number of People Served: 90

Proposal Summary: The PESA and IFTA Youth Leadership & Self-Advocacy Training Program responds directly to the outlined project needs, explicitly focusing on enhancing self-determination and person-centered training among youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This commitment is integrated through their design and implementation, ensuring participants from diverse abilities and backgrounds can meaningfully access and benefit from the program.

The curriculum spans basic, advanced, and modified self-advocacy training, integrating self-determination skills, person-centered principles, and tailored learning for participants impacted differently by their disabilities. This approach applies research-backed practices to ensure effective skill-building and empowerment

Assistive Technology (AT) training is a crucial component of the program. They will identify appropriate AT based on individual needs, ensuring everyone, regardless of the severity of their disability, has access to suitable technology. They will use measures to safeguard participants against cyberbullying demonstrate their commitment to providing a safe and supportive digital environment.

Agency Description: Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action (PESA) is a decade-long service provider in Youth Leadership outreach and training, is a recognized partner in fostering advocacy skills among California's I/DD community. Their innovated services, evidenced by being named one of the non-profits of the year by the California State Legislature in 2021, have consistently demonstrated their commitment to this community, even facilitating their inclusion in the COVID-19 vaccination drive.

The PESA team includes individuals with profound experiences in special education, social work, public administration, and working with youth with disabilities. They utilize their unique cultural, economic, ethnic, geographic, and linguistic backgrounds to incorporate cultural competence within their I/DD services, ensuring they address diverse, underserved populations' needs effectively.