

SDM-TAP Grant Proposals Selected for Funding

Grantee: California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) Foundation Inc.

Recommended Funding: \$511,627.00

Project Area: Professional Implementation

Focus Areas: I/DD Services, Educational Services, Legal Services, and Medical Services

Number of People Served: 500

Proposal Summary:

The grantees will work with SDM subject matter experts, professional focus area experts, and people with I/DD and their families to create modules and materials which will increase the understanding of professionals to work with individuals who have chosen to use SDM. The modules will be on-demand and self-paced and will be eligible for Continuing Education (CE) credit for professionals. The grantee will prioritize marketing this training to professionals working in vulnerable communities, including deeply rural, inner city, non-English speaking, homelessness/foster care, and Native/Tribal communities. Additionally, they will host a hybrid format statewide conference for professionals to attend and learn more about implementing SDM in their practice. There will be 2 types of modules – one will be an intro to SDM and the other will be a “train the trainer” option for professionals who want to share the message of SDM within their profession.

Proposal Outputs:

The grantee will:

- Create on-demand, self-paced training modules for professionals on SDM.
 - A 1 – 2-hour introduction to SDM course tailored to each of the 4 areas of focus. This will provide professionals with CD credit.
 - A 4 – 6-hour facilitator course for professionals who want to develop expertise in this area and share their knowledge with colleagues.
 - They are also creating a facilitator’s manual that will be provided by those who take the facilitator course.
 - These modules will be integrated into curriculum at CSUEB and available to anyone through CSUEB Continuing Education. They will continue to be available after the grant project has been completed.
- They will market these statewide to professionals with emphasis on underserved communities.

- They will plan and host a statewide conference for professionals focusing on SDM in professional settings.

Outcomes:

Short Term Outcomes:

- Professionals will understand how conservatorships impact people with I/DD, increase their knowledge of AB 1663 and SDM, learn how to change intake and assessment procedures to ask more broadly about decision-making plans, and learn how to discuss decision-making options, including SDM, with clients.

Medium Term Outcomes:

- Within 1 month of completing the training, professionals will engage in at least one client interaction in which they discuss SDM as an alternative to conservatorship and change intake and assessment procedures and forms to ask about decision-making more broadly.

Long Term Outcomes:

- An increase in the capacity of professionals serving diverse people with I/DD and their families to provide relevant culturally responsive information about SDM to the people that they work with and the use of SDM will increase, and conservatorship will decrease.

Agency Description:

California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) is one of the 23 campuses of the California State University System. CSUEB enrolls approximately 12,000 students in 48 undergraduate majors, 34 master's degree programs, and 27 credential and certificate programs. CSUEB's mission is to "welcome and support a diverse student body with academically rich, culturally relevant learning experiences which prepare students to apply their education to meaningful lifework, and to be socially responsible contributors to society." CSUEB is well positioned to support a large-scale professional training initiative. Several units on campus will be involved in this project to help to ensure its success, including:

- Center for Disability Justice Research (CDJR): Health Equity, Education, and Creativity
- CSUEB Foundation
- Office of Faculty Development (OFD)
- CSUEB Online Campus
- The Office of Continuing Education (CE)

Collaborators:

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)

Grantee: Family Resource Navigators (FRN)**Recommended Funding: \$780,256.05****Project Area: Family/Individual Implementation****Number of People Served: 2,880****Proposal Summary:**

The goal of the project is to increase awareness and understanding of Supported Decision-Making (SDM) among underserved individuals with I/DD, and their families, in the areas of education, and health and medical services. Their efforts will include interactive workshops, one-on-one family navigation services, and events. They seek to educate individuals and their families on what SDM is, how to access SDM resources, and how to implement SDM.

Proposal Outputs:

The grantee will provide these services:

- Education and training opportunities for individuals with I/DD, their families, caregivers, and relevant stakeholders. These opportunities will include workshops, seminars, and resources designed to enhance understanding and promote self-advocacy.
- Personalized family navigation services to assist individuals with I/DD and their families in navigating decision-making processes, accessing resources, and overcoming barriers.
- The grantee will advocate for policy changes and initiatives that promote the rights and inclusion of individuals with I/DD in decision-making processes. This includes raising awareness about SDM as a viable alternative to conservatorship and advocating for its recognition and implementation in educational, legal, and health care settings.
- The grantee will also engage with local communities, organizations, and stakeholders to foster a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals with I/DD. The grantee will engage in outreach activities, collaboration with service providers, and public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and promote acceptance.

Outcomes:

The grantee anticipates that the project will empower individuals with I/DD and lead to them having greater control over their lives and decisions. Individuals and families will have improved access to comprehensive information about decision-making options, legal rights, and support services for individuals with I/DD and their families. The grantee will provide enhanced navigational support and guidance for individuals with I/DD with one-on-one support to reduce barriers and improve access to needed resources. They also seek to reduce stigma and discrimination against individuals with I/DD and positive policy changes and increased recognition of SDM as a valid decision-making model.

Agency Description:

Family Resource Navigators (FRN) serves over 2,300 families and self-advocates each year, providing comprehensive support and resources to individuals with diverse needs, including Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), mental health concerns, and aging needs. FRN's expertise lies in supporting families and self-advocates across the lifespan, leveraging both personal and professional experiences. Their team members are family members or self-advocates themselves, bringing a deep understanding and personal investment to our work. Their approach is rooted in empathy, firsthand knowledge, and a commitment to empowering individuals and families to navigate challenges and access the support and resources they need for optimal quality of life. FRN excels in navigating education systems, particularly K-12, and holds the designation as the Regional Family Empowerment Center on Disabilities through the California Department of Education, Special Education Division.

Collaborators:

Support for Families of Children with Disabilities

Grantee: Pragnya

Recommended Funding: \$477,000.00

Project Area: Family/Individual Implementation

Number of People Served: 50

Proposal Summary:

The SDM Navigators project empowers neurodiverse individuals (those with ID/D-developmental differences), aging seniors, those with debilitating mental health conditions, and their families, to navigate various life decisions and lead more self-determined lives through Supported Decision-Making (SDM). The project will achieve this impact through a comprehensive framework with: 1) Individualized coaching by highly trained SDM Coaches that work one-on-one with participants for 18 months, offering tailored support; 2) Informative workshops for families and self-advocates, service providers, and the general community; and, 3) Accessible resources available through a curated, user-friendly library of online and workshop-distributed resources on SDM, catering to diverse learning styles, such as guides, toolkits, FAQs, multimedia content (e.g., videos, podcasts).

Proposal Outcomes/Outputs:

The project's primary outcomes are:

1. An increased awareness and implementation of SDM along with improved quality of life and enhanced access to available SDM supports and services to promote agency and independence for individuals in daily living skills, employment, and social interactions.
2. Establish SDM principles throughout California to create a unified system of support for SDM implementation in day-to-day activities and professional settings.
3. Connect families and caregivers with SDM and equip them with the knowledge and tools to advocate for their loved ones and ensure their voices are heard.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Create positive impacts and holistic supports for individuals implementing SDM:

- **Objective 1.1:** SDM Coaches will work one-on-one with participants to provide best practices for implementation.
- **Objective 1.2:** Live or pre-recorded webinars and in-person workshops delivered by SDM experts.

Goal 2: Conduct outreach strategies to reach underserved communities to share the knowledge and resources to gain equitable access to services, SDM practices and the benefits they offer:

- **Objective 2.1:** Collaborate with local community-based organizations, faith-based groups, and cultural centers.
- **Objective 2.2:** Distribute materials to stakeholders and the wider

- community after translation into multiple languages.
- Goal 3:** Empower families and caregivers with an understanding of SDM and the confidence to engage in SDM within various settings.
- **Objective 3.1:** Provide trainings to improve communication between families, caregivers, and professionals, leading to more collaborative care planning and opportunities for SDM.
 - **Objective 3.2:** Equip support networks with the resources to play a crucial role in the implementation of SDM and promote a self-determined life for their loved ones.

Agency Description:

PRAGNYA develops programs that supports Neurodiverse individuals through community integration programs, academic augmentation programs and social experiential programs. PRAGNYA's programs include community activities and integrated volunteer experiences that develop a sense of belonging for the Neurodiverse individuals, while also providing them the Neurotypical peer circles of support to aid in this process. Based on the individual and family- centric approach, the program utilizes a variety of trained Ally (peer) support, group activities, educational workshops, and community-based activities.

Grantee: Disability Voices United (DVU)

Recommended Funding: \$799,639.00

Project Area: Family/Individual Implementation

Number of People Served: 12,000

Proposal Summary:

Disability Voices United, and their project collaborators, will create the Supported Decision-Making Training and Information Center (SDM-TIC), a comprehensive project in which people with disabilities and family members develop effective training materials and curriculum, conduct outreach and lead trainings throughout the state for other self-advocates and family members. DVU's Self-Advocates Speakers Bureau, which has a multi-year track record of success, will train people with disabilities to lead the SDM trainings. Finally, the project also will include a SDM Public Awareness and Acceptance Campaign led by self-advocates and the organizers of the #FreeBritney movement.

Proposal Outcomes/Outputs:

1. Widespread awareness of SDM to increase the use and understanding of the implementation best practices.

This grant will empower self-advocates and families, particularly those from marginalized communities, with the knowledge and awareness of SDM's significance and the benefits as an alternative to conservatorships.

2. Improved Self-Advocate Participation in SDM

Enhance self-advocates' ability to actively participate in decision-making processes and effectively communicate their preferences, fostering autonomy and self-determination. This outcome will lead to a decreased reliance on conservatorships, particularly for adults with I/DD, by demonstrating the effectiveness and viability of SDM as an alternative supportive decision-making model. The education and advocacy efforts to highlight the benefits of SDM will promote the utilization and comprehension of SDM among adults with various disabilities to encourage widespread participation.

3. Strengthened capacity of family members, caregivers, and service providers as supporters

Equip family members, caregivers, and service providers with the skills and knowledge necessary to practice SDM effectively with their loved ones or clients, promoting collaborative decision-making and person-centered support. This approach will promote acceptance of disability rights and the importance of supported decision-making.

Proposal Impact:

The creation of the SDM Training and Information Center will provide individuals with disabilities access to plain language and accessible trainings, materials, and videos. The training approach will enable them to understand how to utilize SDM to make decisions and retain autonomy over their lives. Through live examples and demonstrations of SDM in action, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how

SDM can work in practice and various settings. Ultimately, this project will increase SDM usage among individuals with disabilities in order to encourage agency over their lives with the appropriate support.

Agency Description:

Disability Voices United is a California advocacy organization directed by and for people with disabilities and our families. Through grassroots education, organizing, and empowerment, monitoring of regional centers, legislative and administrative advocacy, and calls for increased oversight, Disability Voices United advocates for systemic changes to the systems that ensure choice and control, meaningful outcomes, equality, and accountability.

Collaborators:

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
American Civil Liberties Union, Disability Rights Program
Brightwell Strategies
Mastering our Destiny Squad
Free Britney LA Organizers