

## **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT CYCLE 47**

### **PROPOSALS SELECTED FOR FUNDING**

**Grantee: Compass SLS and ILS**

**Recommended Funding: \$220,500.00**

**Project Area: Self-Advocacy (Isolation/Loneliness)**

**Number of People Served: 600 (300 SA, 100 FA & 200 others)**

**Proposal Summary:** Build: Bridge to Belonging is a comprehensive program created to help adults with ID/DD feel less alone and isolated. It does this by offering them person-centered support, coaching, and training in social and emotional skills, as well as practical community connections. Prior to anything else, the program enables individuals to join an online community focused on a particular interest. In addition to learning new skills to improve their ability to interact with local communities, participants in these online sessions will have the chance to discover more about their interests. As the online meetings give way to in-person gatherings centered on related themes of interest, these abilities can subsequently be applied in person. As they participate in more realized levels of community, this will assist participants in gaining confidence. Lastly, coaching assistance will enable participants to establish connections with communities in their local area that are comparable to their own.

**Agency Description:** Compass Disability Services has been providing services to DDS clients and their families for 26 years. They are a large provider based in Redding California, servicing a total of 5 regional centers. Compass currently provides Supported Living, Independent Living, and Coordinated Family Support Services, all of which are completely community-based and consistently require collaboration with natural support and generic resources. The Senior Leadership Team at Compass collectively has over 311 years of experience serving people with disabilities along with degrees (7 master's degrees, 2 PhDs) in Therapeutic Recreation, Social Work, Organizational Leadership, Special Education, Behavioral Science, and Nursing to name a few. They have an established Training and Excellence Department and their proprietary software product QSP (Quick Solve Plus) with which they have undertaken several training and product development grants with several regional centers. In a short time, they have developed a track record for developing training and technical assistance products to improve regional center services and community-based organizations' capacity to serve Regional Center Service Recipients.

**Grantee: Public Health Institute**

**Recommended Funding: \$62,245.00**

**Project Area: Self-Advocacy (Plain Language)**

**Number of People Served: 40 Self-Advocates**

**Proposal Summary:** The Inclusive Communication Project will eliminate barriers to inaccessible communication in by teaching businesses, government agencies, and service providers how to communicate in plain language, and the project will teach individuals with I/DD and their supporters how and use it to secure potential employment opportunities. to covert information in plain language.

The Inclusive Communication Project emphasizes plain language as a universal design strategy for communication and understanding. People with I/DD, English learners, and individuals with lower literacy skills are not considered in communication development. This results in them missing important information needed to fully participate in their local communities and get the services they need. The use of plain language in government, nonprofit, and business communications is essential in reaching the widest possible audience and, at the same time, is one of the most cost-effective and straightforward ways to ensure access.

This project will not only educate government agencies, private businesses, and service providers on the importance of plain language but also offer how-to guides on putting it into practice. The how-to guide for businesses will have an English and Spanish version. If a business, government entity, or service provider wants to complete a personalized training for their staff, they will have the option to post “plain language pledges” on their websites so others can see their commitment to this form of access.

In addition, training will be provided to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (PwI/DD) and family members to translate difficult-to-understand, inaccessible content into usable, plain language information. Those skills can be used to explore employment opportunities in local communities, including micro-enterprise startups. The final plain language course will be offered to the larger community, with an online resource toolkit containing employment marketing materials and outreach ideas for families and service providers across the state (and beyond).

**Agency Description:** The Public Health Institute (PHI) is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being, and health equity with communities around the world. As one of the largest and most comprehensive public health organizations in the nation, They are at the forefront of research and innovations to improve the efficacy of public health. Throughout PHI's nearly 60-year history, they have strengthened public health through building the capacity of individuals, organizations, and communities regionally, nationally, and globally through three key primary roles: as a Fiscal Sponsor, as a thought leader/policy advocate, and as an implementing partner.

A vital, growing, and financially stable organization, PHI was created for the specific purpose of providing high-quality technical, administrative, and management services to their various partners and offers best-in-class administrative and contract management systems that are designed to ensure successful program staffing, fiscal accountability, and timely completion of deliverables.