

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee**

Date: 8/07/13

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: B

Grantee: Texas Tech University
Project Title: Project SEARCH
Project Location: Statewide

Year: 2 of 5

Website: www.projectsearch.us

TCDD RFP Intent:

The project intent is to provide support for school districts, businesses, and/or other entities who wish to contract with Project SEARCH®. Project SEARCH® is a business-led school-to-work transition model with demonstrated success in developing internships for student with developmental disabilities.

Authorized Funding: \$175,000 per year for up to five years.

Expected Results: TechWorks for Texas (TWT) will support the development of 10 newly certified Project SEARCH® sites in Texas by the end of year 4 of this grant.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year 1:

Goal: To select and develop the first cohort of 3-4 sites.

Accomplishments per goal:

Planning and preliminary project implementation activities took place in the first year, including conference calls with the Project SEARCH® national office and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Communities for the first sites were selected: Lewisville, Garland, and Forth Worth. Training and technical assistance have been provided to the selected communities. A difficult negotiation process to contract with the Project SEARCH® national office was completed. All sites have developed their local teams, including school districts that provide a teacher and aide and DARS for a community rehabilitation provider (CRP) and job coach. All sites have arranged internships for 8-10 students each.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 2:

Goal: Same as above.

Objectives: 1) Develop the infrastructure and leadership team who will be responsible for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for TWT; 2) Develop a marketing plan; 3) Assist entities across the state indicating to establish a Project SEARCH® site to receive technical assistance and training; 4) Provide evaluative information on the implementation of Project SEARCH® in Texas community sites to TCDD, DARS, and other relevant stakeholders.

Staff Recommendations:

Public Policy Considerations: The grantee will summarize information about barriers and opportunities to employment for people with developmental disabilities that will help promote changes in state/federal laws or policies and regulations that are barriers. That information should be used to inform the Employment First Task Force formed as a result of SB 1226. The grantee might consider recommending participants – self-advocates, employment providers, and employers – for the stakeholder Employment First Task Force.

Grants Management Considerations: The grantee is not in compliance with TCDD policies regarding PAC meetings. The first PAC meeting was conducted in the third quarter.

Staff Recommendations: TCDD staff recommends continuation funding for this project with increased programmatic monitoring.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary

	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (6 months) (Consultant: \$57,487)	\$174,854/ \$84,376	\$58,784/ \$23,840	\$233,638/ \$108,216
Amount requested for Year 2 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	91,649	0	91,649
II. Travel	19,153	0	19,153
III. Purchased Services (\$45,000 consultants)	45,200	0	45,200
IV. Property/Materials	1,198	0	1,198
V. Rental/Leasing	0	0	0
VI. Utilities	0	0	0
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	17,466	58,751	76,217
Budget period totals	\$174,666	\$58,751	\$233,417