

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Executive Committee**

Date: 4/4/2014

Review of Proposed Activities & Budget

ITEM: F

Grantee: Strategic Education Solutions

Year: 3 of 5

Project Title: Enabling Technology

Project Location: Houston

Website: www.strategicedolutions.com

TCDD RFP Intent: The project intent is to assist Texans with developmental disabilities in attaining competitive employment opportunities. Grantees will develop and implement a plan to demonstrate to employers, people with developmental disabilities, and/or family members ways in which available assistive technology can enhance job performance and increase employment options. TCDD has approved funding up to \$225,000 per year for up to five years.

Authorized Funding: TCDD has approved up to \$225,000 per year for up to three years with an option of funding years four and five.

Expected Results: Adults with cognitive disabilities will have access to a low-cost instructional resource that will assist them with career planning, the job search, and sustaining competitive employment.

Project Goals and Accomplishments for Year(s) 1 & 2:

Goal: To provide adults with Cognitive Disabilities and their caregivers a comprehensive, accessible, and low-cost instructional resource that supports them through their career planning, job search, and employment journey.

Accomplishments per goal: The Virtual Job Coach team developed 20 additional user modules in year 2 including modules on preparing for an interview, negotiating a job offer, and researching your career. The grantee recruited one teacher and 10 students from a mixed high school transition class who have been using the training site since September, 2013. The project partner responsible for technology deployment is currently developing a feature that will enable support staff—teachers, job coaches, case workers, etc. to create “classes” of users, assign content on a customized schedule, and monitor users’ progress. A pre-pilot survey was distributed to the year 2 pilot group (post surveys will be distributed in March). *The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) recruited a high school transition teacher and a transition specialist from Region 4. The grantee also facilitated a presentation at SXSW Edu Conference on transition.*

Proposed Goals and Objectives for Year 3:

Goal: Same as above

Objectives: Increase user group within Texas significantly to test wider-scale implementation of the product/program; Develop and implement expansion/sustainability plan for year four to ensure that expansion is strategic and does not diminish the usability of the product; Evaluate project activities and effectiveness; Recruit, convene, and monitor PAC.

Staff Recommendations:

Public Policy Considerations: SES reports that 40% of project participants identified the fear that employment will result in a loss of public benefits as a barrier. These fears are the result of both perceived and real threats. TCDD’s upcoming employment conference project should develop video training materials that communicate options for maintaining benefits and identify when loss of benefits is likely. SES’ experience and perspective also could inform the work of the Employment First Task Force. Because of SES’ unique perspective, they might be called upon to provide comments about the need for policy improvements that address aspects of the identified barrier.

Grant Management Considerations: No concerns; high risk monitoring (awards within awards)

Staff Recommendation: TCDD staff recommends Council to consider continuation funding for this project and recommends discussion about expectations for considering funding for years 4 and 5.

Continuation Budget Detail Summary			
	Federal	Match	Totals
Expended Year 1 (Consultant: \$147,827)	\$224,967/\$224,967	\$27,617/\$29,995	\$252,584/\$254,962
Expended Year 2 (10 months) (Consultant: \$156,180)	\$225,000/\$165,370	\$50,042/\$36,680	\$275,042/\$202,050
Amount requested for Year 3 budget:			
I. Personnel Services	72,000	39,108	111,108
II. Travel	0	1,442	1,442
III. Purchased Services (\$150,680 consultants)	151,320	30,077	181,397
IV. Property/Materials	1,680	588	2,268
V. Rental/Leasing	0	600	600
VI. Utilities	0	756	756
VII. Other (Indirect Costs)	0	0	0
Budget period totals	\$225,000	\$72,571	\$297,571