

Background:

During the February meetings, the Council directed TCDD staff to develop an Executive Summary for future TCDD Public Policy Collaboration activities based on the performance measures recommended by the ad hoc workgroup. The Council decided to post a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will allow any organization to apply for grant funds for activities they think will help the Council accomplish its goals. The Council agreed that the Executive Committee would review a first draft of the Executive Summary at their meeting on April 8th. The Executive Committee suggested a few changes and recommended that this draft Executive Summary (attached) be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole will discuss the Executive Summary and may make additional changes to this draft. The Council will review the Executive Summary and make a final decision on Friday.

Important Terms:

Public Policy Collaboration: Two or more organizations working together on public policy.

Performance Measures: The information TCDD will look at to decide if staff and activities are successful.

Ad hoc workgroup: A group of people that meet to work to review one issue or complete one task. The workgroup only meets until they are finished with that task.

Committee of the Whole

Agenda Item 7.

Expected Action:

The Committee of the Whole will review and make recommendations to the Council on the Executive Summary.

Council

Agenda Item 9. B.

Expected Action:

The Council will review and take action on recommendations from the Committee of the Whole.

Future Funding Proposal

Executive Summary

Public Policy Collaboration Activities

Background:

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) exists to create change so that all people with developmental disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives. The Council develops a five year State Plan with goals and objectives that describe, broadly, strategies to achieve this goal, including: providing grants to demonstrate innovative approaches to promoting the full inclusion and authority of people with developmental disabilities over their own lives; providing seed money to develop new community-based programs; working directly and through grantees to improve existing services and supports and to make “generic” community supports more responsive to all people’s needs; funding leadership and advocacy training; disseminating information to the public and legislators; and collaborating with individual advocates and advocacy groups to address public policy issues. A significant portion of TCDD staff activities directly relate to state-level public policy activities: staff work with the Council in developing position statements on key issues that impact people with developmental disabilities, routinely participate and provide input to a number of different policy-related Texas health and human service (hhs), housing, transportation, education, and employment workgroups, as well as to legislators to ensure that they are aware of the impact proposed legislation may have on people with developmental disabilities; and TCDD has provided financial support for disability advocates to collaborate with others around specific issues.

Over the last year, the Council conducted a thorough review of its activities related to public policy collaboration and the collaboration efforts of other Councils and organizations. The Council renewed its commitment and desire to promote and participate in collaborative efforts, and chose to explore other models that promote public policy collaboration that would also be effective in Texas. Other options may include nationally recognized best practices as well as models of change that reflect the current landscape and dynamics in the creation of effective public policy. The Council’s priority is achieving positive outcomes related to its mission statement, and believes that on-going collaboration with others in the arena of public policy is a legitimate way of doing this. At this time, funds are available to support specific activities that collaborative groups might wish to implement (such as Capital rally days, events to provide training and organizing at grassroots and/or local levels, conferences, legislative symposiums, etc.); however, the Council hopes to facilitate collaborative efforts that are not dependent upon Council funds in order for collaboration to happen.

To implement this decision, the Council will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will allow organizations to propose any sustainable model they believe will best address the Council’s objective and primary requirements, as outlined below.

State Plan Goal and Objective:

Goal 10: People with developmental disabilities and family members will have the supports and services they need to be able to participate actively in their communities.

Objective 2: Collaborate, each year of the State Plan, with other agencies and organizations on an ongoing basis to develop and promote concrete policy alternatives and best practices to ensure that individuals and families can access and maintain self-directed community-based services and supports of their choice.

Expected Outcome(s):

TCDD will expand sustainable collaborative efforts around public policy issues that impact Texans with developmental disabilities and that involve a diverse group of individuals and stakeholder organizations, including organizations that have not traditionally collaborated with disability advocacy groups. The collaborative(s) would determine the issues to be addressed and the manner in which advocacy on those issues would be conducted.

Project Description:

TCDD may fund multiple short term, low cost, activities to reach the outcome described in this Executive Summary, depending on the quality of proposals received in response to the RFP and the funds available at that time. For the purposes of this RFP, “collaboration” shall be defined as “organizations and/or individuals working together in a formal, sustainable manner; demonstrating mutual respect, mutual learning, and mutual accountability; sharing risks, resources, responsibility, and rewards; with a common goal. “Short term, low cost” shall be the language used in the RFP, without further definition provided by TCDD. Applicants will be expected to propose the project duration and cost they believe necessary, although funding will not be provided for any activity for more than 5 years.

The grant project(s) funded by TCDD will develop and support public policy collaboration activities that will be sustainable without TCDD funds within 5 years. Every collaboration(s) established or supported by TCDD must be “cross disability” and emphasize the inclusion of, representation by, and active participation of people with diverse developmental disabilities. In addition, the activities funded through this grant must address those things that are statewide issues and TCDD Public Policy Priorities.

All proposals must indicate how the outcome(s) of the project(s) would be measurable in a cost-effective manner. Examples of outcome measures TCDD believes would be measurable might include:

- The percentage of stakeholder organizations, including non-traditional and non-DD partners, which are part of particular state public policy collaboration. For the purposes of evaluating how well the project met this goal, “stakeholder organizations” are defined as those organizations identified by TCDD as organizations that have missions and philosophies that are not in opposition to those of the Council and that also represent constituents who would be impacted by public policy change.
- The percentage of identified hhs, transportation, housing, and education state policies, procedures, rules, or regulations that reflect Public Policy goals and identified needs,

and/or the percentage that are changed to reflect input from the collaboration and/or TCDD.

- Of the key public policy-related documents (for example, legislative reports or bills) for which the public policy collaboration(s) draft formal recommendations, the percentage that reflect those recommendations.
- A demonstrated impact on existing or new policy programs and initiatives (for example, a change in hhs agency operations/policies, changes in state and local level policies and practices, etc.)
- An increase in the number of people with developmental disabilities and/or their families who receive information from, or provide information to, the collaboration(s); and/or the percent who have acted based on that information.
- Percentage of funds or resources needed to support the collaborative activities that are provided or generated by member organizations other than the DD Council.
- Number of organizations participating in public policy collaboration activities that represent people who are typically “unserved” or “underserved,” as defined in the DD Act Amendments of 2000.

Organizations submitting proposals must provide information regarding the strength and weakness of their proposed model. Although the Council is neither recommending nor expecting any one model in particular, the following examples are provided as “samples” of a few of the models that have been discussed thus far:

1. Forming collaborations on issue areas, a single issue or multiple, where none currently exist. (Note: In cases such as this when collaborative efforts are focuses on a single highly-specific issue, the collaborative would be considered “successful” and to have achieved sustainable change if the issues is resolved).
2. Forming a collaboration that addresses only a few key issues, as identified by the membership.
3. Establishing a means of providing core support for a state level disability coalition that is sustainable without DD Council funds and continues to be active when the grant is completed.
4. Creating a formal system or mechanism through which TCDD provides support to a number of advocates to work strategically as members of existing collaborative efforts that involve diverse groups who share an interest in a specific issue.
5. Creating opportunities for the “next generation” of disability advocates to “apprentice” so they may learn/apply/become engaged in public policy collaboration, training, and/or projects to gain hands on experience.

These four models are intended to serve as examples of possibilities only; TCDD neither encourages nor discourages organizations to use of any of these four in their proposals. Additionally, TCDD expects that a variety of different activities could be implemented through the use of any of these models. It will be up to the proposer and the collaboration(s) to develop suggested activities, with input from TCDD.

Proposed Funding Amount: Applicants would be expected to state the funding amounts necessary to complete the activity or activities they propose in response to the RFP. For

multiple year proposals, applicants must expect to receive decreasing funds each year and to provide increasing match each year.

Proposed Duration: TCDD funding would not exceed five years. There is no minimum duration for a project.

Other Considerations:

1. The RFP application will include the question, “Would you accept a partial award?” so that TCDD will have the option to implement only parts of proposed projects.
2. Respondents will be asked to provide:
 - a. a brief overview of the history of public policy change for people with disabilities, describing lessons learned, effective approaches, and why the activities they propose are expected to be successful in Texas;
 - b. information about organizations and/or individuals they believe would be stakeholders who are willing to participate in activities and why those organizations would be important;
 - c. a clear outline of their expectations regarding the roles of the participants in the collaboration, including TCDD, in directing and funding the activities; and
 - d. details describing how technology and media will be used as part of there project strategy, if appropriate.
3. Applicants will be limited to organizations that have administrative offices in Texas.

Addendum: Council-Approved Outcome Measures for Focus Areas 1, 2, and 3
(Focus Area 4 Measures more appropriate as measures for TCDD’s overall work)

Focus Area 1: Collaboration—Organizations	
<i>Result/Outcome Desired</i>	Effective/improved collaborations, coordination, and support involving key Council-identified organizations as well as non-traditional organizations
<i>Outcome Measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of key Council-identified organizations, including non-traditional and non-DD partners, that are part of particular state public policy collaborations • Percentage of state agencies aligning their programs and services to PPC goals and identified needs • Percentage of key PPC issues and goals successfully addressed through legislation or other means (e.g. funding levels, employment programs, priority services, attendant care pay rates and turnover, transportation access, low/slow Medicaid reimbursement rates, etc.) • Percentage of legislative and executive branch, community, business, and other Council-identified collaboration leaders indicating an awareness of key information (e.g. existence of the Council, priority issues, specific goals and proposals, etc.)
Focus Area 2: Inclusion—Individuals	
<i>Result/Outcome Desired</i>	Effective/improved inclusion, representation, and active participation of people with disabilities
<i>Outcome Measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people/families with developmental disabilities surveyed indicating awareness of key information (e.g. existence of the Council, rights/responsibilities, local service providers, etc.) • Percent increase in the number of people/families with developmental disabilities that have interacted with Council, obtained information, and acted on it
Focus Area 2: Sustainability	
<i>Result/Outcome Desired</i>	Deploy and maintain a Public Policy Collaboration model that is sustainable
<i>Outcome Measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of collaborating organizations dedicating in-kind and other resources to PPC activities and/or • Dollar amount of in-kind and other resources dedicated by collaborating organizations to PPC activities