

Annual Report



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2011



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

*On the Cover:
Students from the VSA
Texas Art Works New
Media Arts Camp.*

What is a developmental disability?

More than 450,000 Texans have a developmental disability. The Developmental Disabilities Act defines a developmental disability as a severe, chronic disability that is attributable to a physical or mental impairment that begins before age 22, is likely to continue indefinitely, and results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activities:

- Self-care (dress, bathe, eat, and other daily tasks)
- Receptive and expressive language (speaking and hearing)
- Learning
- Mobility (walking and moving around)
- Self-direction (making decisions)
- Capacity for independent living
- Economic self-sufficiency (earn an income)



TEXAS COUNCIL *for*
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

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What is a Developmental Disability Council?

Developmental Disability (DD) Councils are established by federal law (the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act) to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities. Activities contribute to a coordinated, person-centered, comprehensive system of community services, individualized supports, and other assistance that enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

The Texas Governor appoints individuals to the 27-member board of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. At least 60% of the members must be persons with developmental disabilities, their parents or guardians, and other immediate relatives.

The Council also includes representatives from the major state agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities; a representative from the state's two university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities, the Texas Center for Disability Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University; a representative from the state's protection and advocacy system, Disability Rights Texas; and a member representing local, non-government organizations.

Council Members as of Sept. 30, 2011

Council Members

Brenda Coleman-Beattie, Chair, Austin
John C. Morris, Vice-Chair, Austin
Rebecca Hunter Adkins, Lakeway
Kimberley A. Blackmon, Forth Worth
Kristine (Bissmeyer) Clark, San Antonio
Gladys Cortez, McAllen
Kristen L. Cox, El Paso
Andrew D. Crim, Fort Worth
Mateo Delgado, El Paso
Mary Durham, Vice-Chair, McAllen
Cindy Johnston, Dallas
Diana Kern, Cedar Creek
Dana Smith Perry, Brownwood
Deneesa A. Rasmussen, Arlington
Joe Rivas, Denton
Lora Trainer Taylor, Houston
Richard A. Tisch, Spring
Susan Vardell, Sherman
One position vacant

Agency Representatives and Alternates

Mary Faithfull/Patty Anderson, Disability Rights Texas
Penny Seay/Sandy Graham, Texas Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) at UT/Austin
Michael Benz/Amy Sharp, Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University (TAMU)
Vacant, Texas Education Agency (TEA)
Frank Genco, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
Jeff Kaufmann, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)
Sara Kendall, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Kathy Griffis-Bailey (Alternate), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

For current Council members or if you are interested in applying to serve on the Council, visit www.txddc.state.tx.us for more information.

Welcome



Collage painted by students at VSA Texas' New Media Arts Summer Camp.

The mission of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) is to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

All Council activities are expected to support the Council's mission statement and demonstrate:

- commitment to self-determination for individuals with disabilities and their families;
- efforts to ensure appropriate representation in all activities by people from diverse cultures and disabilities;
- best practices in the development and provision of services and supports, including an emphasis on measurable goals; and
- collaboration between the Council, grantees, advocacy organizations and other groups, including non-traditional partners, in activities that are consistent with the Council's mission.

Contents

Projects and Activities Funded in 2011	1-9
- Community Supports	
- Health Care Activities	
- Education and Early Intervention	
- Employment	
- Leadership and Advocacy Activities	
- Cultural Outreach and Development	
Staff	10
Financial Overview	11-12
- Investments in Grant Projects by Activity Area	
- TCDD Budget Fiscal Year 2011	
- Allocation of 2011 Operating and Personnel Expenses	

This report was produced by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities using funds available under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, P.L. 106-402, from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In FY11, the Council expects to receive \$5,095,817 (75%) in federal funds from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and at least \$1,698,606 (25%) in non-federal participation in projects.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011



Above Left: Friends and Families of Asians with Special Needs.

Above Right: El Paso Youth Leadership Forum.

In fiscal year 2011, 32 projects and activities funded by The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) made it easier for people with disabilities to be fully included in their local communities by offering new approaches to services and supports, addressing unmet needs and providing valuable training and resources. Following is an overview of each project and its accomplishments. For more information about these and other projects and activities, visit the Grants section of the TCDD website at www.txddc.state.tx.us.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Alternatives to Guardianship: Volunteer Supported Decision-Making, The Arc of San Angelo

This three-year project, which began in April 2011 in Tom Green County, established a program to develop a pool of trained volunteers to support individuals with cognitive disabilities in making decisions and controlling their own lives. The program will expand to Concho and Irion counties the second year, and Menard and McCulloch counties in the third year.

Statewide Microboard Collaboration, The Arc of Texas

Microboards are non-profit organizations made up of a small group of family members and friends of people with disabilities that provide the knowledge and support needed by some individuals with disabilities in order to obtain services and supports for a self-determined life. In the first three years of this project, 47 microboards were formed. In fiscal year 2011, facilitators received training in Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH), an innovative, self-directed future planning tool. Additionally, four regional coordinators helped to create microboards throughout the state.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011

ASSET (Active Service Solutions for Economic Transition) AmeriCorps, Easter Seals

This project assisted people with disabilities across the state to learn how to be more independent. Over a three-year period, AmeriCorps members conducted training and provided one-on-one support to 4,087 individuals. This included assisting 1,956 individuals with housing; 680 with assistive technology; and 1,451 with financial literacy. Members also conducted 64 presentations on assistive technology to employers, educators, civic groups and others. TCDD funding ended Oct. 31, 2011.

TCDD Events Stipends

Eleven events stipends were provided to enable individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to attend conferences, workshops, meetings and other events in Texas.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

Transition Medicine Project, Baylor College of Medicine

Health care workers received training in how to care for people with chronic illnesses and/or disabilities and outreach was provided to community health care providers and families of children with disabilities, ages 14-25. Training in health-related services was provided to 109 people, 718 people received social work consultation on community supports and 1,391 people received health services. All Baylor internal medicine and medical pediatric residents completed a one-month rotation in the transition medicine program. Physicians-in-training in other states asked to see how the transition clinic operates. Project staff worked with Disability Rights Texas to help young adults

aging out of children's Medicaid to stay in their homes with nursing support, which resulted in three individuals remaining in their homes. TCDD funding ended Feb. 28, 2011.

Meaningful Relationships, Safeplace

Meaningful Relationships, which began in April 2011, helped individuals with developmental disabilities develop personal relationships with other people based on shared interests. Participants attended a two-day workshop to learn about social/recreational interests, relationship barriers and solutions, healthy relationships with family and friends, and safety.



Students in VSA Texas' New Media Arts Camp performed with the Lee Runkle Band.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Project IDEAL, Texas Tech University

Project IDEAL helped prepare prospective general-education teachers to work more effectively with students who have disabilities. This included developing a website, co-sponsoring a “White Cane Day” on mobility issues, orientation for individuals with disabilities, a “Living with a Disability” conference and a teaching academy.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Impacting Disproportionality Project, Region 17 Education Service Center

With the goal of increasing cultural competency skills and reducing the number of disciplinary referrals (rates of suspension and expulsion of greater than 10 days in a school year) of children with disabilities by race and ethnicity, training in classroom management was provided at public and charter schools. Parents, community members and educators also received training in bullying prevention, resulting in 150 attendees requesting additional training.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Head Start Project, Region 17 Education Service Center

This project was designed to improve the behavior intervention skills of staff in child care, public school pre-K, early childhood, Head Start and other settings that serve children with disabilities ages 2 to 5. Weekly or biweekly training and mentoring was provided at five sites. Topics included relationship building, environment, transitions, visual schedules, social emotional development, problem solving, anger management, sign language and PBIS.

EMPLOYMENT

Artworks: Creative Industries, VSA Texas

As part of its career development program for emerging artists with disabilities, VSA Texas held two two-week summer camps for young adults with developmental disabilities. One camp covered photography, the art of portraiture and how to make a music video. The other included filmmaking, a music video and short



As part of their Cultural Outreach and Development Project, the Apalachicola Creek Indians held a Cooking for Independence event to teach independent living skills and promote the self esteem of participants.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011



films. As an ongoing element of the project, VSA hosts art exhibits and monthly arts and disability discussion groups.

Regional Self-Employment Project, Community Healthcare

This project taught individuals with disabilities in East Texas how to be self-employed. Assistance was provided in developing a customized business plan, testing the plan for feasibility and securing funding. More than 350 individuals with disabilities, their families and local collaborating agencies (such as the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services) received training on developing and implementing individualized self-employment programs over the past four years. Approximately 30 of the individuals who received support continue in their businesses today.

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Leadership development and advocacy training projects provide a network of disability training programs, resources and supports. While many of the projects ended this year, a variety of expansion projects are scheduled to start in 2012.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Statewide Initiative, Texas A&M Research Foundation

This project helped to increase the leadership and advocacy skills of Texas youth with disabilities. Thirty students from regional youth leadership and advocacy projects in East Texas, West Texas and Far West Texas attended a four-day intensive training session in Austin. TCDD funding ended Aug. 31, 2011.

Above: 2010-2011 ASSET (Active Service Solutions for Economic Transition) AmeriCorps Navigators. Over a three-year period, Navigators conducted training and provided one-on-one support to 4,087 individuals across Texas.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011



Above: Student ambassadors in the Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corporation's Cultural Outreach and Development Project received awards from the Art Angels Healing Arts Program.

Youthworks! Leadership and Advocacy Project, Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas, Inc.

In the past five years, 212 youth in Angelina and Nacogdoches counties received training in leadership and advocacy. In FY 2011, 21 students attended training. TCDD funding ended June 30, 2011.

Paso del Norte Youth Leadership Forum, Education Service Center - Region 19

This project provided leadership and advocacy building activities for students with disabilities in 12 independent school districts and charter schools in the far west Texas counties of El Paso and Hudspeth. TCDD funding ended June 30, 2011.

Imagine Enterprises

Youth with disabilities from 43 school districts in the Abilene/West Texas area worked with adult mentors to increase their leadership and advocacy skills. TCDD funding for this project ended May 31, 2011.

LOCAL BASIC ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECTS

The Arc of Greater Tarrant County

Training in leadership, self-advocacy and self-determination was provided to 126 individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members in Tarrant, Johnson, Hood, Wise and Parker counties. Participation in various activities included a rally at the Texas Capitol and a March for Respect. In addition, participants

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011

learned how to write letters to Texas legislators and make phone calls to elected officials; people attended a legislative town hall meeting; and elementary students took a pledge to stop saying the “R-word.” TCDD funding ended Aug. 31, 2011.

Brighton School, Inc.

In the last three years, 950 people from Bexar, Comal, Bandera and Kendall counties received training in special education advocacy. In 2011, training was provided to 90 community partners. In addition, 73 individuals received training in Building Bridges curriculum and 18 people attended Admission, Review and Dismissal clinics. TCDD funding ended Aug. 31, 2011.

The Family to Family Network

Training was provided to adults with disabilities, their family members and other interested community members in Angleton and the Houston area. As part of the basic advocacy project, 81 people attended training in policy change and self-advocacy, and 27 attended the same training in Spanish. A youth/teen training collaboration at a conference in Katy had 67 attendees.

SER - Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast

Individuals from minority communities in Houston and the surrounding area received training in self-advocacy and other topics, and individuals with disabilities and other advocates received support in practicing their advocacy skills. TCDD funding ended Aug. 31, 2011.

SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECTS

Statewide Advocacy Network, Texas Parent to Parent

Young self-advocates, as well as parents and siblings of children with developmental disabilities learned how to adopt a legislator and advocate on community-based issues. Project staff held mock legislative hearings for family members, self-advocates and others who attended rallies at the Capitol and made visits with legislators. Staff also assisted parents who spoke at the rallies and other media events. This project started in February 2011.



Graduates and staff of the Arc of Greater Tarrant County's advocacy training project visited legislators at the Capitol.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011

The Arc of Texas

In the last three years, training in basic systems advocacy was provided to approximately 430 individuals and on advanced systems advocacy for public policy to 20 people. Training occurred primarily in El Paso, Houston and Brownsville.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas

NAMI collaborated with groups in six urban and rural areas across Texas to teach people how to become strong advocates for change. TCDD funding ended Aug. 31, 2011.

Advocacy "U" Resource Center, Syracuse University

Advocacy U (www.advocacyu.org) was created as an interactive, accessible and user-friendly website of training events in Texas, training programs developed by TCDD grantees and subject-specific resources. TCDD funding ended Aug. 31, 2011.

Statewide Advanced Leadership Training Project, Texas A&M Research Foundation

This project provided advanced leadership and public policy advocacy training. The three-day Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference (TALAC) was attended by 150 people. Many participants also attended a rally at the Texas State Capitol and talked with their legislators.

Texas Advocacy Training Network (TATN), Parents Anonymous, Inc.

TATN, a network of approximately 50 organizations, received support through collaboration, training, technical assistance and the encouragement of innovative communication strategies. TCDD funding for this project ended Aug. 31, 2011.

PEER-TO-PEER SELF-ADVOCACY TRAINING

Texas Advocates

During this five-year project, 150 individuals with developmental disabilities in San Antonio, Corpus Christi and the Lower Rio Grande Valley attended 12 self-advocacy workshops. In addition, 36 individuals attended local and regional leadership academies to learn how to advocate and mentor other individuals with



In the last three years, 950 people from Bexar, Comal, Bandera and Kendall counties received training in special education advocacy from Brighton School.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011



disabilities. A training video and manual, “Get the Power: Self Advocacy is the Key to Independence,” was also developed to help individuals learn to become better self-advocates. TCDD funding ended Nov. 30, 2010.

African American Family Support Conference, Parents Anonymous, Inc.

This inaugural annual conference was held in Houston on Aug. 4, 2011, with 121 participants. The conference was designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, community members and professionals in available health care services (behavioral and physical) through culturally sensitive education supports and partnerships.



Above: Students from the Texas Youth Leadership Forum visited the Capitol.

Left: Participants in Texas A&M Research Foundation’s leadership training project attended a rally at the Capitol and spoke with their legislators.

Projects and Activities Funded in FY 2011

CULTURAL OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

Seeking to understand the impact of cultural issues on services and to build relationships with organizations that are working to improve the lives of individuals from ethnic minority cultures, the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD) awarded \$10,000 to five organizations for activities designed to help their communities provide culturally competent support to people with disabilities.

Friends and Families of Asians with Special Needs

(Feb. 1, 2011 – Jan. 31, 2012)

Project Goals

- teach Asian families how to advocate effectively
- promote awareness of the barriers facing Asian families with children with developmental disabilities

Project Activities

- monthly meetings
- one-day workshop with 88 people in attendance

Parents as Partners in Special Education, The Arc of Greater Houston

(Jan. 1, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2011)

Project Goals

- teach Spanish-speaking parents how to advocate for their children and how to identify and access services

Project Activities

- 17 families were trained in special education and advocacy
- 19 families were trained on advocacy and guardianship
- 25 families were trained about Medicaid Waivers, budget cuts and how to access services

- a conference on guardianship was held in Spanish

Barbara Jordan Endeavors Corporation

(Aug. 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012)

Project Goals

- raise awareness of available resources
- provide monthly workshops about services that can help students with emotional, mental and physical disabilities reach their academic goals and prepare for college or vocational training

Project Activities

- 150 supporters and vendors attended a workshop, where community partners spoke with the parents and students on a one-to-one basis regarding disability issues, employment and other information to help students successfully transition from high school to college

Light and Salt Association

(Aug. 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012)

Project Goals

- provide training for Asian American families in the greater Houston area

- increase public awareness of Asian American children with developmental disabilities in the greater Houston area
- help children with disabilities develop skills needed to become independent

Project Activities

- monthly support group meetings
- hand-chimes classes for older children
- music program for younger children
- special event in August 2011 that provided information about autism

Apalachicola Creek Indians

(Jan. 1, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2011)

Project Goals

- promote awareness of culturally sensitive services and community involvement
- improve self-esteem
- increase independent living skills

Project Activities

- training in nutrition and cooking
- participation in a community choir
- participation in a reading program at the local library

TCDD staff provide support for all of the Council's activities. In fiscal year 2011, staff:

- Monitored public policy and provided input to Texas legislators, state agencies, members of Congress and other policy-makers on issues affecting people with disabilities.
- Developed and coordinated all public information activities and products for the Council, including newsletters, the Council's website and other materials.
- Responded to inquiries about the Council and disability issues.
- Coordinated development of the TCDD State Plan.
- Developed six Requests for Proposals for new projects.
- Provided grants monitoring and technical assistance to 32 grant projects/activities.
- Provided administrative support for Council and staff activities.
- Coordinated quarterly meetings of the Council, Project Development Committee, Public Policy Committee and Executive Committee, plus one meeting of the Audit Committee.



TCDD public policy staff participated in discussions with disability advocates at the Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference.

TCDD Staff as of Sept. 30, 2011

Executive Management

Roger A. Webb, Executive Director
Martha Cantu, Operations Director
Barbara Booker, Budget Support Specialist
Koren Vogel, Executive Assistant

Public Policy and Public Information

Vacant, Public Policy Director
Melissa Loe, Communications Coordinator
Lucy Walker, Public Information Specialist
Belinda Carlton, Public Policy Specialist
Cassie Fisher, Public Policy Specialist
Melissa Rosser, Public Policy Assistant
Annette Berksan, Web Administrator

Grants Management

Vacant, Grants Management Director
Sonya Hosey, Senior Grants Specialist
Cynthia Ellison, Grants Specialist
Wendy Jones, Grants Specialist
Jerianne Barnard, Project Development Assistant

Project Development

Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator

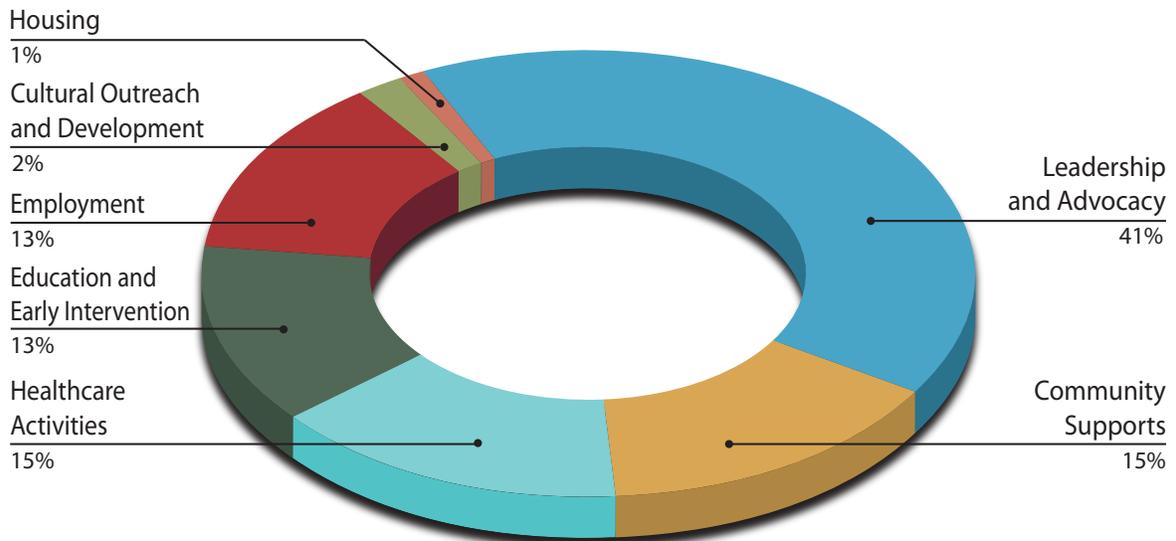
For current staff, visit the TCDD website at www.txddc.state.tx.us.

Financial Overview

INVESTMENTS IN GRANT PROJECTS BY ACTIVITY AREA

Emphasis Area	Federal Funds	Non-Federal Funds	Total Funds
Leadership and Advocacy	\$1,029,473	\$476,515	\$1,505,988
Community Supports	358,757	207,316	566,073
Healthcare Activities	205,475	334,604	540,079
Education and Early Intervention	420,277	64,564	484,841
Employment	368,832	115,959	484,791
Outreach and Development	37,036	23,712	60,748
Housing	16,373	7,763	24,136
TOTALS	\$2,436,223	\$1,230,433	\$3,666,656

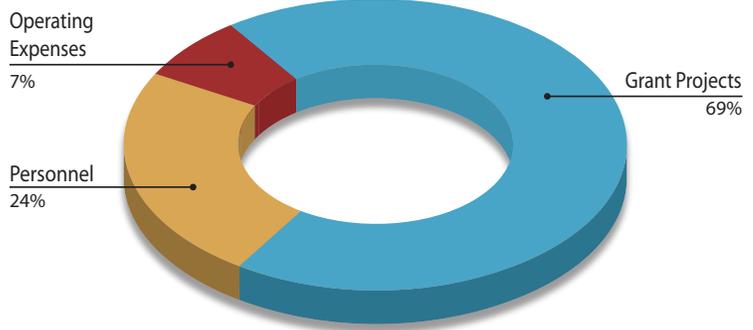
NOTE: Investments in Grant Projects may include expenditures of prior year funds.



Financial Overview

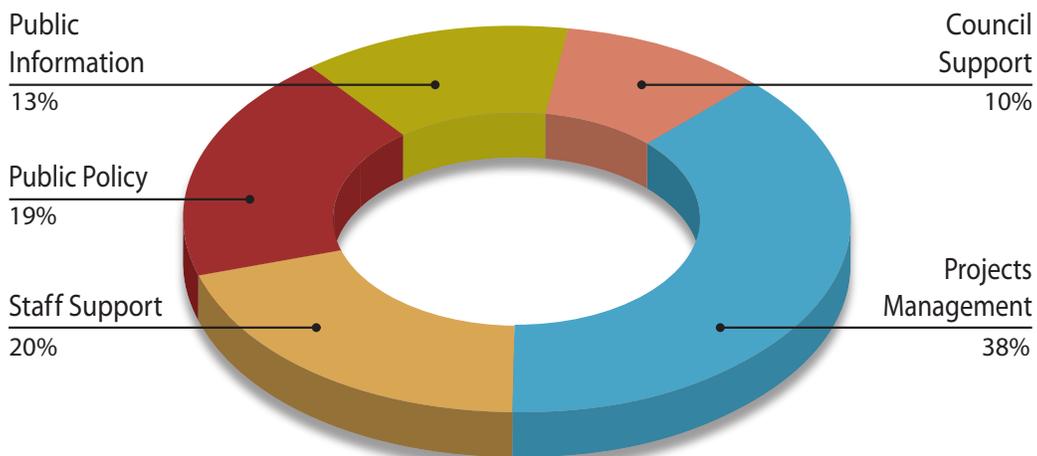
TCDD BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2011

Budget Categories	Funding
Grant Projects	\$3,525,835
Personnel	1,231,933
Operating Expenses	338,049
Total	\$5,095,817



NOTE: Funds may be expended over three fiscal years.

ALLOCATION OF 2011 OPERATING AND PERSONNEL EXPENSES



Note: 88% of Operating and Personnel Expenses are allocated to support implementation of State Plan activities.

