

# THE RAYMOND FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM

## Organization Information

Name: Transition Options Program (TOPS), Mt. Diablo Adult Education, A  
Division of Mt. Diablo Unified School District  
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Not-For-Profit District Tax ID#68-0091157

1. Please give a brief overview of your organization and the purpose it serves in the community.

We are seeking a grant for the Transition Options Program, a program operated by Mount Diablo Adult Education, which is a division of Mt. Diablo Unified School District. Mount Diablo Adult Education offers programs for adult learners including programs for adults with disabilities, job training certificate programs, career technical education, adult basic education/GED prep and English as a second language, as well as many community-based classes. Mt. Diablo Adult Education is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and has a 57-year history of community service. The Adults with Disabilities department has enrolled over 500 students per year in programs that serve individuals with specific disabilities such as acquired brain injury, developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, vision impaired, and mental illness. Our program for adults with acquired brain injury has become a model for similar programs developed throughout the state. Mt. Diablo Adult Education is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities for adults of all ages and abilities to achieve their educational, employment, community, and personal goals.

The Transition Options Program (TOPS) is a community based educational program established by the Adults with Disabilities department in September 2008. The purpose of the TOPS program is to address the unique needs of adults with Asperger's Syndrome, High Functioning Autism and related disorders as they begin the transition from high school to higher education and/or employment. The program provides a structured and supportive environment for students to develop social skills, increase independence, develop interests, explore resources, participate in the community, and create a social network of support while preparing for work and/or higher education. While their sheer intellect is often seen as strength, their functional abilities often do not equate to their intellectual intelligence. This program provides the extra time, support, and education for adults with ASD to acquire the necessary skills to function within the neurotypical world.

2. Please give a description of the project for which you are requesting funds, and list other sources of funding for this project.

*We are seeking a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to fund the following technology equipment:*

- 16- HP Compaq 6545B Notebook Computers ( or updated version available; includes e-waste fees, Microsoft Office 2010 Professional plus Academic Licenses, school discount, & shipping) \$14,144.
- Wireless router, adaptive hardware, cables, etc. 3,206.
- 3- Inspiration Computer Software packages & site license 150.
- Miscellaneous paper and ink 500.
- Partial Scholarship Program 2000.

All of our programs are primarily funded by the California Department of Education and supplemented by student fees or small private donors.

3. What community and how many people benefit from your organization's work?

Mt. Diablo Adult Education serves over 25,000 students per year who live in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Student enrollment is not restricted by residence. TOPS students primarily come from Contra Costa County, although the program is open to anyone who can find transportation to attend the classes. The program site in Concord is within walking distance to the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).

The program expects to serve 25-35 adults per year (18 years and over), once fully established. It meets four afternoons per week, with enrollment in community college classes in the mornings encouraged and supported. The program operates within the traditional school calendar year divided into three quarters. Participants can enter and exit at the beginning/end of any quarter and can continue in the program as long as the individual's needs are being met. As the first community-based day program of its kind, it strives to become a model program for other adult schools throughout the state of California.

The ***Transition Options Program (TOPS)*** served a total of 14 students its first year. Student achievement data during the first year includes the following:

- 21% of the students enrolled in community college
- 7% transitioned to a 4-year college
- 15% gained paid employment
- 15% began tutoring as a skill for future work

TOPS maintain strong partnerships with community organizations that have helped the program get started and continue to support for ongoing student success. Our community partners include the Regional Center of the East Bay, the Department of Rehabilitation, Independent Living Resources, John Muir /Mt. Diablo Medical Center, our K-12 Special Education Department, and the members of our TOPS Advisory Committee.