

# 2017 DAC Achievement Award Nomination Form

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## Nominee Information

Nominee Name: Vidal Medina

Nominee Address: Resources for Independence (RICV)

[REDACTED]

Nominee Phone: [REDACTED]

Nominee Email: [REDACTED]

## Nominator Information

Nominator Name: Dani Reyes-Acosta

Nominator Address: [REDACTED]

Nominator Phone: [REDACTED]

Nominator Email: [REDACTED]

## Nomination Category (please select one):

☒ Individual

☐ **Organization**

☐ City of Fresno Employee or Department

## Nominated for: **\*\*Please note – I believe Mr. Medina qualifies in all below!**

☒ Improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities

☒ Advocacy for issues pertaining to individuals with disabilities

☒ Volunteerism that has a positive impact on individuals with disabilities

☒ Development of new programs or services impacting individuals with disabilities

☒ Customer service to individuals with disabilities that is above and beyond the standard Nomination Statement:

When we emailed Robert Hand, Consultant and Interim Executive Director of Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV) to propose the nomination of Vidal Medina, he offered this recommendation: "Vidal has been active in promoting accessibility and human rights for people with disabilities in Fresno for over 15 years, with competence and passion. Fresno is a better place to live because of the work he has done." We contacted Carlos Duarte and he said "Vidal is an excellent nominee and one heck of a great advocate for the disabled in the area of transportation."

At the heart of independence for people living with disability is the freedom to go to school, go to the doctor, go to work; in short, the "freedom to go." Vidal has promoted, throughout his career, the freedom to ride: through Choices and Control, leading to Independence. This orientation guided Vidal for all of his life as he came to mentor individuals living with issues affecting sight, hearing, mobility and cognition.

The quotations embody the reasons behind my nomination of Vidal Medina. He has improved the quality of life for persons living with disabilities, advocated for issues pertaining to people with disabilities, extended volunteer opportunities with and for people living with disability and developed new programs and services impacting individuals with disabilities.

Before his association with RICV, Vidal Medina started his work career in Health Sciences, working in diverse Health Services options, until. At the end of 1994 he faced the personal and professional challenge brought about by vision loss. Navigating the medical, educational and professional work opportunities, and lack thereof, gave Vidal an entrée and sensitivity to the trials confronted by people living with vision loss.

Feeling grateful to have encountered programs and mentors in professional life, he joined with people who were the early advocates for disability rights and became an early supporter of "person centered" counseling and delivery of services. He was a founding member of the Fresno ADA Advisory Council and worked with President Welty's CSUF Commission on Disability and Access. Mr. Medina has worked in the field of disability advocacy and services for over 20 years.

Working with individuals or groups, his goal has always been to expand and define opportunities for independent living. As a promoter of environmental justice, he has sought to expand transportation to support disenfranchised communities while working with the Council of Governments and the Social Service Transportation Council.

As a matter of course Mr. Medina worked first one by one, then in small groups and eventually in formalized programs to provide essential skills to people referred to him by individuals, Fresno City 211, Department of Rehabilitation, and the Central Valley Regional Center. Within the framework of RICV he helped to create "Freedom to Ride," and here the heart of independence is developed and maintained for everyone, including students and the elderly to learn the essential skills to travel our City streets.