

Proposal Summary
Meeting Date: 11/15/2018

Devices 4 the Disabled
Request # 115751

Project Title:	Ed Kane Clinic for Disabled Support Services
Duration:	12 months
Request Date:	9/27/2018
Request Amount:	\$129,700
Recommended Amount:	\$130,000
Program Area:	Health and Rehabilitation
Population Served:	Developmentally Disabled, Physically Disabled
Type of Support:	Program Support
Grantee Location:	Chicago, IL
Primary Contact:	Mr. Robert Shea

Project Abstract

This request is to support Devices 4 the Disabled (D4D) in providing durable medical equipment (DME) at no cost to disabled persons who uninsured, underinsured, or undocumented. This request is to create a seating and positioning clinic, in which an Assistive Technology Professional will conduct assessments to customize wheel chairs and power chairs; and support renovation of space for the clinical area.

Organizational Background

D4D was founded in 2015 by Ed Kane and Bob Shea who experienced neurological illnesses. During their illness, they discovered gaping holes in the medical system to accessing durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, patient lifts, powered chairs, etc.). Durable medical equipment, particularly that related to mobility, is rarely passed on when it is no longer needed by the individual. It is discarded, sold for scrap, or piled up in storerooms. Organizations, such as, Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army do not accept donations of medical equipment. Thus, D4D was founded to collect DME, refurbish it, and donate it to people in need at no cost.

Annual Revenue Sources

Grants	%	Government	%	Earned Income	%
Fees	%	Private Support	40%	Other	60%

Finances

	Budget	Actual	Actual
	12/31/2017	12/31/2016	12/31/2015
Revenues	252,036	159,368	100,650
Expenses	224,162	148,609	90,530
Surplus (Deficit)	27,874	10,759	10,120
Net Assets		117,009	104,722

Program Description

This description is provided to help understand lack of access and availability of durable medical equipment (DME).

Many disabled individuals do not have the right durable medical equipment, if any, due to insurance coverage or lack of insurance. Some equipment is “not a covered benefit” and must be paid out of pocket. For example, if insurance paid for a walker in the past, they may not cover a manual wheel chair. If insurance covered a manual wheel chair, they may not cover a power device. Bath benches and shower equipment are often not covered at all. A person may be encouraged to go to a nursing home after discharge from a hospital due to lack of basic medical equipment in the home.

In addition, patients with complex physical and intellectual disabilities are experiencing delays and denials for DME, especially for customized equipment. People without the proper equipment can experience potentially preventable medical complications such as pressure sores; musculoskeletal overuse injuries; and increased pain and decreased sitting tolerance. They may be bedridden and unable to access the community, and some may need to be institutionalized due to the lack of access to customized rehab technology (specifically configured wheelchairs and seating equipment).

Within the city of Chicago, there is only one clinic option for evaluations for customized equipment, which is limited to whether the clinic has a contract with the patient’s insurance. The Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (formerly Rehab Institute of Chicago RIC) only accepts insured patients and has a four-month waiting period, even for a simple repair appointment. Even when a patient has insurance, there is often a need for a separate referral from the Managed Care Organization (MCO) or Department of Rehabilitation Services before a patient can be seen. It can take weeks and often months to get an appointment at a clinic. As a side note, a 2017 survey of parents whose children have special health care needs showed that 22% of respondents reported waiting a year or more for equipment.

Once the evaluation is done by the health professional and paperwork is complete, (a 30-page form documenting all the components for medical necessity), the patient has to await approval by the insurance company. There is an increasing rate of denials and it is unclear why denials occur (often told “not medically necessary” even when all the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) medical guidelines and documentation are clearly met).

Due to the challenges of access and availability of DME caused by untimely delivery of DME; lack of timely repairs; unsuitable DME due to improper fittings, etc., D4D intends to offer services and give access to DME to disabled persons without public or private insurance or any person in need.

This request is to support an effort to create clinical space to address the lack of options for seating and mobility services for disabled persons in the Chicago area. The seating and position clinic will be used to conduct assessments and configure customized wheelchairs and seating by a licensed Assistive Technology Professional. The organization will provide any DME in their inventory at no cost to disabled persons to help them regain independence caused by their disability. D4D has a large warehouse in Chicago that stores equipment which was donated by individuals, senior centers, vendors and organizations such as Catholic Charities.

With the availability of the clinic, D4D will have better capacity to offer services and expand its reach to other providers. D4D currently collaborates with health professionals that refer patients/clients, such as: Center for Independence, Resurrection Project, Sinai Hospital, Stroger Hospital, University of Illinois at Chicago Hospital, and Rainbow Hospice to provide DME to discharged patients.

At the Ed Kane Center, D4D currently works with an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) company that does repairs and adjustments to make equipment function properly for the specific individual. Therapists at D4D, who are specialized in measurement, choosing appropriate equipment and fitting it optimally for the patient, will provide those services in the clinic. For a disabled person to achieve the mobility that allows them to live a healthy productive life, seating & positioning services and repairs are essential to achieving quality of life and the spirit of integration and inclusion.

The seating and mobility clinic has the potential for workforce development for a variety of jobs. For example, the clinic will serve as a training site for student interns. Physical and Occupational Therapy student will have the opportunity to gain experience in the specialty area of seating & positioning. Individuals can be trained and gain certification as an Assistive Technology Professional. In addition, people with and without disabilities can be trained to service and repair equipment. In fact, D4D recently hired a Spanish speaking person with cerebral palsy that lives a few blocks away from the facility to be responsible for scheduling, coordinating and developing more efficient systems.

Expected Outcome

D4D's goal is to serve 150 people by the end of year one and increase by 50% to 100% each year to impact the quality of life for the disabled person. Expected outcomes include:

- Person will have less pain. (An ill-fitting wheel chair causes increased pain.)
- Improved health outcomes for the underlying medical conditions.
- Less down time waiting for multiple doctor appointments to get a fitting or repair.
- More independence. Easier to get around and possibly take public transportation.

Program Budget

The construction costs and replacement of windows reflected in the budget would be more costly if done solely for the seating and positioning clinic. The estimated costs benefit from contractors' prices if construction is done at the same time as the Center for Independence through Conductive Education's renovations. The Center and D4D will share warehouse space. D4D expenses include: \$35,000 - buildout for the seating and positioning clinic area; \$40,000 - seating & positioning staff; \$30,000 - replacement of exterior windows of the clinic area; \$24,700 – 50% of warehouse manager salary.

Other revenue: Robert E Gallagher Trust committed \$25,000. Request pending to Health Communities Foundation.

Prior Grants

This would be a first-time grant to this start up organization.

Recommendation

D4D is a relatively new organization and still in a startup phase. While we understand the challenge that new organizations encounter with limited resources, we are taking the opportunity to get to know D4D and provide resources to assist in moving the organization to a new level. Recognizing the risk of renovating leased space is mitigated due to their 12-year lease and the similar 12-year lease held by the Center for Independence through Conductive Ed. We recommend funding this request, which will allow the organization to leverage its capacity to explore models for growth and sustainability. Our hope is that this grant would allow the organization to encourage other funding streams. After speaking with another funder, we learned they are also interested in getting to know the organization and are considering an opportunity for next year. We considered other funding scenarios and feel this level would help the organization create a service that would utilize used and refurbished DME for the benefit of individuals that do not or cannot access properly fitted equipment.

This grant will allow D4D to broaden their reach, raise awareness and build connections with other service providers, i.e. hospitals, faith-based organizations, occupational and physical therapists, colleges, individuals w/DD, etc. With the new clinic, D4D will have the opportunity to promote clinical services and seek additional donations as more organizations become aware of the clinic and the availability of medical equipment.

Total Project Budget: \$204,400

Revenue	Funds Needed	Funds Requested	Funds Committed
Coleman Foundation	\$129,700	\$129,700	
Private donations/grants	\$74,700		\$25,000
Revenue Total	\$204,400	\$129,700	\$25,000

Expense	Project Budget	Coleman Funds	Other Sources
Construction of seating & positioning area	\$35,000	\$35,000	
Seating and mobility specialist (Jessica Presperin Pedersen MBA, OTR/L, ATP)	\$40,000	\$40,000	
Replacement of exterior windows for clinical area	\$80,000	\$30,000	\$25,000
Staff - FTE warehouse manager (incl. health ins.)	\$49,400	\$24,700	
Total	\$204,400	\$129,700	\$25,000