

**Proposal Summary**  
**Meeting Date: 8/27/2015**

**Easter Seals Joliet Region, Inc.**  
**Request # 114949**

<b>Project Title:</b>	Residential Enhancements Project
<b>Duration:</b>	12 months
<b>Request Date:</b>	7/20/2015
<b>Request Amount:</b>	\$150,000
<b>Recommended Amount:</b>	\$150,000
<b>Program Area:</b>	Human Services\Housing / Shelter Services
<b>Population Served:</b>	General Public
<b>Type of Support:</b>	Program Support / Capital
<b>Grantee Location:</b>	Joliet, IL
<b>Primary Contact:</b>	Ms. Debra Condotti

**Project Abstract**

The proposal is to expand the organization’s residential services through exterior improvements to a new group home, acquisition of a vehicle for transporting residents, implementation of a curriculum for serving aging individuals and implementing technology to improve program services.

**Organizational Background**

**Annual Revenue Sources**

Grants	5%	Government	58%	Earned Income	2%
Fees	25%	Private Support	8%	Other	2%

**Finances**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
	08/31/2015	08/31/2014	08/31/2013
<b>Revenues</b>	\$9,354,500	\$9,395,534	\$8,789,878
<b>Expenses</b>	9,339,800	9,005,292	8,338,253
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	14,700	390,242	451,625
<b>Net Assets</b>		\$5,160,168	\$4,786,358

Easter Seals Joliet Region, Inc. (ESJR) was established in 1949 and serves more than 2,850 individuals on an annual basis, approximately 80% of whom have an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD). The organization serves a broad geography including Will, Grundy, Kendall, Kankakee, Ford, and Iroquois counties extending south and west of the Chicago metro area. The organization’s core programs deliver services for children and residential support to adults. These include: physical, occupational, and speech therapy to children and adults with disabilities; early intervention for infants

and toddlers and foster-adoptive services; child care; residential services for adults with developmental disabilities; a home visiting and parent training program for families of young children; and, entirely with private support and initiated with a August, 2010 CFI grant, a Family Resource Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. A subsequent CFI grant in May, 2012 funded an adaptive climbing wall for children as an additional therapy modality along with renovations and updates of therapy treatment rooms as well as staff office reconfigurations to maximize use of space. These improvements continue to be greatly valued. The climbing wall is a high demand feature as it enables a variety of therapy activities and provides fun and adventure for children in therapy. In November, 2013, CFI funded a variety of small capital projects which improved several group homes operated by the organization.

### Program Description

In 1985, ESJR opened the first “group home” in Will County, Illinois. Its Board of Directors agreed to assist in the development of community housing for adults with developmental disabilities who were otherwise living in institutions. Since that time, there are adults with I/DD aging in community residential services, a new generation of consumers seeking accommodations related to technology/social media, waiting lists as a result of facility closures, and aging parents creating emergency needs for housing. ESJR is seeking private support to assist in the expansion of its program and to provide quality enhancements for the 62 individuals who reside in it.

The project will accomplish the following four goals:

**Goal 1.** Complete an accessible home in Lockport to accommodate 4 women with I/DD with the potential to increase the house census to 5 with minimal additional modifications;

ESJR received emergency housing requests for 2 sisters, both developmentally disabled, who were living with their elderly mother in the family homestead on Archer Avenue, Lockport, following the mothers’ serious stroke. Since that time, the family has donated the property to ESJR and financed the extension of public sewer and water to provide the opportunity for a residential home for senior woman with developmental disabilities. With the assistance of Will County HOME funds, private contributions, the family, and a grant from the Department of Human Services, ESJR completed full renovations to the interior of this 2,400 square foot 1950’s ranch to enable full accessibility. ESJR now intends to undertake exterior renovations to create an attractive, livable and engaging environment for residents. ESJR will remove and replace current fencing, install concrete walkways, improve and expand the home’s driveway to accommodate ESJR vehicles and re-landscape the entire site to add privacy, 4-season color and new lawn. This location will bring a new presence of Easter Seals in the Northern Will County/Lockport area, providing one of the few residential homes in that community.

**Goal 2.** Increase transportation access to program residents.

ESJR provides daily transportation for more than 50 residents. The agency has chosen to collaborate with several other area agencies as providers for day programming. This enables greater choices for residents but creates an increased burden for ESJR which must transport residents to their chosen day program site. With the opening of a new location and the aging of ESJR’s current fleet, a vehicle is needed to serve larger number of residents which would result from the addition of this residence. Residents would also be transported to medical appointments, recreational outings, and various consumer activities throughout the community

**Goal 3.** Implement a curriculum for adults aging with I/DD.

Twelve of 62 ESJR residential clients are age 55 and older, some of whom are the original consumers in the agency's first group home that opened in 1985 and some of which will reside in the Lockport home. Longevity in the program has given residents, staff, and families the additional knowledge regarding the aging of individuals with disabilities. Through Easter Seals Inclusive Health Coalition, the organization has learned the prevalence of obesity among adults with disabilities is more than 50% higher than in adults without disabilities. Research shows a greater risk of developing serious health conditions associated with sedentary lifestyles such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. An additional challenge is the earlier onset of dementia and specific dementia needs. Many ESJR residents exhibit an increased interest in opportunities for learning and an interest in reducing work hours and retiring. "Aging well" includes living on your own terms, adding value to society, maintaining health and cognitive function, maximizing mobility, retaining function, and reducing the impact of chronic disease/dysfunction. In providing lifespan services there is a need for appropriate death education and bereavement counseling. Through collaboration with Clearbrook, ESJR has purchased the GRACE curriculum modules and is also participating in National Easter Seals "Aging with Developmental Disabilities" training collaboration with the University of Illinois. These resources are available to be incorporated into the individual service planning process through leadership and training. The organization intends to undertake a 4-day training of more than 20 staff to enable them to deliver the GRACE curriculum.

**Goal 4.** Install computers and internet to provide technology access to residents and staff.

Significant progress has been made in providing attractive, safe, and accessible homes for adults with disabilities residing in ESJR program. An expansive void exists in the availability of technology both on behalf of the residents and direct care giving staff. Easter Seals' Technology Plan addresses the needs of hardware, software, and internet access to meet the electronic communication needs of the entire organization with the exception of the residential homes. This lack of access limits the ability of the residents to interact with technology, challenges communication with onsite staff not having access to electronic communication, and deters the implementation of functions to enhance productivity to include program documentation and electronic timekeeping. ESJR intends to execute a technology plan that will impact 13 residential locations. An initial pilot has been implemented, providing the opportunity to obtain staff and resident feedback, experience operational costs, and make decisions about the most practical approach to equipment and support. The vision of ESJR is to build a world where all people with disabilities or special needs and their families are equal in every way, and can realize their goals, dreams, and aspirations throughout a lifespan. This vision includes access to mobile tablet computers for the residents of ESJR's Residential Program. Additionally, ESJR will implement the Human Services Management System (developed through 2007 and 2009 grants to Clearbrook) and conduct training of more than 50 staff users. This access is intended to promote education, health, vocational opportunities, recreation and civic participation on the part of residents as well as streamlined and improved reporting by staff. Through the HSMS system, staff can update client's individual support plans; report on client behavior events; update medical records; note program attendance; and record their own timesheets. The system streamlines reporting by eliminating paper forms and enabling easier aggregation of data.

<b>Expected Outcome</b>
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ESJR has developed a medium sized residential CILA program for adults with I/DD. The proposed grant would provide both the capital and infra-structure support to enhance the access, efficiency,

effectiveness, and satisfaction of the program moving forward into the future. Exterior improvements to the new home will create safer and easier means of access as well as enable residents to make use of attractive outdoor spaces for personal enjoyment. The current expansive void of technology for both residents and staff will be addressed, improving agency reporting processes and enabling residents to incorporate technology into their lives. A curriculum for those aging in the program will be sustained for current and future individuals. Residents will report increased satisfaction across various life stages.

### Program Budget

- External landscaping and other improvements to Lockport home (\$49,200 or 33% of request)
- Technology plan including workstations, tablets, HSMS training and technology installation (\$47,861 or 32% of request)
- Purchase of minivan (\$35,512 or 24% of request)
- Training to implement GRACE curriculum (\$17,427 or 12% of request)

### Prior Grants

<b>Last Grant Date:</b>	11/20/2013
<b>Last Grant Amount:</b>	\$150,000
<b>Number of Prior Grants:</b>	3
<b>Total Amount Granted:</b>	\$300,000

### Recommendation

This request represents further evidence of our encouragement of collaboration or organizations across the I/DD field. ESJR contacted us in April with interest in assistance with multiple areas of their operations. We initiated conversations between them and multiple Intersect for Ability member organizations to discuss related topics. Among what has emerged here is an interest in taking advantage of two resources developed via collaboration: GRACE and HSMS. ESJR is also exploring an effort unrelated to this request to build greater capacity in its front-line staff which has been an ongoing area of interest and activity among Intersect members.

The organization has recognized the need to expand residential offerings and worked closely with the family which donated and then funded improvements to the Lockport home. This scenario is not uncommon, to have an aging parent reach a crisis moment in care for children with I/DD. It will become more commonplace in the future and ESJR has responded in an impressive way. We recommend providing necessary support to finish the exterior work which will make this residential site an attractive home.

We recommend support for these various improvements and programs which will increase housing alternatives for four women and improve the delivery of services to all those who are part of ESJR's residential program.

<b><i>Easter Seal Joliet Region, Inc.</i></b>			
<b><i>Residential Enhancement Project</i></b>			
<b><i>July 17, 2015</i></b>			
<b><i>Total Project Budget</i></b>			
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>	<b><u>Funds Needed</u></b>	<b><u>Funds Requested</u></b>	<b><u>Funds Committed</u></b>
Coleman Foundation	150,000	150,000	
Private donations/grants	17,000		
Organizational Contribution	24,617		24,617
<b><u>Revenue Total</u></b>	<b>191,617</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>24,617</b>
<b><u>Expense</u></b>	<b><u>Project Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Coleman Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Other Sources</u></b>
<b>Goal One: Exterior Renovations-Lockport</b>			
Remove and Replace Fence	4,200	4,200	-
Install Concrete Walkway	14,300	14,300	-
Driveway Improvements and Expansion	23,200	13,200	10,000
Landscape Improvements	24,500	17,500	7,000
<b>Goal Two: Purchase Wheelchair Van</b>			
2015 Modified Dodge Grand Caravan	35,512	35,512	-
<b>Goal Three: Implement GRACE Curriculum</b>			
Staff costs to implement and enhance			
40 Direct care staff (8 hrs @ \$25/hr)	8,000	8,000	
11 support and mgnt staff (8 hrs @\$30-50/hr)	3,816	3,816	
GRACE modules	6,648	5,611	
<b>Goal Four: Technology Residential Plan</b>			
Computers for staff us	12,969	12,969	-
Setup and configure of computers	6,487	6,487	-
Internet Installation and 1st Year Fees	8,580		8,580
Personnel Costs to train staff	11,816	11,816	-
Tablet computers for resident use	6,735	6,735	-
Firewall Appliance for all locations	9,854	9,854	-
Project Direction	15,000		15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>191,617</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>41,617</b>