

**La Rabida Children's Hospital
 Request # 115494**

Project Title:	NICU Transition - Baby Steps Program
Duration:	12 months
Request Date:	10/4/2017
Request Amount:	\$128,000
Recommended Amount:	\$128,000
Program Area:	Health and Rehabilitation\Clinical / Treatment Services
Population Served:	Poor / Economically Disadvantaged
Type of Support:	Program Support
Grantee Location:	Chicago, IL
Primary Contact:	David Soglin, M.D.

Project Abstract

This request is to support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Transition Baby Steps Program. La Rabida created and formalized the Baby Steps program to provide care for infants who no longer need the intensive services of a hospital NICU, yet are not ready to be cared at home.

Organizational Background

Located along the Chicago’s lakefront, La Rabida Children’s Hospital provides family-centered health care to children with medically complex conditions; chronic illness such as diabetes and sickle cell disease; and comprehensive rehabilitative services for a variety of medical needs, including brain injury, cerebral palsy, developmental delays and Down syndrome. As a specialty hospital, La Rabida offers medical and support services for inpatient and outpatient, and primary care through their pediatric medical home.

Each year, La Rabida sees more than 9,000 children from communities with high poverty levels and high rates of exposure to violence and other traumatic events. These communities represent under-served and under-resourced areas in metropolitan Chicago, including Englewood, Woodlawn, Chatham, and Chicago’s South Suburbs. Approximately 90 percent are Medicaid dependent.

Annual Revenue Sources

Grants	6%	Government	34%	Earned Income	38%
Fees	%	Private Support	2%	Other	20%

Finances

	Budget	Actual	Actual
	06/30/2018	06/30/2017	06/30/2016
Revenues	\$62,479,303	\$68,241,695	\$55,731,126
Expenses	\$61,900,999	\$57,761,187	\$52,154,154
Surplus (Deficit)	\$578,304	\$10,478,507	\$3,576,972
Net Assets			\$168,550,115

*Revenue changes primarily due to investment income from strong market performance.

Program Description

According to a recent Crain's article, "Illinois hospitals are shrinking or closing their pediatric units as fewer children need to be hospitalized. But the kids who wind up in a bed are sicker and stay longer." Due to an increase of referrals from hospital NICUs, including Comer Children's Hospital, Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Rush University Medical Center and Loyola Medical Center, La Rabida created the NICU Transition program. Over the past two years, La Rabida experienced an increase in inpatient admissions. In 2014, 19% of inpatient admissions were infants less than one year. In 2016, 39% inpatient admissions were infants less than one year.

Since January 2017, the NICU Transition Baby Steps program has cared for 150 infants with complex medical needs. 65% of these infants are six months of age and younger, 45% are seven to twelve months. The program has been named "Baby Steps," reflecting the often slow, challenging path infants take before they can go home. On average, these babies spend 33 days in the inpatient unit. Through the program, La Rabida helps transition children from neonatal or pediatric intensive care to home by providing medical, rehabilitative and developmental care, and by training families to continue treatment and manage necessary medical equipment in the home.

Due to the intensive services performed in a hospital NICU, it is not an environment conducive to addressing the psychological and developmental issues related to complex and/or premature infant birth. To address those issues, the Infant Development Specialists at La Rabida conducts an assessment and plans treatment for pediatric medical trauma on the child and family with a focus on the parent child interaction. The Infant Development Specialist has expertise in infant cognition, social emotional development and caregiver-child interaction, as well as an understanding of development. The specialist consults regularly with team therapists to facilitate an infant-centered approach to care, and educates the family to care for the child at home.

As a specialty children's hospital, La Rabida does not provide the full array of medical services, such as surgery and imaging tests. For example, La Rabida currently does not offer vision services. La Rabida will contract with a part-time ophthalmologist through the University of Chicago. The physician will screen and treat medically complex infants (many of whom face an increased risk of vision problems) to ensure each child's vision is evaluated before leaving La Rabida, and the family is given referrals for at-home therapies and medical referrals.

Given that La Rabida does not provide full services, children are frequently transported via shuttle or ambulance to local hospitals and accompanied by a respiratory staff person. Many NICU infants have serious respiratory conditions requiring tracheostomies and ventilators. They require special respiratory equipment, including an Aerogen system, a more effective nebulizer for infants, and Vapotherm, a non-invasive respiratory support system. The request to CFI includes support for equipment and standard care supplies for the NICU infants.

Expected Outcome

The Baby Steps program is intended to give infants the best possible start by focusing on their development and educating their families to care for the child outside the hospital setting. Anticipated program outcomes include:

- 165 patients are transferred from hospital NICUs. 95% of patients have met healthcare goals and are transitioned and discharged to home with referrals for at-home therapies and medical care.
- 75% of patients have been evaluated by ophthalmologist at La Rabida. 25% will need follow up exams done by the ophthalmologist who did the initial exam and treatment at the referring hospital NICU.
- All parents/caregivers have met with medical, developmental, social work and other staff for education/training and understand how to care for their child's complex needs.

Program Budget

Revenue includes a grant from an anonymous foundation (\$75,000), Grainger Foundation (\$12,500), and individual gifts (\$62,500).

Total expenses for the NICU transition are \$614,734, which includes all staffing costs for the Baby Steps program. The request to CFI is \$128,000 (21% of budget): ophthalmologist PTE (\$28,000), Infant Development Specialist 1 FTE (\$68,200), equipment (\$8,300), standard care supplies (\$23,500). The balance of the budget is covered through La Rabida's general operating and sustained through fundraising efforts.

Prior Grants

Last Grant Date: 11/18/2008
Number of Prior Grants: 3

Last Grant Amount: \$110,000
Total Amount Granted: \$125,000

Recommendation

In January 2017, La Rabida formalized the NICU Transition program, which helps transition infants (with complex medical needs from underserved and under-resourced communities) from neonatal intensive care to home by providing medical, rehabilitative and developmental care, and by training families to continue treatment and manage use of medical equipment in the home.

This grant would be coming out of the "Other" bucket and should be viewed as aligning with the CFI overall goals of participating in communities and with population sets of people in need. The comprehensive nature of the transition process from hospital NICUs to La Rabida, a specialty hospital, is aligned with CFI's goal of supporting holistic approaches to complex problems. By supporting the challenging needs of this population set, the Baby Steps program is serving a valuable need in the Chicagoland medical system for care of pediatric patients. In addition, the proposal provides an attractive set of confidences that makes it very appealing for CFI to participate and have confidence in being part of making a difference in an important aspect of the Chicago community. We recommend funding at the requested level of \$128,000.

<i>Total Project Budget: \$614,734</i>			
Revenue	Funds Needed	Funds Requested	Funds Committed
Coleman Foundation	\$128,000	\$128,000	
Organizational Contribution/fundraising	\$336,734		
Anonymous Foundation	\$75,000		\$75,000
Grainger Foundation	\$12,500		\$12,500
Individual Gifts	\$62,500		\$62,500
Revenue Total	\$614,734	\$128,000	\$150,000
Expense	Project Budget	Coleman Funds	Other Sources
<i>Personnel</i>			
Neonatologist	\$21,750		\$21,750
Attending Physician	\$97,500		
Neonatal Nurse & Social Worker	\$15,800		\$15,800
Ophthalmologist - PTE	\$28,000	\$28,000	
Infant Development Staff 1 FTE	\$68,200	\$68,200	
Nutritionist	\$14,942		\$14,942
Nursing Staff	\$74,400		\$74,400
Respiratory Staff (for trips to hospitals)	\$72,292		\$23,108
Specialist services performed at Lurie or Comer	\$62,400		
Equipment Purchases	\$8,300	\$8,300	
Special Infant Care Supplies	\$1,800		
Supplies (Standard care including formula)	\$78,950	\$23,500	
Training & Education	\$4,500		
Ambulance Costs	\$62,400		
Miscellaneous	\$3,500		
Total	\$614,734	\$128,000	\$150,000