

Proposal Summary
Meeting Date: 6/4/2019

La Rabida Children's Hospital Request # 115921

Project Title:	Expansion of Inpatient Specialty Care
Duration:	12 months
Request Amount:	\$144,000
Recommended Amount:	\$150,000
Program Area:	Health and Rehabilitation\Clinical / Treatment Services
Population Served:	Economically Disadvantaged
Type of Support:	Program Support
Location:	Chicago, IL

Organizational Background

La Rabida partners with the University of Chicago’s Comer Children's Hospital and Lurie Children's Hospital, who refer patients and provide subspecialty pediatricians. La Rabida receives patient referrals from many hospitals across Illinois. Recently, La Rabida began working with pediatricians from Rush University and will be working with other specialty physicians at Lurie and Advocate Children’s Hospital through telemedicine and expansion of inpatient specialty care.

Finances

	Budget	Actual	Actual
	2019	06/30/2018	06/30/2017
Revenues	\$68,654,962	\$67,936,518	\$68,134,202
Expenses	\$69,574,079	\$61,957,896	\$67,631,462
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$919,117)	\$5,978,622	\$10,502,740
Net Assets		\$194,078,070	\$182,983,660

Annual Revenue Sources

Grants	7%
Fees	%
Government	33%
Private Support	3%
Earned Income	40%
Other	17%

Program Description

La Rabida frequently transports children to local hospitals for a variety of specialist follow-up visits, consultations and medical testing. These “medical day trips” are a complicated and burdensome method of accessing the care children need. As most patients are dependent upon medical technology, such as a respirator and/or gastrostomy tube, a half day trip in an ambulance to another hospital and back requires careful planning, pulls nursing and respiratory therapy staff away from other patients and exposes children to some additional risk to their physical health and emotional well-being.

In fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018), 311 children received care in La Rabida’s inpatient unit. During that period, 291 day trips were arranged to other medical centers. The average cost of a one-day medical trip is \$2,000, which includes staff to accompany the child, ambulance and medical services. Following is the cost to La Rabida over two years for medical trips to other hospitals.

FY 2018	291 trips	\$582,000 annual cost
FY 2017	329 trips	\$658,000 annual cost

In order to enhance inpatient specialty care and minimize medical day trips, La Rabida seeks to establish a telemedicine program, recruit two new pediatric sub-specialists and enhance on-site ophthalmology.

Telemedicine is a technological tool that pediatricians use for education, consultation, and practice. Tele-consultation typically involves establishing a communication between doctors who request consultations and experts at other medical centers. A two-way system requires the purchase of interactive telecommunications equipment, including audio and video technology. Peripheral devices such as stethoscopes and other medical equipment can be attached to the device allowing for a full assessment and evaluation via telemedicine.

Telemedicine at La Rabida would primarily be used to enhance communication between referring hospitals, specialists and the medical team. It would also assist to facilitate transitions for patients transferring in or out of the hospital. Using telemedicine will enable clinicians to see the child and be evaluated by the specialty team at their referring hospital while remaining at La Rabida.

La Rabida’s goal is to expand the level of sub-specialty care to provide increased access for inpatients and also reduce the number of medical day trips for ophthalmology, gastroenterology and cardiology. Hiring subspecialists in these three medical areas will have the following results to medical day trips, and produce an overall \$94,000 in savings annually.

Ophthalmology	Cardiology	Gastroenterology
80% reduction in patient trips	50% reduction in patient trips	65% reduction in patient trips
30 patients = \$60,000	7 patients = \$14,000	10 patients = \$20,000

This request includes expenses to hire the sub-specialists, telemedicine technology equipment, and a portable slit lamp for ophthalmologic examinations.

Strengths / Weaknesses

Strengths

- Having specialists on site will reduce trauma to patients and disruption of clinical care
- Significant cost savings will be realized annually
- The benefit of in-house specialists impacts trip savings, but more importantly allows service delivery not otherwise available for patients.

Weakness

- Cannot completely avoided medical trips, which can be traumatic for the patient and costly for staff and the institution.

Why Fund

La Rabida cares for a large underserved patient population; 90% rely on Medicaid for health care coverage. Providing access to services for an underserved technology dependent population is attractive and a focus for board members. By expanding the number of specialists, La Rabida can improve patient care, significantly reduce the number of medical trips and incur cost savings. La Rabida will be able to sustain the positions beyond the grant period.

Prior Grants

Last Grant Date: 11/15/2017
Last Grant Amount: \$128,000

Number of Prior Grants: 4
Total Amount Granted: \$253,000

Grants Budget (if not general operating)

Expenditure Category	Recommendation	Other Sources	Total
Salaries	\$103,000	\$40,953	\$143,953
Equipment	41,000		41,000
Supplies			
Conferences/Training			
Overheads/Administration	6,000		6,000
Totals	\$150,000	\$40,953	\$190,953