

Request Name: Neighborhood House

Description: Funding to support the affordability and quality of both Neighborhood House's Children's Programs and Adult Day Services.

Agency: Economic Development

Funding for: \$200,000 Ongoing

Private Not-for-Profit



neighborhood house

January 29, 2019

Neighborhood House respectfully requests \$200,000 in funding from the Utah State Legislature to support the affordability and quality of both our Children's Programs and Adult Day Services.

All families enrolled in programs at Neighborhood House receive some level of assistance through our sliding fee scale, which determines their cost of care based on annual household income. The payments that low and moderate-income clients can afford is less than the actual cost of services provided. The true cost of care is \$28.00 per day in our Children's Program and \$65.00 per day in Adult Day Services. The average payment per day in our Children's Program was \$10.37 (resulting in an average gap of \$370.23 per child per month) and \$36.67 our Adult Day Services (resulting in an average gap of \$339.96 per adult month). This built in affordability ensures our services are accessible to all community members, particularly struggling families. Funds granted will assist Neighborhood House in closing the gap between what families can afford to pay and the actual cost to provide our services. These costs include direct program expenses, meals, supplies, transportation, training, and teacher/aide salaries.

We believe that families enrolled in our programs deserve the highest quality of care we can provide, regardless of their ability to pay. The quality of Children's Programs and Adult Day Services at Neighborhood House rely on; impactful programming delivered by knowledgeable staff with opportunities for ongoing professional development, adequate and agile technology to monitor program outcomes and implement our sliding fee scale efficiently, safe and appropriate facilities to meet the needs of our diverse clientele, effective resources to facilitate transportation to local schools and for disabled adults, and a talented administrative team dedicated to the vision and history of our organization. As we work to increase the capacity and quality of our programs, our expenses increase, but it is critical that we not place the cost of these improvements on the families in our care. Funds granted will allow Neighborhood House to make essential improvements to our programs, while also maintaining affordability for the low-income children, adults, and families we serve.

WHO WE SERVE:

Over 400 children benefitted from preschool, afterschool and summer programs at Neighborhood House Children's Day Care Center. Those served were:

- 93% low-income.
- 72% rent their home; 22% own their home; 6% are homeless/transitional.
- 79% of the children are ethnic minorities.
- 67% of the families are single parent households.
- 83% of all children qualify to receive free or reduced lunch.

Neighborhood House provides engaging activities and supervised care to over 100 adults annually, of whom:

- 74% low-income.
- 12% minorities.
- Average age of 78.
- Average income less than \$31,500.
- 29 veterans.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Children's Programs at Neighborhood House provide year-round preschool and school-age programs for children ages 15 months to 12 years old, serving 396 children in 2017. In our current Children's Day Center, all Children's Programs are at full capacity. Children's Programs include developmentally appropriate learning activities, before and after school care, tutoring, full day summer programs, transportation to and from area schools, two nutritious meals and a snack daily, and support services for families. Our focus on quality care gives low-income children access to a safe and stable place to learn and grow, while their parents work to improve their family's financial self-sufficiency. Neighborhood House believes that education provides the key to advancement for children and families striving to escape poverty. Quality childcare is crucial to parents' productivity at work, as well as to their children's intellectual, social, and emotional development.

Neighborhood House provides affordable services to low-income families by determining fees using a sliding scale. The average cost of our services for one child is \$588.00 monthly (\$28.00 per child per day x 21 days per month). In 2017, the average payment per child per month was \$217.84 (\$10.37 per child per day), resulting in an average balance of \$370.16 per child, per month that Neighborhood House must fund through other sources. Funding provided by the [FOUNDATION NAME] is vital to maintaining affordable children's programs that are accessible for low-income families.

One of the top economic barriers low-income families face in gaining and maintaining employment is child care. Childcare in a NAEYC accredited program can cost upwards of \$14,000 annually for toddlers ages 15 months to 2 years and more than \$12,000 for preschool children ages 3 to 5 years old. Similarly, afterschool care at centers similar to Neighborhood House can range in cost from \$3,000 to \$10,000 each year (University of Utah Center for Child Care and Families, 2018). For many low and moderate-income families, the cost of high-quality, licensed, and reputable care is out of reach. The prohibitive cost of childcare can force caregivers to leave the workforce, rely more heavily on government assistance, or compromise the quality of care for their children.

Adding to this challenge, missing work due to caregiving disruptions or inflexible program schedules can be particularly precarious for hourly wage earners and result in lost wages or jeopardized employment. This makes low-income families with young children more vulnerable to employment instability and potential homelessness, as any hardship has the potential to derail their economic situation. When families lack economic security, an unforeseen crisis such as a broken vehicle, reduced work hours, or illness can threaten parent's ability to pay bills, provide food, or afford necessities such as childcare or medical care (Climate Progress, 2013).

Affordable child care is a critical factor in preventing these kinds of crises, allowing low-income families to address hardships without compromising their employment or other basic needs such as transportation, food, and shelter.

Low-income children also face a variety of risk factors that can negatively impact their early education and life-long success, including extreme poverty, single-parent households, limited educational resources like books in the home, food and housing insecurity, domestic violence, and fractured social supports. Research has demonstrated that the achievement gap in the United States is largely due to economic circumstances and low-income children tend to perform lower academically than their more affluent counterparts. The effect of early learning on children is clear: children who have rich early learning experiences are better prepared to thrive in school (U.S. Department of Education, 2013).

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

The goal of Children's Programs at Neighborhood House is to equip children with essential skills for lifelong learning and to give all children opportunities to reach their fullest potential. Our Preschool Program works toward the goal of preparing children for Kindergarten and our School-age Program supports the academic and social-emotional achievement of youth. Progress towards these Children's Program goals is measured based on:

- 1) 75% of preschool children meeting age expectations in 6 development learning areas by the end of our academic year (August – June) and their progress being tracked through an active TS GOLD Child Development Portfolio and three assessments each year.
- 2) English language learners receiving additional language acquisition support through classroom materials and a Spanish speaking staff member in each classroom.
- 3) 75% of preschool children meeting social-emotional milestones through the PATHS curriculum, weekly assemblies, and curriculum letters to parents/caregivers.
- 4) 150 hours of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities offered to school-age youth where they are actively engaged in learning through the Project Approach and have regular opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge.
- 5) 1,500+ hours of one-on-one literacy tutoring provided to school-age youth through a partnership with UtahReads and the University of Utah.
- 6) 70% of school-age youth demonstrating moderate to high confidence in mathematics and reading through the KidzMath and KidzLit curricula.
- 7) Parents/caregivers and families are given opportunities to participate in their child's success through regular Family Fun Nights, parent/teacher conferences and online portfolios.
- 8) 90% of parents/caregivers will report that our Children's Programs helped them gain/maintain employment, better budget for other household expenses, reduced stress, and allowed them to perform better at work with fewer distractions.
- 9) Maintain NAEYC accreditation of our Preschool Program and meet standards set by the Utah Afterschool Program Quality Assessment & Improvement Tool in our School-age Program.
- 10) Maintain Highest Honors in Menus, Environment, and Physical Fitness based on the Healthier CACFP Utah Office of Education.

- 11) Provide our community with affordable childcare options based on a sliding fee scale and make additional hardship assistance available to families experiencing increased financial difficulties.
- 12) Provide 1,500 hours of teacher training, including 800 hours of curriculum specific training to support staff in effective curricula implementation and assessment.

The goals of Adult Day Services at Neighborhood House are to support successful aging by maintaining maximum independence, preventing premature placement in more costly out-of-home options, and providing respite to caregivers. Progress towards these goals is measured based on:

- 1) 100+ older and disabled adults enrolled and aging-in-place through our program, including at least 20 veterans.
- 2) 11 daily activities presented to support the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical function of adults enrolled and maintenance of participation levels at 80% or above.
- 3) 75% of individual care plan goals are met through one-on-one interactions between adults and staff, daily activities, and other services we provide.
- 4) 20,000+ nutritious meals served that meet CACFP standards.
- 5) 70% of caregivers reporting that our Adult Day Services helped them gain/maintain employment, reduced stress, better budget for other expenses, and perform better at work with fewer disruptions as evaluated by an annual Client and Caregiver Survey.
- 6) Provide our community with affordable adult care options based on a sliding fee scale and make additional hardship assistance available to adults experiencing increased financial difficulties. Review client accounts annually to ensure our programs remain affordable and that pricing takes changes in family income into consideration.

Government Grant Revenue (from last audit 2017)

Federal	150,199.80	5.4%
State	203,370.60	7.3%
Local	11,265.33	.4%
	364,835.73	13.1 % of giving revenue