

REPORT 2018 April Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

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Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2018 April Cycle	Report Date: 06/24/2020 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 55,000	Date: 07/26/2019
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

With full funding, we anticipated providing Electronic Video Magnifiers (EVMs) for 50 individuals in San Antonio. Based on a proration of the funding received, 26 individuals (17 children and 9 adults) received life-changing equipment. 34 individuals were case managed to determine program eligibility. Final program outputs were contingent upon the amount of funding awarded.

Equipment was delivered on October 23, 2019 at the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind clinic and on February 20, 2020 at the University of Incarnate Word clinic. SSA staff trained each person individually on their EVMs and its use and care. They took their equipment home the same day.

ALL Najim Family Foundation funding for our Low Vision Program (\$29,960) was allocated to children only in counties funded by Najim and expended through the SA Lighthouse for the Blind clinic. Thanks to your support, we were able to serve 15 children at this clinic alone.

We also proposed vision-screenings for 3,300 children in THC and 570 in San Antonio (3,870 total), with up to 1,000 THC children and up to 114 SA children receiving follow-up eye care (1,114 total). A total of 4,223 children were vision-screened: 3,587 in THC (with 623 children referred by SSA screenings and 138 by school nurses in Boerne) and 636 in SA (with 70 children referred). Follow-up can take several weeks to several months, depending on each child's needs. ALL Najim funds awarded to the Vision Screening and Eye Care Programs (\$25,040) has been expended.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

All modifications to the original stated objectives were due to limitations in funding. Not all grants requested from other sources were awarded and one was awarded partially, so program objectives were pro-rated according to the amount of funding received.

4: What needs were addressed?

Children in SSA's Low Vision Program are often unable to independently perform daily activities that most people take for granted, such as reading, writing, or even recognizing their loved ones' faces. This creates a drastic disadvantage at home and in the classroom, where they often experience poor academic performance and classroom participation. Electronic Video Magnifiers digitally magnify objects up to 118x, empowering children with low vision to see the world clearly--often for the first time--and perform daily activities independently. This includes reading, writing, completing homework assignments, grooming, viewing television, and many other daily activities. Thanks to your support, we ensured that children with low vision are equipped with the devices needed to overcome their visual disabilities.

Additionally, national data show that without a system for comprehensive follow-up eye care in place, only about 30% of children failing a vision screening actually receive the recommended eye care. This is due to many factors such as uninformed parents, prohibitive expense, lack of transportation and lack of vision insurance. This causes delays both in and out of the classroom, and can even result in permanent vision loss for children with conditions such as amblyopia, which must be treated early.

SSA's Vision Screening and Eye Care Programs proactively remove these barriers to eye care for needy children by ensuring they have access to vision treatments, which are provided at no cost to qualifying families. SSA is working to provide follow-up eye care for the 831 children referred to this program thus far.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

SSA gauges the impact of the low vision equipment using a scientific method (Likert Study) through extensive follow up with each family. SSA Case Specialists follow up two weeks after the delivery, biannually for two years, and then annually until each child turns 19. Adult recipients receive follow-up calls annually. During follow-up calls, parents reported children are using his or her EVM on a daily or weekly basis.

Children referred to Eye Care Program during the 19/20 school year are in various stages of follow-up eye care protocol. Our goal is to ensure children failing a screening actually receive necessary treatments, ending the cycle of neglected eye care. We also establish an eye care home for those referred in order to provide recurring eye care throughout childhood. A detailed report of eye care outcomes (eye exams, eyeglasses, other treatments) will be available in Fall 2020, which includes the percentage of children attaining their best possible vision.

When vision problems are addressed, reading scores increase, classroom performance improves, graduation rates increase, and children can become more productive citizens and future members of the workforce. Early detection and treatment for conditions such as amblyopia can prevent permanent vision loss. These benefits are priceless for a developing child; we thank you for your leading role in making these successes possible.

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

Since we have eliminated the backlog of children in need of high-tech vision aids in the San Antonio metro area, we now sustain this success through the program's maintenance phase; this serves children newly referred annually who age into the program, move into the area, or develop new or worsening eye conditions since our most recent clinic. For all programs, SSA will continue to seek support from community foundations, partners, corporations, and in-kind discounts to sustain our success.

We plan to continue our vision screening and follow-up eye care programs indefinitely in the area, through support from local foundations and the local eye care community. This will include an expansion of the successful pilot project in Bexar county for San Antonio daycares, head starts, and community preschools. Screenings provided during early years are vital to identifying potential vision issues, such as amblyopia, which can cause permanent vision loss if not treated early.

Outside of grant funding, our partnering eye care professionals provide in-kind services for free or at significantly discounted rates, maximizing every dollar provided by our valued funders. SSA's partnership with Vispero provides deep discounts for equipment and travel reimbursements to offset costs of delivering vision aids across the U.S.

7: Please provide any other comments of information relevant to this grant.

Thanks to the Najim Foundation, these children have the tools necessary to see the world clearly for the first time, and are able to perform daily activities independently. By providing these children with the means to maximize their remaining vision, we can empower them to pursue their educations and healthy development through childhood and into adulthood. In this way, we are able to open up a world of possibilities for these children through a one-time purchase and inspire them to reach their full potential.

SSA's programs remain vitally important during the COVID-19 crisis. Students without access to vision aids and services are likely to fall and stay further behind than their normally sighted schoolmates as they navigate remote learning. Your generosity laid the groundwork to prepare these children with the tools they need for these unprecedented times. SSA adjusted case management protocols based on state government's directions and the best medical data available. Case Specialists relay any specific safety protocols for eye examinations to parents before they visit the eye doctor (wearing a mask, social distancing, etc).

This report covers program activities in the entirety of SSA's THC/San Antonio service area (as projected in the original submitted budget). The entirety of the Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation grant has been expended for the San Antonio 2019 Lighthouse Clinic and for children vision screened and referred in Najim's footprint to the Eye Care Program.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
LOW VISION PROGRAM EXPENSES:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Case Management (SSA Low Vision Personnel): 34 individuals were case-managed.	\$26,500	\$5,000	\$12,192	\$5,583

Electronic Video Magnifiers: 16 Desktop Onyx EVMs, 1 Clearview EVM, 3 Ruby 7 HD handheld EVMs, 7 Ruby XL HD handheld EVMs, and 2 Clear Readers (blind aid/reads text aloud) were provided.*	\$129,750	\$24,960	\$45,042	\$24,252
Other Vision Aids Provided: 1 Orcam My Eye, 1 pair of 2x Max TV glasses, 1 "6x" monocular telescope, 2 "4x" monocular telescopes, 1 "2.8x" monocular, and 1 "4x" illuminated dome magnifier were provided.	\$3,100	\$0	\$2,725	\$125
Low Vision Evaluations: Conducted by local low vision experts	\$800	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel: For SSA staff, covered in full by Vispero	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
VISION SCREENING PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vision Screening: 4,223 children have been vision screened.*	\$34,830	\$1,980	\$38,007	\$1,980
EYE CARE PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Comprehensive follow-up eye care: 831 children have been referred for eye care follow-up thus far,* which includes eye exams, eye glasses, and all other recommended treatments.	\$77,980	\$23,060	\$58,170	\$23,060

TOTAL:	\$272,960	\$55,000	\$156,136	\$55,000
Signature Jeffery L. Haddox				