

Funding Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas		Federal Tax ID#: 76-0415338		501(c)(3) Public Charity	
Address: 10615 Perrin Beitel Rd Ste 602		City: San Antonio		State: TX	
				Zip Code: 78217	
Website: efcst.org		Fax: (210) 653-5353		United Way Funded: No	

Head Of Organization

Name: Sindi Rosales		Title: CEO	
E-Mail Address: sindi@efcst.org		Phone: (210) 653-5353	

Application Contact

Name: Lee Tinker		Title: Development Director		E-Mail Address: leehtinker@gmail.com		Phone: (210) 653-5353	
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2013	\$10,400.00
2010	\$6,500.00

Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?
 Yes
 2009

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$15,000	\$89,750	\$1,057,258

Mission Statement:
 To lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
Camp Brainstorm Experience for Youth with Epilepsy

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:
Disabilities/Special Needs

Program / Project Description:

The Camp Brainstorm Experience for Youth with Epilepsy program improves the health and well-being of youth with epilepsy via a five-day, four-night summer camp at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, Texas. Your approval of this program, provided free to families, will make possible the aroma of a campfire, pleasantly aching muscles from canoeing, late night giggles in a darkened cabin, and the freedom to make friends with peers who understand the epilepsy journey. Camp Brainstorm is a place for children with epilepsy to find new friends and feel normal and safe.

Goals

- To improve camp opportunities and recreational skills of youth with epilepsy.
- To improve self-efficacy, self-image and independence among youth with epilepsy.
- To improve health-related quality of life.

Issues:

The effects of epilepsy are unique to each child, often including a reduction in social interaction, productivity, and self-image. Factors such as anxiety, isolation, and lack of control affect the child (Hamiwka & Wirrell, June 2009). Stigma and misconceptions develop anxiety and fears in children. In a recent study of adolescents in Texas, 22% believed epilepsy was contagious (Austin et. al). Children must face these beliefs daily. For children living with epilepsy, it's all about the fear—the fear of their next seizure, who will be there, what will they do, will they die. Parents often wonder if their child will be able to have a somewhat normal life. Based on these findings, this project strives to implement strategies to improve the lives of children living with epilepsy. Through the Camp Brainstorm Experience, youth with epilepsy will develop skills to manage their fears, think critically, embrace social and behavioral change, and have fun with their peers without stigma.

Needs the program will address:

The psychosocial impact of epilepsy on children with epilepsy is often a greater consequence than seizures themselves. Camp Brainstorm will address the psychosocial aspect of youth with epilepsy by improving aspects of the youth's identity: self-image, coping mechanisms, independence, and positive social interaction. The first Camp Brainstorm Experience was held in 2012 and was described as a life-changing program by parents and children. A child wrote in a survey that camp was an opportunity to, "Be yourself and don't give up on yourself just because you have epilepsy." For this program, EFCST will continue to provide a safe, secure, pivotal experience.

Camp Brainstorm connects children with epilepsy to traditional camp activities. Children with epilepsy are often excluded from activities due to the potential for injury. Camp Brainstorm has been held at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport since 2013. Camp Aranzazu has highly trained staff and equipment designed for special-needs children. At camp, children with epilepsy enjoy swimming, fishing, canoeing, zip-lining, arts and crafts, and archery. Children improve their self-image, quality of life, and bond with their peers through organized, recreational, social and developmental activities.

Camp Brainstorm focuses on the development of:

- Social health by improving quality of life and peer bonding.
- Mental health by improving self-image, self-sufficiency, and coping skills.
- Behavioral health by improving knowledge of epilepsy and skills to manage and cope with epilepsy, also, by providing opportunities to experience, new, fun learning activities.

Individuals impacted: 70 school age youth with epilepsy (ages 8 to 17) residing in Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson counties.

Expected Results: This project will result in overall improved health-related quality of life of children affected by epilepsy. This project will develop protective and support factors in youth with epilepsy that will assist them to cope with epilepsy and reach their potential.

Camp Brainstorm will help develop protective factors to improve social health, mental health, and behavioral health in children as well as develop positive emotional relationships with peers and camp counselors.

Protective factors establish friendships, social competence resulting in:

- Support building of peer bonding and non-kinship networks.
- Develop quality of life skills "friendships, independence, teamwork, responsibility, and respect.

Outcomes:

- 100% of youth will participate in camp "team" activities.
- 75% demonstrate quality of life skills.

Mental health: Develop psychosocial protective factors in youth to establish positive self-identity and coping strategies that are stress-resistant and resilient resulting in:

- Develop coping skills such as increasing positive thinking; coping with diagnosis and stress; anger management; positive self-image; and sense of ability to control life's outcomes.
- Develop enhanced life skills such as communication and peer bonding.

Outcomes:

- 65% of children will demonstrate understanding of coping strategies through discussion or survey.
- 65% of children will indicate improvement in self-image to include self-esteem, self-worth, self-efficacy, self-help, positive self-growth, self-directed problem solving, and perceived competence.

Behavioral Health: Develop protective factors that establish autonomy, independence, adaptive health behavior, sense of purpose, problem-solving skills and critical thinking skills resulting in:

- Reinforced positive behavior leading to overall well-being and daily living skills.
- Develop the ability to reduce stress and improve health through fun activities and exploration.
- Understanding the importance of medication and seizure management.

Outcomes

- 65% indicate improved conflict resolution and nonverbal communication.
- 65% indicate knowledge of personal responsibility and health and overall wellness.
- 100% participate in Camp Brainstorm Experience activities that develop skills in following directions, personal safety and stewardship of nature.

CEO's note: As the parent of a now grown-up lady with epilepsy, I vividly recall the first time my daughter attended an epilepsy camp. When we picked her up, she was beaming! She had made so many friends. It was a sight my family will never forget. It is why Camp Brainstorm needs to continue.

Evaluation Plan:

Evaluation will occur via surveys and anecdotal notes. For Self Image, youth will indicate understanding of developmental concepts, gained knowledge and satisfaction by pre- and post- comparison. For Quality of Life, youth will demonstrate improved peer bonding, knowledge of conflict resolution as indicated in pre- and post- comparison and observation.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

2018 will be the seventh year of offering Camp Brainstorm. The community supports this program as evidenced by repeat donors and diversified gifts a range of funders.

EFCST has continued to improve its marketing, implementation, and evaluation of Camp Brainstorm. This year, we plan for a maximum of 70 children to attend camp, an increase of about 20 since the organization budget was approved. Families of children with epilepsy pay tens of thousands of dollars each year for treatments of this chronic disease. Still, families support EFCST fundraisers, set up monthly online payments and conduct online and Facebook fundraising campaigns to ensure camp continues. They influence their network to give and provide this special haven for children with epilepsy.

Camp Aranzazu is an ideal, affordable location which has improved its facility from year to year. Even when faced with severe weather challenges, its staff and donors have proven to be resilient.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
70	12

Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.

A. Population Served Age		B. Population Served Ethnicity	
Infants (0-5)	0%	African American	6%
Children (6-13)	50%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	50%	Caucasian	44%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	40%
		Native American	4%
		Other and Define	6%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District1, District2, District3, District4, District5, District6, District7, District8, District9, District10

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
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Camp facility rental (\$358 per person includes food & shelter)	\$44,750	\$15,000
Marketing & promotion	\$5,000	\$0
Equipment & supplies (for health & activities)	\$6,000	\$0
Travel to & from camp (includes charter bus, gas)	\$5,000	\$0
Operating expenses (staff, training, recruiting, postage)	\$29,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$89,750.00	\$15,000.00

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
	\$
TOTAL:	\$0.00

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
San Antonio Area Foundation	\$30,000
Valero Energy Foundation	\$30,000
Gordon Hartman Family Foundation	\$10,000
Alamo Kiwanis Club Charities	\$3,500
Individuals	\$1,230
TOTAL:	\$74,730.00

Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Epilepsy Foundation of America	\$5,000
SSFCU	\$3,000
LivaNova	\$2,500
Dave & Busters	\$1,000
Topgolf	\$1,000
Compassionate Cultivation	\$5,000
Knox Medical	\$5,000
Surterra	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$27,500.00

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Brain Sentinel	\$5,000
Jefferson Bank	\$3,000
Frost	\$3,000
Vulcan Materials	\$2,500
Robert Stevener	\$2,000
Documation	\$1,000
Martin Marietta	\$1,000
SWBC PEO	\$1,000
Bear Readymix	\$1,000
Lanfear Law Firm	\$1,000
Steve Cook	\$1,000

Total Source	\$1,000
Drexler Insurance	\$1,000
Methodist Healthcare System	\$1,000
Joey Rosales	\$1,000
Your Mechanic SA	\$1,000
PDQ Concrete	\$1,000
Randy Walker CPA	\$1,000
Joe Rosales	\$1,000
TOTAL:	\$29,500.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?
100%

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?
Board members are expected to make a personal gift and influence gifts, share contacts, advocate, invite family and friends to contribute, meet and thank donors at events and share expertise. Board members help acquire sponsors for events using their business and personal connections and invite community members to join them on fundraising committees. Board members also educate by describing their family's experience with epilepsy at events and at meetings of chambers of commerce and community organizations. Board members bring their network and families to events and assume important roles to ensure events run smoothly. The board's engagement increases and enhances staff effectiveness and their ability to serve people with epilepsy.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name	Corporate Affiliation
Sindi Rosales	Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas
Michael Girouard	Brain Sentinel
Erin Allen	Community Volunteer
Gloria Onesty	Security Service Federal Credit Union
Alison Packard	The Packard Law Firm
Trish Antuna	Security Service Federal Credit Union
Melanie Cox	Community Volunteer
Barbara English	Minerva Group
Jose Ochoa	Bear Readymix
Jenise Diaz	Security Service Federal Credit Union
Tracy Biltz	Brain Sentinel
Katherine Piland	Sirius Computer Solutions
Maria Ellis	UCB
Francesca Barajas	VisionWorks
Blake Anderson	LivaNova
Scott Verstuyft	UCB