

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Connections Individual and Family Services	Federal Tax ID#: 74-2179169	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)
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Address: 1414 West San Antonio Street	City: New Braunfels	State: TX	Zip Code: 78130
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Website: www.connectionsifs.org	Fax: (830) 629-6571	United Way Funded: Yes
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Fiscal Year:
September 01 to August 31

Head Of Organization

Name: Jacob Huereca	Title: Chief Executive Officer
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E-Mail Address: jhuereca@connectionsifs.org	Phone: (830) 629-6571
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Application Contact

Name: Jacob Huereca	Title: Chief Executive Officer	E-Mail Address: jhuereca@connectionsno nprofit.org	Phone: (830) 629-6571
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2019	\$25,000
2020	\$25,000
Total	\$50,000

Has the organization applied to the Najim Charitable Foundation in the past and been declined?
Yes
2008 - \$100,000, 2009 - \$50,000, 2013 - \$100,000

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$40,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$1,412,070	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$5,158,740
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Mission Statement:
The agency's mission is "Strengthening communities, one youth and one family at a time." Our tag line is: Empowering Youth. Connecting Families. Building Futures.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
To Support the Children's Shelter and Transitional Living Program Support in Comal County

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
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09/01/2021

08/31/2022

Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities:

Child Abuse & Child Neglect

Program / Project Description:

Connections is respectfully requesting \$40,000 from The Najim Foundation to help celebrate and support the agency during its 40th anniversary of providing services in Comal County. Founded in 1981, Connections is the longest standing non-profit in the Comal County community. Fittingly, this project is intended to support our residential programs, which was the basis for establishing the organization 40 years ago when concerned community members recognized a need to help underprivileged and underserved youth. Funds from this project will directly benefit our children's shelter which serves as a critical safety net for foster youth (from Comal County and surrounding areas) who are being removed from their homes and for youth who simply have nowhere else go to. Additionally, our shelter provides services under a federal basic center program, which houses runaway and homeless youth. This critical program helps prevent human trafficking and ensures youth always have a safe place to sleep, a warm meal to enjoy and support from caring staff. If awarded, funds will also be allocated to our transitional living services. This important program guides youth preparing to exit the foster care system by allowing them to explore independence prior to leaving state care. Within this residential program, staff provide youth with the skills, resources and support needed to help them become successful, productive adults.

Comal County is the 4th fastest growing county in the nation from 2010-2019 (United States Census Bureau, 2019) and this growth has led to a spike in demand for quality services for our most vulnerable residents. Additionally, in 2019 the average number of child victims per 1,000 children in the target area was 45.69/1,000 (TDFPS annual data book), which is over 10.9% higher than Bexar County's rate of 41.19/1,000 and 27.44% higher than the state rate of 35.85/1,000. With San Antonio having one of the highest removal rates in the State of Texas and with the occurrences of child abuse/neglect increasing with the population growth, the demand for continued, quality services will only increase.

The demographic that this project will fund is a population with limited resources requiring highly skilled professionals willing to intervene on behalf of these children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019), Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. Within our residential counseling program, the average A.C.E. score remains around 6.8. According to the CDC (2019), 1 in 5 individuals will have an A.C.E score above 3, so the youth entrusted in our programs are at significant risk for long-term health impacts due to trauma exposure. Staff that work within the agency's two residential programs receive extensive training to prepare them to work with children who have experienced significant trauma. All residential staff are trained in Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) to ensure they understand the importance of childhood attachment and how trauma can manifest into serious behaviors. The TBRI model provides them with resources to effectively intervene. Additionally, staff receive training in Managing Aggressive Behaviors and clinical level staff have a strong tool box of interventions including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) and National Lifesmanship (Equine).

Support for this project will ensure adequate funding from programs that provide for the basic needs of children located in the New Braunfels children's shelter and transitional living program. In partnership with The Najim Foundation, these funds will help Connections celebrate our 40th anniversary so we can follow through on our mission to strengthen communities one youth and one family at a time for another 40 years. The agency's services are critical to the region and we are proud serve as an ally to others in the field ensuring the highest level of care for youth. We appreciate The Najim Foundation's past support of Connections hope to continue that relationship as we move towards future milestones together.

Evaluation Plan:

Expected Outcomes:

1. Youth will remain safe while in shelter as measured by 90% of youth leaving the residential program with a safe exit.
2. 95% of youth ages 18 or older will graduate from high school or obtain a GED before exiting foster care.
3. 75% of youth will show improvement utilizing the Thrive Survey from the time of admission to the end of services.
4. 85% of youth ages 16 or older in the agency's residential services will be able to obtain employment within 60 days of admission and maintain employment with less than two weeks between jobs.
5. Reduced youth risk factors/Assist youth with developing healthy coping mechanisms that address each youth's unique needs as determined in individual counseling.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Connections has worked hard to sustain its services through multiple funding streams. The agency budget also includes depreciation and minor maintenance/repairs to maintain upkeep of its buildings. The agency plans to deepen our relationship with community stakeholders to increase community investment in services and to prepare for any potential future capital needs. Connections will also begin building relationships with corporations and charitable foundations that have not funded the agency in the past to increase awareness of community need and engage potential donors in the agency's mission. The agency also regularly evaluates its organizational structure to maximize resources, address community need, and maintain cost-effective stewardship of all funding. If funded by the Najim Foundation, the agency will value and regularly maintain this investment, knowing that many children will benefit from this project for generations to come.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
210	210

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	19%
Children (6-13)	10%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	90%	Caucasian	25%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	50%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	6%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

Outside San Antonio

Counties applicant is in:

Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Wilson

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Salaries and benefits for counselor and residential support staff	\$1,018,609	\$20,000
Basic Needs including food and clothing for youth	\$32,592	\$17,500

Vehicle Expenses	\$41,363	\$0
Training-Travel	\$22,959	\$0
Other Expenses including utilities, office supplies and communications	\$75,862	\$0
Repairs and Maintenance	\$47,024	\$0
Counseling Supplies	\$5,583	\$2,500
Indirect	\$167,472	\$0
Misc	\$606	\$0
TOTAL:	\$1,412,070	\$40,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Najim Family Foundation	\$40,000
Fundraising (Individual)	\$63,109
Anderson Foundation	\$40,000
Downtown Rotary (NB)	\$4,000
United Way	\$35,000
	\$0
TOTAL:	\$182,109

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
TX DFPS (Contingent on Census)	\$1,356,550
	\$0
TOTAL:	\$1,356,550

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
United Way (2022)	\$35,000
Fundraising	\$165,000
Office of the Governor (VOCA)FY22	\$199,781
Walmart	\$10,000
SAAFDN	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$414,781

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
HHSC-TDSHS (subst. abuse preven.)	\$1,159,381
United Way-Comal and Guad. Cty	\$48,500

Office of the Governor (VOCA)	\$387,710
McKenna Foundation	\$244,640
In and Out Burger	\$3,000
TDFPS-PEI Division (STAR Program)	\$1,073,564
St. David's Foundation	\$25,000
HEB	\$15,000
HHSC-Basic Center Program-Federal Grant	\$229,076
Coastal Bend Foundation	\$5,000
Kronkosky	\$50,000
GVTC	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$3,245,871

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?
N/A

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?
The Board Members participate in various committees, including an Executive Committee (that also oversees Strategic Planning and Finance), a Policy and Program Audit Committee, and a Fund Development Committee. Each board member is expected to serve on one of the board committees and to attend Board Meetings to remain an active member. Additionally, every board member volunteers for fundraising events, personally contacts community residents as part of the Big Give or other campaigns, and donates time or in-kind products for youth served by the agency during special holidays. Every board member is required to make an annual financial contribution; agency records indicate that every board member financially contributed to the agency in the last fiscal year. Board members act as another agency advocate to increase community awareness of the agency mission and to connect potential volunteers and donors to the agency.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Hal Holtman, President	Holtman and Company, CPA
Brent Perry, Vice-President	Chiropractor (on disability) and co-owner of a dental practice
Jane Childers, Secretary	Trinity University
Amy Cundiff-Treasurer	Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association
Dawn Sloans, Member	Firstmark Credit Union
Caleb Scott, Member	High School Student and Co-Founder of FloatMe Inc
Laurie Wehring, Member	Herald Zeitung Newspaper
Alex Marlow	Holt

Signature
Jacob Huereca