

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Connections Individual and Family Services		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 74-2179169	<b>501(c)(3) Public Charity</b> 509 (a)(2)	
<b>Address:</b> 1414 West San Antonio Street	<b>City:</b> New Braunfels	<b>State:</b> TX	<b>Zip Code:</b> 78130	
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.connectionsnonprofit.org/">http://www.connectionsnonprofit.org/</a>		<b>Fax:</b> (830) 629-6571	<b>United Way Funded:</b> Yes	

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Kellie Stallings	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> Kstallings@connectionsnonprofit.org	<b>Phone:</b> (830) 629-6571

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Jacob Huereca	<b>Title:</b> Residential Services Administrator	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> jhuereca@connectionsnonprofit.org	<b>Phone:</b> (830) 629-6571
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### Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?

Yes  
2008 - \$100,000, 2009 - \$50,000, 2013 - \$100,000

<b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b>	<b>Total Project Budget \$:</b>	<b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b>
\$25,000	\$265,000	\$4,810,139

### 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 Connections Children's Shelter Capital Improvement and Facility Capability for Trauma Informed Care in Comal County.

### PROJECT TIMELINE

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
03/01/2019	12/31/2019

### Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Child Abuse & Child Neglect

### Program / Project Description:

There is growing evidence that the growth and development of children is negatively impacted by distress, anxiety, and trauma. In fact, a taskforce through the Attorney General's Office found that 60% of children nationwide have their lives touched by violence, crime, abuse, and psychological trauma in any given year (December 2012), which ultimately affects their physical health, psychological stability, and places them at greater risk of human trafficking. Texas state child abuse and family violence statistics highlight the presence of significant risk factors that jeopardize the safety and well-being of children. According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services' 2017 annual data, 21% of children in Comal County are at risk of abuse or neglect, or 21,784 children. Additionally, TDFPs reports that the point of prevalence for confirmed child abuse victims in Comal County is 55.76 per 1,000 children, which is 10% higher than Bexar County (50.66 per 1000) and 30% higher than statewide in Texas (38.64 per 1000). While these statistics reveal the presence of abuse and potential trauma experienced by youth in the county as a result of abuse, there are also other telling signs that the mental health of children is already at risk, including increased suicide risk and growing substance abuse in the community.

Considering the ongoing risk factors to the healthy development of children, it is imperative that the agency continue providing its existing services for youth and families. In fact, the agency is in the process of seeking national accreditation through the Council On Accreditation to strengthen its processes and further establish itself as a leader in providing cutting edge social services for youth and families. Recently, the federal government, through the Family First Prevention Services Act, and the state government, through its Community Based Care models, are requiring that providers serving children in the child welfare systems meet higher standards to provide exemplary care, and that facilities providing congregate care for children provide a safe, qualified, and welcoming environment for traumatized youth. As part of the anticipated increase in expectations, the agency has proactively applied for national accreditation through the Council On Accreditation; the federal government considers accreditation as proof of "qualified residential treatment provider" for those serving youth in facility settings, such as our children's shelter. The agency is currently in the self-study process which is initially due in March 2020, and the accreditation review site visit is scheduled for July 2020. While the agency has made many great strides in its services to provide cutting-edge quality care, there is much to be done to improve the quality of the facilities in which the agency's services are provided so that individuals and families are served in an environment which helps them feel safe, valued, and with the opportunity to make positive life changes. Thus, funds from the Najim Family Foundation will be utilized to help the agency meet accreditation standards, continue its current mission, and strive toward improving its facilities to better fit its ultimate vision for the target community.

Since the national accreditation site review is scheduled for July 2020, all capital improvements must be completed before that time. Additionally, improvements in the emergency shelter are less cumbersome to complete when the children are in school most of the day; this is also true for the child abuse prevention and early intervention counseling center, when counselors are often providing services in school settings most of the day during the school year. Thus, the agency plans to parcel out the capital improvement in phases that can be completed as funds are received, with the most urgent phases occurring first, as follows:

Phase One- Strengthen the structural supports between the first and second stories of the shelter building.

Phase Two-Replace roofing in areas where there are current building leaks. Regrade and repave a small parking lot to prevent drainage into the shelter building. Regrade a granite walkway to prevent drainage into the counseling center.

Phase Three- Replace flooring in shelter program bedrooms and hallways and the entire counseling center.

Phase Four- Add durable wall coverings on shelter hallway and bedroom walls to minimize need for facility destruction repair and painting in the future.

Phase Five- Replace flooring in remainder of the shelter, as well as the lobby and offices on the first and second stories of the shelter building.

The project will ensure the agency can maintain services that help reduce the risk factors associated with child abuse. The project plans to serve the following target populations:

1. Youth ages 0-18, their parents, and families living in the target area- Counseling for minimum of 650.

2. School-age youth - Substance abuse prevention services for a minimum of 2,000
3. Youth ages 5-18 that reside in the agency's emergency shelter- Approximately 150.
4. Youth in foster care ages 15-21 who reside in the agency's transitional living program- Minimum of 40

The program objectives and activities are:

1. Meet the basic and immediate physical and safety needs of youth seeking shelter
2. Reduce youth risk factors/Assist youth with developing healthy coping mechanisms that address each youth's unique needs
3. Help youth and families obtain and maintain intact households through conflict resolution and improvement of communication

While the proposed project is for facility improvements, the ultimate project success measure is behavior change, goal accomplishment, improved safety for vulnerable children, and broken cycles of abuse for children and families.

**Evaluation Plan:**

Each Connections program has its own evaluation plan to measure assess effectiveness. These measures are taken at intake, and at discharge, with counseling programs collecting the information 90 days after services. The substance abuse prevention program utilizes pre and post-tests that measure knowledge gained and perception changed. The agency's outcome measures are:

75% of youth will show improvement in risk factors utilizing the risk factor survey from the time of admission to the end of services.

80% of clients and referral sources will report satisfaction with program/services.

80% of youth and families participating in counseling will accomplish desired goals and client improvement.

90% of youth participating in curriculum-based education will show improvement in knowledge and perception of risk factors from pre to post-test.

The evaluation of the grant award will be based on achieving the desired outcome of capital improvements no later than the target date of December 31st, 2019.

**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 and repairs to maintain upkeep of its buildings. Therefore, the project will remain sustainable after the proposed capital improvements are completed, unless future major renovations are needed. 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 in order to increase awareness of community need and engage potential donors in the agency's mission. If funded, the agency will value and regularly maintain this investment, knowing that many children will benefit from this project results for generations to come.

**Children Impacted:**

<b>How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?</b>	<b>How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?</b>
850	150

**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	18%
Children (6-13)	31%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	69%	Caucasian	34%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	Hispanic/Latino	38%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	10%
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:**

Outside San Antonio

**Counties applicant is in:**

Atascosa, Comal, Guadalupe, Wilson

**Line item Budget:**

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Reinforce structural support in shelter	\$10,000	\$0
Replace flooring in two buildings (14,000 sf)	\$147,000	\$10,000
Replace roof of shelter and counseling center	\$53,000	\$5,000
Add damage-proof wall coverings to shelter	\$20,000	\$10,000
Grade buckled asphalt lot and walkway	\$20,000	\$0
Painting-Contingency	\$15,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$265,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

**OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES**

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

**PROJECT - PENDING**

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Najim Family Foundation	\$25,000
New Braunfels Downtown Rotary	\$19,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>

**PROJECT - COMMITTED**

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Private Donor-Bryan Kastleman	\$100,000
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

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

**ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
TDFPS (CPS committed/daily rate)	\$1,978,957
TDFPS (PEI committed/session rate)	\$1,059,155
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,038,112</b>

**ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED**

<b>Funder Name</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
TNOYS	\$50,000
McKenna Foundation	\$85,994
Coastal Bend Community Foundation	\$5,000
Office of the Governor	\$268,985
Dept. of Health and Human Svcs	\$185,874
HEB Tournament of Champions	\$25,000
In and Out Burger	\$3,000
Ashley Furniture Home Center	\$5,000
Holtman and Company CPA	\$5,000
Frost Bank	\$1,500
Los Cucos	\$5,000
Gordon and Virginia Hughes	\$19,000
HHSC/TDSHS	\$757,255
United Way Comal County	\$39,000
United Way Guadalupe County	\$3,500
Firstmark Credit Union	\$5,000
Valero	\$5,000
Anderson Foundation	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,484,108</b>

**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 sub-committees which also include community representatives that are not board members, 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 fundraising events, 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.

**LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Hal Holtman, President	Holtman and Company, CPA
Carolyn Lehman, Treasurer	Owner, Wish List Direct
Dawn Sloans, Secretary	Firstmark Bank
Elizabeth Kolb, Member	Attorney
Jane Childers, Member	Trinity University
Travis Wommack, Member and Past President	CFO, Sodalis Elder Living
<b>Signature</b> Jacob Huereca	