**Project Title: Clinical Diagnostic Program-**To support delivery of high-quality, gold standard autism diagnostic services to under-served children ages 0-6 living in Bexar and surrounding counties.

**Amount Requested:** $50,000

**Organization Purpose and History:** Autism Community Network (ACN) was founded in 2008 by a consortium of healthcare funders in San Antonio concerned with the growing rate of autism and the lack of diagnostic services available in the city.

ACN offers diagnostic and therapeutic services for under-served and economically challenged children. In addition, family empowerment classes, courses and events, and professional development programs for healthcare providers and caretakers are offered through our agency. Since 2009, ACN has served 15,495 children, parents, caretakers and professionals through its programs. A committed staff of experts in their field is changing lives of families affected by autism by offering reliable diagnoses, effective parent training and quality professional training to the community.

The goal of all programs provided by Autism Community Network is to maximize the potential of children and families affected by autism in Bexar County and surrounding areas by providing diagnostic services and resources while facilitating early access to treatment. Additionally, ACN is committed to lowering the age of diagnosis for children in our community to help them access interventions as early as possible.

**Project Description:** The goal of the Clinical Diagnostic Program is to provide highly accurate, best practice diagnostic services to underserved children and families in our community.

The Clinical Diagnostic Program’s process is comprised of an initial risk assessment, a full interdisciplinary autism diagnostic evaluation and post-diagnostic support in the form of case management referrals and family education and empowerment classes.

Upon referral from the primary care physician, ACN conducts a Level 2 Focused Assessment (L2FA). The L2FA consists of a focused probe for developmental milestones in language development, social skills development and any behaviors considered autistic-like in nature. Based on the results, a patient may be scheduled for a full interdisciplinary diagnostic evaluation at ACN or referred to another community agency to address other needs.

A full diagnostic evaluation is an arena-style assessment of overall development with a focus on communication, adaptive behaviors and social interaction skills. The assessment team includes a developmental-behavioral pediatrician, occupational therapist, speech therapist and board certified behavior analyst. Together, the team evaluates and observes the child to arrive at either a positive or negative autism diagnosis. The pediatrician provides the family immediate feedback, along with a diagnosis, on the same day of the assessment eliminating the need for the family to return for a follow up appointment.

**Previous Funding:**

ACN is grateful to have received $25,000 in funding from The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

**Relationship to the Foundation’s Funding Priorities:**

ACN's Clinical Diagnostic Program provides access to medical and therapeutic services through early diagnosis and intervention. By aiding families and communities of individuals with autism, ACN is helping children with autism lead more successful lives in our community.

**Project Budget for ACN Clinic Program:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line Item Description** | **Total Project Funds** | **Allocation of Funds for**  **Request to Najim Foundation** |
| Total Clinic Contract Labor | $50,400 | $7,000 |
| Insurance Expense | $9,000 |  |
| Malpractice Insurance | $6,900 |  |
| Miscellaneous Expense | $0 |  |
| Community Forum | $10,000 |  |
| Community Engagement | $3,000 | $3.000 |
| Total Occupancy Expenses | $129,802 | $10,000 |
| Total Office Expense | $30,550 |  |
| Total Payroll Expenses | $858,903.48 | $25,000 |
| Total Professional Fees | $33,900 |  |
| Supplies and Materials | $6,324 | $5,000 |
| Travel and Meetings | $5,485 |  |
| Continuing Education | $3,900 |  |
| In-Kind Labor | $1,200 |  |
| Capital Expenditures | $4,000 |  |
| ASD Treatment Institute | $12,321 |  |
| **Program Total** | $1,165,685.48 | **$50,000** |

**Children Impacted:**

The total project initiative will impact 720 unduplicated children.  
NFF requested funds will impact 720 unduplicated children.

**Organization Total Revenue and Expenses for 2017:** (ACN operates on the calendar year.)

2017 Budgeted Revenue: $1,528,585.40

2017 Budgeted Expenses: $1,549,802.48

**Project Timeline**

The 2017 Clinical Diagnostic Program is an ongoing part of ACN’s services and runs on a calendar year.

**Project Evaluation Criteria**

Quantitative goals related to number of clients served will be tracked through the clinic database monthly, and shared by the Executive Director with the Board of Directors, ACN staff, funders and the public. The quality of diagnostic services will be analyzed by Family Satisfaction Surveys, administered after every diagnostic appointment. These surveys are reviewed by clinic staff and leadership staff and shared with the Board of Directors and key stake holders in monthly and annual reports. Follow-up phone calls as part of the clinic program evaluation process are made by the Medical Assistant and logged in the clinic database. Survey results are transferred into numeric data and stored in the clinic database, along with any additional comments the family might make.

**Other Project Funders:**

Secured:

* Kronkosky Charitable Foundation $500,000
* Texas Cavaliers Foundation $2,000
* Mays Family Foundation $10,000

Pending:

* BBVA Compass $10,000
* St. Luke’s Lutheran Health Ministries $15,000
* Nationwide Insurance $12,500
* Wells Fargo Community Giving $15,000
* Meadows Foundation $15,000
* Greehey Family Foundation $75,000
* Hartman Family Foundation $15,000

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of inquiry.