Najim LOI 2017

**Project Title (*Complete in one sentence–no longer than 225 characters, including spaces. This is a brief description of the project in one sentence.*) Complete this sentence:**  To support Children’s Services at CAM through assistance with identification recovery (Birth Certificates), children’s clothing (including diapers), food (including formula), prescription drug assistance, and special projects relating to children.

**Amount of funding request:** $25,000\_  *(whole dollar amounts only)*

**Brief statement of the organization’s purpose and history** Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) is a nonprofit founded 40 years ago by nine downtown San Antonio churches to offer immediate assistance to individuals and families in crisis situations; CAM services 14,000 children annually. These churches also founded CAM to alleviate the duplication of services and leverage resources by banding together to form one centrally located social service agency that could provide immediate safety net services. CAM has become a vital resource in the San Antonio community, providing support to over 50,000 people in 2016. CAM’s mission is ***to share the love of Christ by providing immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis***. Although CAM is a Christian organization, there are no requirements to participate or identify oneself as Christian. Today CAM is supported by over 100 San Antonio area churches, individual donors, local businesses, foundations and a weekly volunteer force of over 200 individuals. CAM receives no government support. CAM services address the critical issues of immediacy and access that often plague very vulnerable populations. CAM services specifically address needs of children to include prescription assistance, specialized food (baby formula), children’s clothing and diapers as well as the need for birth certificates to enroll in school, Medicaid, CHIP, housing and other assistance programs. CAM also provides specialized services including school supplies and Christmas gifts. CAM provides food, clothing items, linens, hygiene items, a permanent address (free mailbox to approximately 500 annually), and referrals to other community programs. CAM also provides financial assistance for identification recovery (photo IDs and birth certificates), utility (for those facing disconnect), prescription drug assistance and local bus tickets/passes (for work or medical related needs) to all needy persons that seek assistance. CAM’s primary purpose in all cases is to help people avoid a crisis and if needed link those to long term supports through nonprofits that work on the systemic issues.

**Project description:** CAM serves an estimated 14,000 children every year. This is accomplished through the distribution of food (including baby food and formula), clothing (including diapers), school supplies and uniforms, financial assistance through the Cash-In-Aid program, and other special projects. The Cash-in-Aid program directly assists children through funds for prescription medications and to pay for birth certificates to enroll in school or to sign up for CHIP, Medicare or other assistance programs (i.e., identification recovery). CAM’s Cash-in-Aid program also indirectly serves children through emergency funds for utilities for families. CAM respectfully requests $25,000 towards its Helping Children in Need program for further funding for these children’s related programs.

CAM is one of the few organizations in the city that provides funding for birth certificates for children needing to enroll in school or families seeking healthcare or housing. This vital service provides identification for hundreds of children every year, allowing them to begin their education or families to be able to obtain the assistance they may qualify to receive (i.e. subsidized housing, health care for their children). These funds will support CAM’s total Cash-in-Aid budget, which is often stretched thin as identification recovery is the most demanded services at CAM.

CAM also plans to utilize requested dollars to support food and clothing assistance with a specific focus on items such as formula, baby food, diapers, socks, and underwear. CAM provides this as a resource to children and families. This help with food and clothing is vital to many working poor families or families displaced because of abuse or a tragedy.

Finally, CAM is requesting funds to support our annual special programs- Back to School program and Christmas Shop program. This request helps CAM accomplish the part of its mission that seeks to provide “encouragement to people in crisis.” This program is currently operated entirely by volunteers. Volunteers will “adopt a child” and will purchase all items specific to the child’s school and a new backpack. CAM will then purchase underwear, socks, and 2 school uniform (if applicable) for the child specific to their school’s requirements and a shoe voucher. Each child adopted is ready and prepared for the school year. CAM is one of the only nonprofits in town that personalizes the back to school donations ensuring that children are completely prepared to start their school year with their exact requirements. Our Christmas Shop is also volunteer led and run by toy donations received by the community. During the Christmas season, the volunteers disperse toys to families in crisis who do not have the means to even afford basic necessities. What many may not realize is that families who do not know they are going to be facing a crisis cannot enroll in local programs. Elf Louise, Toys for Tots, etc. all require knowledge of the need and enrollment by Fall of that year. Families facing an unexpected crisis (loss of job, spouse passing away, fire in the home, fleeing an abusive situation) in December have no place to turn. This is where CAM is able to step in and help. Through these programs, CAM was able to provide encouragement to over 1000 children in 2016.

**Brief statement of any previous funding received from The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation:** CAM has received $25,000 in funding since 2012 from the Najim Family Foundation towards these children related items described in this LOI. These funds are leveraged with CAM donations and volunteers to serve many.

**How the proposed project relates to The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation’s funding priorities:** CAM services address these needs by providing emergency support and encouragement to families who many simply need one time help or our assistance may be the first step towards becoming self-sufficient. The children are often the most vulnerable in these situations. These families are experiencing a layoff from work or other financial emergency situations, and CAM is their source of temporary assistance until they can regain financial stability.

Currently, CAM is one of very few organizations providing these types of safety net or triage-like services on a large scale with no demographic requirements. CAM strives to collaborate and use its resources strategically to efficiently help as many individuals and families as possible. Often, clients served, may not have been eligible to receive aid at other organizations or the aid will take weeks to go through an approval process (i.e. subsidized housing, Food Stamps, etc.). Because of CAM’s relatively simple qualifications, we can provide basic needs and fill in as a gap in service until the client can resolve their situation or qualify for a long term program that works on systemic change.

**Line-item budget for project in which funds are being requested (this is not your organization’s budget)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line Item Description** | **Total Project Funds Allocation** | **Najim Requested Funds** |
| Cash-in-Aid Program (includes birth certificates and medical care assistance) | $55,104 | $5,000 |
| Children’s Food & Clothing | $17,500 | $13,000 |
| Back to School & Christmas Program | $10,000 | $7,000 |
|  |  |  |
| **Total** | **$285,432** | **$25,000** |

Children impacted:

The TOTAL project initiative will impact \_7,000\_ number of unduplicated children.

NFF requested funds will impact \_1,203\_\_\_ number of unduplicated children.

**Organization total revenue and expenses for current fiscal year**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2017 CAM Budget** | |
| 2017 Revenue | $1,200,400 |
| 2017 Expenses | $1,200,400 |

**Project timeline *(beginning and ending dates)*** CAM always administers our children’s services and has done so successfully for 40 years; thus making it easy to implement the project immediately upon receipt of the funding. CAM’s Cash-in-Aid program provides birth certificates (identification recovery) on a daily basis to parents who seek aid. Many times these birth certificates are to enroll a child in school or to obtain housing or to receive food stamps. CAM distributes financial assistance for medical costs on a daily basis as it does for prescription medications. This Cash-in-Aid program is monitored and budgeted for annually; therefore, it begins in January and ends in December each year. CAM’s children’s food (baby food and formula) and clothing are also distributed on a daily basis and are budgeted for the months of January through December of each year. CAM also has two special projects each year, our Back to School Project and our Christmas Shop. These two programs are partially volunteer funded, but we do plan to use a portion of the Najim Family Foundation funds to supplement these projects (i.e. purchasing school uniforms, purchasing socks/underwear for both projects). Because these are programs we administer annually and part of our system of service, we are able to begin spending and administering these services immediately upon receipt of the funding. All of these programs would not be possible without staff and operations costs (as seen in the above project budget). CAM is not requesting funding from the Najim Family Foundation for these expenses.

**Brief project evaluation criteria**: CAM social workers, support staff, and volunteers track every client and service provided on a daily basis in order to maintain accurate statistics. These records are used to calculate the impact of CAM’s services and make plans for improvement. CAM also databases all our clients in the HMIS system which is also used by Haven for Hope and other local nonprofits. We also gain verification from the client for the need (i.e. referral for birth certificate, prescription for medication) and most of our clients come from other social service agencies referring the client to us for stabilization before they enroll in a program. CAM strives to use this information to maximize the services it provides and leverage resources with community and government supports. CAM links many of those we serve to long term support through our interview and referral process.

List other project founders (pending and committed foundations) MUST INCLUDE NAME OF FOUNDATION & DOLLAR AMOUNT, PENDING OR COMMITTED

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Funder** | **Amount** | **Designation** | **Status** |
| Greehey Family Foundation | $25,000 | Children’s Services | Awarded |
| United Way | $54,808 | Utility assistance (financial assistance), food and clothing | Awarded |
| Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation | $2,500 | Helping Those in Need Program | Awarded |
| Individual Donation | $85,120 | Undesignated Funds (ongoing) | Pending |
| Member & Supporting Churches | $54,740 | Undesignated Funds (on-going) | Pending |

Contact information of primary and secondary person within organization (INCLUDE: Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email Address)

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