

2010 Basic Needs Funding Application

APPLICATION IS BY INVITATION ONLY

Contact Information

Organization Name: Relief Nursery, Inc.
Mailing Address: 1720 West 25th Avenue
City/State: Eugene, Oregon Zip: 97405
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Organizational Information

Mission Statement: The Relief Nursery's mission is to prevent the cycle of child abuse and neglect by early intervention that focuses on building successful and resilient children, strengthening parents, and preserving families.
No. of Employees: 78 FTE: 58.1
No. of Volunteers (annually)/ Volunteer Hours (annually) 450 volunteers / 11,000 + hrs. of service
Name of Executive Director: Irene Alltucker, Exec. Dir. and Sharri da Silva, Exec. Dir. of Programs
Name of Board President: Susan Kauble Term Ending Date: August 31, 2010
Number of members on Board of Directors: 36
Total Agency Budget: \$2,911,647 Fiscal Year End: June 30, 2010
Geographic Service Lane County
Unduplicated Lane County Residents Served Last Year: 459 (Therapeutic Early Childhood Prog.)
Has your organization been previously funded by UWLC? No Yes, Year(s) 1991 – 2010

Proposed Service(s): Name of Proposed Services: Therapeutic Early Childhood Program

Basic Needs Services: (check primary use of funds)

- Food** (hunger relief and nutrition)
- Shelter** (emergency housing and homelessness intervention)
- Healthcare** (emergency and basic health services)
- Safety** (domestic violence and child abuse intervention)
- Access to Basic Needs** (information & referral; transportation; advocacy)

Geographic Service Area within Lane County

Central Lane County

Annual Funds Requested: \$ 100,000

1. Proposed services summary:

The Relief Nursery proposes to provide Therapeutic Early Childhood Program (TECP) Services, in English and Spanish, to Eugene, Springfield, and surrounding Lane County communities. These services are designed to promote child safety by: preventing and mitigating the effects of child abuse and domestic violence, strengthening family functioning, improving parenting skills, and promoting school readiness. Services will include: a developmentally appropriate early childhood environment; developmental screening and assessment; mental health assessments and counseling; special education assessments and services; domestic violence screening, support services, and referral; therapeutic home visits; safety monitoring; parenting education and support; family advocacy; and community resource referrals. All families will also have referral and access available to other Relief Nursery programs and services including: substance abuse recovery support; food resources (USDA meals for children; food pantry; a monthly Family Fun and Food Night; assistance in obtaining Food Stamps; etc.), quality used clothing; and transportation to and from services. These services fall within the scope of United Way basic needs by comprehensively addressing the multiple needs which affect family stability and put young children at risk.

2. Target Population: Describe your target population. Basic Needs investments should focus primarily on families and individuals with income 250% or below the federal poverty level.

The Relief Nursery provides services to low income Lane County families, with a child aged six or under, who is at high risk for child abuse or neglect. "Low income" is defined by HUD and Federal Poverty Level (FPL) income standards to be 250% of the FPL and below. At any given time **70% or more of our families are actually living in poverty** (below 100% of the FPL). All of our families also exhibit multiple risk factors which research has correlated with significantly increased risk of child abuse and neglect. Requested funds will support services to approximately 200 children and their families annually. In addition to poverty, among the most prevalent risk factors we see are: high stress (76%); unemployment (73%); lack of personal support systems (57%); single parent household (56%); substance abuse (54%+); domestic violence (50%); and mental illness (48%).

3. Need: Describe briefly the need or problem these services address. Include the number and percentage of population affected, metro, rural, and multi-cultural. Describe how these services are aligned with the community needs assessment or other local studies. **20 points possible**

The need and problem these services address is child abuse and neglect in Lane County. Oregon DHS-Child Welfare receives more than 63,000 reports of child abuse and neglect annually, of which more than 10,000 were confirmed last year. Close to 800 of these cases occurred in Lane County, and more than half of all abuse/neglect cases occurred with children under age six. Nearly a thousand families annually seek services from the Relief Nursery. About 54% of these families reside in Eugene; 34% in Springfield; and 12% in rural Lane County communities. 31% of our clients identify as minority populations; 23% as Hispanic or Latino; 10% of our families are multi-cultural. Both rural and Hispanic families have been

identified as underserved populations in local needs-studies. Research has determined that a family with five or more risk factors is at extreme high risk for abuse and neglect. Of families served in our core therapeutic programs, 90% exhibit more than five of the risk factors correlated with child abuse and neglect; 64% have more than ten of these risk factors.

In 2008 a national Hunger Factors Assessment Survey ranked Oregon 3rd out of the 50 states in the proportion of our population having “low food security.” This data was confirmed by the 2009 United Way Community Assessment, which showed a dramatic increase in the number of households experiencing hardship in meeting basic needs such as food, shelter, and health care. All of these factors impact family stability, and are among those which correlate with increased risk for child abuse and neglect. The Relief Nursery model of comprehensive family services addresses these issues by looking at the strengths and needs of the whole family, and developing a family service plan which addresses each family’s specific needs.

4. Service Goals: Describe your service goals and how you will measure achievement of those goals. You will report the outputs and outcomes in progress reports **.20 points possible**

Our program goal is to keep children safe, ensure their physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being, and promote and enhance their health and development in group, classroom, family, and individual settings, so as to promote school readiness. Child safety is paramount: until this key issue is addressed, other parameters of the child’s development can be addressed only with great difficulty. All of our services therefore precede from the primary focus of preventing abuse and stabilizing the child’s home environment, even as other program components are brought into play for the family. To this end, we strive to: reduce family risk factors, improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of parents to promote and enhance their children’s health and development; assist the family in connecting with resources to help them meet basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, etc.).

Outcome measures to be tracked and reported will include: **Outputs:** number of children/families attending Relief Nursery programs; number of children receiving developmental assessments; number of families receiving family assessments and creating Family Service Plans; **Outcomes:** 90+% of children will *not* require further reports of abuse or neglect to DHS; 90+% of children will *not* require foster care/out-of-home placement; 100% of children will show age-appropriate development or be receiving special education services; and 80+% of parents will show improvement in key parenting indicators on the Family Assessment Tracking form (as reported to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families).

5. Community Return on Investment: Describe the return on United Way investment. Include such factors as demonstrated cost-effectiveness and efficiency of delivery; leveraging of other financial investments: methods to avoid problems that would cost more later. How does your agency’s work improve the effectiveness of the human services network in Lane County? **20 points possible**

The Relief Nursery’s TECP provides a significant and impressive return on the community’s investment in the program. Relief Nursery has long been a leader in the county human services network, through it’s many collaborations with other child and family service programs, and its extensive system of resource referrals (see “Collaborations,” below).

More than 50% of the children who come to the Relief Nursery have current or recent cases with DHS-Child Welfare and many are on the verge of removal to foster care. Relief Nursery intervention reduces both the amount of future DHS involvement and the number of foster care placements required: after one year of services fewer than 4% of Relief Nursery children require further reports of abuse or neglect, and fewer than 4% require foster care. The approximately \$5000/child/year cost of Relief Nursery services is less than a fourth of the annual cost to keep a child in foster care. The Relief Nursery is also adept at leveraging funds from additional sources: all major programs are funded by multiple sources (more than 50 annual contracts), which assures that loss of a single source will not force termination of a core program.

Our therapeutic interventions have also been shown to reduce the need for more intensive early childhood mental health and special education services among many of our children. In the past decade there have been major advances in brain research which show that the child's environment has a significant impact on physical brain development, especially during the critical first three years of the child's life. Neural pathways formed during this period can set up behavioral patterns which will affect the individual for the rest of their life. By securing the child's safety and empowering their parents to improve and enhance the child's developmental environment, our services will have a life-long impact, potentially reducing the need for more intensive – and far more costly – services for decades to come.

6. Organizational Capacity: Describe the ability of your organization to carry out services successfully and efficiently based on current resources, i.e., expertise of staff, diversity of funding streams, board composition and involvement, fiscal and governance systems, and facilities. **10 points possible**

The Relief Nursery has a 33-year history of successfully providing services to the target population in our communities. A diversified financial plan assures continuity of essential services, and wide-spread collaboration and participation on local, county, and state committees assure that we are incorporating the latest research and service models into our program designs, assuring that we are following best practices for our families. We maintain high training and supervision requirements for staff, and provide professional training opportunities throughout the year. Indeed, Relief Nursery staff are frequently called upon to provide training for other programs and agencies in the county and the state. Our facilities are fully ADA compliant, and specifically designed to provide the best possible environment for our therapeutic programs. An active Board of Directors meets monthly, reviews fiscal policies, and also maintains a high degree of involvement with Relief Nursery activities such as fund-raising events, development of food resources for families, family picnics, and community education. For the past three years the Relief Nursery has been awarded a four-star Charity Navigator rating, something only 12% of non-profits in the nation have received.

7. Goal Alignment: Describe how services align with or support one or more United Way goals of Education, Income and Health (please see goal definitions in the instructions). **10 points possible**

The Relief Nursery TECP primarily addresses the United Way Goal of Education: Preparing children to succeed in school and life. Children who have been abused, or who face

unstable family situations such as poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc., are not well-situated to maximize school achievement. The TECP addresses both the immediate needs of the child for safety and a nurturing environment, and also the long-term need for family stability, by providing parent training and life-skills experience for their parents. We further strive to address these needs throughout the cross-section of our diverse communities, continually seeking feedback from members of the various cultures and communities we serve. All of our services are available in both Spanish and English, and our many bicultural staff maintain close ties with other community programs providing resources for diverse populations. As families stabilize and children begin to thrive, many behavioral and developmental issues are significantly improved (or eliminated). As a result of these interventions we have continually heard from teachers and other school district staff that “Relief Nursery children arrive at school well-socialized and ready to learn.”

8. Collaborations: Describe collaborative or innovative aspects of this service. Considerations may include partnerships that meet the holistic needs of clients; how your approach demonstrates systems thinking; how you enable clients to access a broad range of services; how these services leverage existing community resources and access new resources. **10 points possible**

The Relief Nursery offers a comprehensive array of family services programs, and through these many programs we maintain an extensive community network of cooperation and collaboration. We receive referrals from, and make referrals to, more than 60 agencies in the county. Our history of direct (and in most cases, on-going) collaboration includes work with: DHS-Child Welfare; Health and Human Services; Commission on Children and Families; Healthy Start; LaneCare; substance abuse treatment agencies; local health care agencies, doctors, and nurses; Eugene and Springfield School Districts; EC-CARES; Justice Department; United Way Success by 6 and Parent Helpline; USDA CACFP and SNAP programs; and many others. The state of Oregon recognizes our programs as an integral part of the continuum of care for children and families, under the state’s Crisis Nursery umbrella. This network allows us to facilitate a program of services tailored to the specific needs of each family that we serve.

Executive Director of Programs, Sharri da Silva is a member of the Lane County Commission on Children and Families, and chairs the Early Childhood Planning Team, assuring the we remain informed of new community resources, and actively participate in collaboration efforts.

On the basis of program model, community collaboration, and successful outcomes, the Relief Nursery has been recognized by the US--DHHS Office on Child Abuse and Neglect as, “An Innovative program with noteworthy aspects,” in their nationwide “Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect” study (US-DHHS, 2002).

9. Alignment of Services with Values: Describe how services align with United Way of Lane County’s values (See the overview). **10 points possible**

The Relief Nursery is absolutely in alignment with the United Way values of integrity, impact, volunteerism; diversity/inclusiveness, and community leadership.

#Integrity--Our first priority is to serve our families in keeping with our agency mission – to prevent child abuse and neglect – and our management structure, fiscal policies, and active

Board insure our on-going integrity to that missions.

#Impact--High standards for staff qualifications, supervision and on-going training work hand-in-hand with or participation in research and community planning activities to assure that our programs maintain best practices and deliver the services which have the most effective impact in meeting our families' needs.

#Volunteerism--Volunteers are one of the pillars of the Relief Nursery's strength, helping us maintain high adult/child ratio in our classrooms, and filling hundreds of other volunteer positions ranging from maintenance projects, to fund-raising event support, to board service.

#Diversity/inclusiveness--The Relief Nursery has been a pioneer in the community in the area of diversity, implementing a program which integrated bilingual and bicultural support in all service areas, and which has increased the involvement of Hispanic/Latino families in our programs by nearly 500% over the past 5 years.

#Community leadership--The Relief Nursery has been a community leader since it's inception in 1976, bringing new programs and services to the community, instigating interagency collaboration, piloting new program models, providing training for other agencies, and participating in local and state commissions.

Basic Needs Application

Proposed Services BUDGET

(fill in the green cells)

Agency Name:

Relief Nursery, Inc.

Proposed Services:

Therapeutic Early Childhood Program

	Prior 12 Months	Future 12 Months
REVENUE/SUPPORT		
United Way Funding/Request (do NOT include Donor Designations)	\$83,216.00	\$100,000.00
Public Support: Contributions/Fundraising Events (include Donor Designations)	\$359,973.00	\$301,390.00
Government Funding	\$574,267.00	\$572,163.00
Foundation/Corporation/Other Grants or Major Gifts	\$158,309.00	\$120,260.00
Program Service Fees or Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Revenue	\$25,496.00	\$10,000.00
Total Revenue	#####	#####
	Actual	Estimated
EXPENSES		
Personnel Related	\$871,056.00	\$816,060.00
Client Assistance	\$10,700.00	\$8,325.00
Other Direct Program Expenses	\$105,230.00	\$114,714.00
Administrative Overhead	\$194,546.00	\$164,714.00
Total Expenses	\$1,181,532.00	\$1,103,813.00
NET (should be zero)	\$19,729.00	\$0.00

What percent of your agency budget do these proposed services represent?	32%	33%
What percent of your agency revenue is the United Way request?	2%	3%
Number of employee FTE's (full-time equivalents) in proposed services?	29.00	31.00
Percentage United Way request to overall proposed services revenue	7%	9%
Administrative overhead percentage applied to proposed services	20%	18%

Completed by:

Celia Weimer, Budget and Finance Manager