

Attachment A LOI Cover Page

Contact Information

Organization Name: Willamette Family, Inc.
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Organizational Information

Mission Statement: Willamette Family is committed to providing a comprehensive continuum of services to individuals and families impacted by substance use, abuse, or addiction. We provide these services without regard to their financial resources.

No. of Employees: 170 FTE: 149

No. of Volunteers (annually)/ Volunteer Hours (annually) 187 / 2125

Name of Executive Director: Micki Knuckles

Name of Board President: Jeremy Starr Term Ending Date: February 2011

Number of members on Board of Directors: 13

Total Agency Budget: \$6,027,354 Fiscal Year End: June 30, 2010

Geographic Service Lane County

Unduplicated Lane County Residents Served Last Year: _____

Has your organization been previously funded by UWLC? No Yes, Year(s) 17

Proposed Service(s): Name of Proposed Services: Ready To Go

1. MISSION: “Willamette Family is committed to providing a comprehensive continuum of services to individuals and families impacted by substance abuse or addiction.” For over 45 years, Willamette Family (WF) has provided evidence-based treatment and services for thousands of individuals and families who are struggling to overcome the devastating effects of alcohol and drug addiction. As the complexity and extent of substance abuse has increased in our community, WF has continually evolved and adapted its array of services to meet new demands. Central to this progression, has been the expanding recognition of the importance and influence of family, child development, and community on successful treatment and sustained recovery, both of which are essential for healthy children and their families. Moreover, it is well documented that substance addiction is frequently a key factor in child abuse/neglect and in a child’s lack of success in school. Evidence also shows that these children all-too-frequently become the next generation of parents who are addicts and who repeat the cycles of child maltreatment and addiction.

WF has responded proactively to the changing needs through planned adaptation and expansion of services that focus on children, family, and community engagement. As most of the families served have multiple areas of need, including health and pervasive poverty, WF is an active member of the community’s collaborative and extensive system of care. In November 2009, WF was designated as a community site for the Early Head Start Program in Lane County. Over the past two years WF has incorporated Prevention and Recovery Northwest, Inc. into our agency and has expanded treatment locations to serve rural Cottage Grove, Thurston, and several additional Eugene sites. Our tagline: “Strengthening our Community one family at a time,” reflects and institutionalizes our focus and commitment to children and families.

2. GOAL ALIGNMENT:

Primary Strategic Goal: EDUCATION Preparing Children for success in school & life:

Multiple Impact Areas: HEALTH, RURAL COMMUNITIES

WF’s Project *Ready to Go!* (RTG) directly aligns with UWLC’s Education Goal as each of the services target the very factors that create barriers to child health and safety, as well as success in school and in life. Building upon existing WF early childhood resources, interventions, and services in collaboration with multiple community partners, the RTG Project will provide: evidence-based/best practice parenting services and treatment; child development intervention; and targeted mental health and supportive services for project children whose parent(s) are in residential or outpatient treatment for substance addiction. Project children are at highest risk for developmental delays, social/emotional difficulties, and school failure because they have experienced child maltreatment, parental addiction, and attachment difficulties due to foster home placements and lack of stability. RTG Services will result in: strengthening parent-child attachment and bonding while building parenting skills through the integration of family and mental health services for children whose parents are in substance abuse treatment. Intensive evidence-based interventions will be implemented to keep families safely together and prevent the need for foster placement. Children ages 0-6 may live with their mothers at the WF Women’s Residential Treatment Center *in lieu* of foster care. WF experience documents that with these services, over 80% of the children can remain with their parents free from child abuse, and that parental recovery rates significantly improve. In Lane County, fewer than 43% of foster children are reunited with their parents without these services, and they typically experience 3 different foster homes. RTG will demonstrate that this project successfully improves child/family outcomes and provides an unduplicated resource that “moves the needle” significantly for children, their families, and our community.

RTG will also impact UWLC’s Strategic HEALTH Goal by increasing access to mental health services for families not covered by OHP and by insuring that all target children receive immediate comprehensive developmental screening and services as indicated. Daily onsite parent mentoring by WF staff will reinforce and sustain their learning and ability to implement the child’s necessary identified services. The RURAL COMMUNITY goal will be supported by implementing family-based therapeutic services in Cottage Grove and leveraging resources.

3. FUNDING STRATEGY; PROPOSED STRATEGIC/PREVENTIVE SERVICES: To achieve the strategic Education goal, WF will implement the RTG Project, creating an innovative array of services that integrate parental substance abuse treatment with comprehensive, intensive services that strengthen parents’ abilities to nurture their children, prepare them for healthy development and success in school, and build parenting assets that prevent child maltreatment. Recognizing that the single most important nurturing and protective factor for children is their positive attachment and bonding with their primary caregiver, RTG wraparound services will prevent disruptions (i.e. foster care placement) and inconsistencies that can result in devastating consequences including: child maltreatment, loss of family, poor school performance, and social/emotional difficulties that impede success

in all life areas. WF has the unique capacity to allow children (0-6) to live with their mother while she is in residential treatment for addiction with 24-7 supervision to insure safety and to prevent the need for foster care.

Strategic/Preventive Services: **FUNDING REQUEST: \$48,750/per year: (1FTE Family Interventionist; .5FTE Mental Health Therapist)**. RTG will provide family and mental health services for 30 families per year, with an average length of service of 10 months per family. All services will be delivered within the context of building parent-child attachment and engagement essential to achieving positive outcomes. System change will be enhanced.

Strategy	Focus	Services	Outcomes	Other Impact
<p>Increase early literacy & social, emotional development to prepare children for success in school and in life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Strengthen parental abilities to nurture & meet their child’s needs *Early identification of developmental concerns *Teach parents how to meet their child’s unique developmental needs *Promote bonding *Engage parents in child’s daily activities *Provide developmentally appropriate experiences *Prevent foster care while insuring child health and safety *Recovery from addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Co-residency to prevent attachment disruption *24/7 staff supervision to insure safety, mentor, provide respite/support *ASQ & AEPS developmental screening to identify needs or concerns *Implementation of the Head Start “Creative Curriculum for Infants & Toddlers” and “Emergent Curriculum Model” *Individual, family, & group mental health counseling *Provide Parent Child Attachment class *Supervised parent-child visitation; advocacy with DHS *Engage parents daily in onsite Early Head Start & CDC classes: reading, activities, and interactive play * A&D treatment and recovery services *Transitional and subsidized housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *100% parents receive A&D treatment; 80% remain in successful recovery at closure *No RTG child will be abused; *87% of RTG children at risk of DHS removal will remain with their parent *98% RTG children will receive developmental assessments & services *95% of parents will learn & use developmentally appropriate interactions with their child *95% of parents will demonstrate skills to meet their child’s needs *80% of children will show improved social/emotional skills as demonstrated on Head Start & SEAM Assessment Scales *Families will transition to the community with connections to services. 	<p>MEDICAL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mental health services for non OHP families *Developmental services for children <p>RURAL AREAS</p> <p>Family services will be available in Cottage Grove & Thurston; WF has an existing contractual partnership with the Family Relief Nursery in Cottage Grove which will be integrated into RTG services to increase services for this rural community</p>
<p>Parent Education, Support & Coaching to support children’s healthy development and readiness to learn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Increase parental involvement and ability to support child’s early literacy, language, and social/emotional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Children will reside onsite with their mothers who are fully involved their classrooms, learning and life activities *Research- based Parenting classes include: <u>Make Parenting a Pleasure</u>, <u>Circle of Security</u>, <u>Improving Parent-child relationships</u> *Use of North Carolina Family Preservation & Reunification Scale to measure progress growth in family health & safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *WF and Head Start models will utilize parent partnerships and full engagement in classroom activities to support child’s development *100% of RTG families will participate in 1 or more parenting classes *Increase reading, age appropriate activities, and daily involvement *Increase parent-child foster care visits 	

NEED and TARGET POPULATION: The target population for RTG is children from birth to 6 whose parents are in residential or outpatient treatment for substance abuse. Ninety-eight percent of the children will have DHS involvement due to child abuse/neglect, and all are at risk for removal from their parent(s) with subsequent placement into foster care. While the number of abused children in Lane County has declined in recent years, the number of children in foster care has dramatically grown from 398 children in 2001 to a current population of nearly 900 children. Children in the foster care system, on average, experience 3 or more different foster homes. Fewer than 43% of Lane foster children are reunited with their parents, while the State average hovers around 50% with national reunification “benchmarks” set at 76%. Clearly, this is a critical issue and need in Lane County.

Local DHS statistics show that parental substance abuse is a factor in up to 80% of their cases, and Lane County reports that 99% of all termination of parental rights hearings involve parents with addiction issues. 100% of RTG children will be affected by parental alcohol and/or drug addiction to varying degrees, presenting with:

Physical/developmental disabilities; delays in speech and cognitive/social/emotional/behavioral skills; attachment difficulties; acting out and aggression; peer difficulties; and a lack of readiness to learn and succeed in school. As teens, they are 4 times more likely to be involved in delinquent behavior.

WF demographic data shows that all of the target families fall below the FPL, and 40% have been homeless during the past year. Over 75% come from homes in which domestic violence occurred, and 70% of their parents were abused as children with nearly half of them “graduates” of the foster care system. The need for mental health services is significant as 80% of the parents have mental health needs and 75% of the children have identified emotional/social concerns. Each of these factors is a powerful impediment to success in learning and thriving, and may last a lifetime. RTG target children have a toxic combination of multiple factors that become increasingly evident in each successive family generation: They combine to form a legacy that blocks learning and social engagement during childhood; isolates and stigmatizes the child from peers and at school; creates lifelong consequences that limit personal prosperity/self sufficiency; and impairs h/her ability to form and sustain meaningful relationships needed for a successful life. The community also pays a tremendous price as seen in the loss of human and economic potential, the cost of healthcare, foster care, and remedial services, as well as those incurred in the corrections system. Without a comprehensive system change, as envisioned by the UWLC’s Strategic Initiatives, the costs will continue to escalate and remain cyclic, becoming more profound, with each new generation having less resources and fewer positive community ties. WF offers the RTG as a resource for this profound social change.

COLLABORATION/INNOVATION: RTG proposes to be a significant and unique component of our community’s system of care for children. WF is the only resource that provides co-residency and onsite wraparound mental health, family services, child development, and substance abuse treatment for the highest risk families in Lane County. Evolving brain science, along with professional and community experience, shows that children who lack primary attachments and who experience the impermanence and unpredictability of foster care often develop additional emotional/social damage that is unintentionally caused by the very system designed to protect them. They have greater difficulties succeeding in school and in achieving critical successes in other life domains. RTG offers a safe, therapeutic alternative that avoids family disruption and teaches parents the skills they need to help their child thrive, learn, and succeed.

No single program or agency could possibly meet the needs of the families described above. WF is embedded in many collaborations that form the teams who work with these children and their parents, including Head Start, local hospitals, the Early Childhood and Infant Mental Health Programs at the University of Oregon, LaneCare, WIC, St. Vincent DePaul, and the Relief Nursery. DHS contracts with WF to help support the existing WF Family Reunion Program, which has shown the efficacy of these services in preventing the need for foster care.

WF is prepared to bring additional resources to help leverage the impact of this initiative. These include: existing funding for addiction treatment including co-residency beds for women and children, licensed therapeutic child care and onsite Head Start classes and services, licensed mental health treatment, in-kind staff support and facilities, and experience in successfully providing trauma-informed, evidence-based treatment along with parent education. Funding from The Oregon Community Foundation, Chambers Family Foundation, the Great Rotary Duck Race, and the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation (totaling \$95,000) will augment funding provided by UWLC. Several collaborative grants that include WF, the UofO Early Childhood and the Relief Nursery have been submitted or are in development, and discussions are underway with the Infant Mental Health Program at the UofO to seek Federal funding to implement an innovative intervention model to strengthen parent-child attachment.