



**YORK COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

PART I GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization:	Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania	EIN #	23-1445662
Address:	2550 Kingston Road/#219		
City:	York	State:	PA
		ZIP Code:	17402
Phone:	717-741-3891	E-mail:	mmertz@eastersealscentralpa.org
		Fax:	(717) 741-5359
Date Received 501(c)3 Status:	5/13/2003	Total Operating Budget:	\$4,474,908.00
Major Sources of Operating Funds (%):	61% Service Fees; 28% Fundraising; 6% Gain on LT Assets; 5% Govt Grants		
Contact Person's Name & Title:	Michelle Mertz/Chief Development Officer		
Mission and Purpose of Organization:	The Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania mission is to provide exceptional services to ensure that all people with disabilities have equal opportunity to live, learn, work and play.		

PROJECT INFORMATION

Type of Application:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive Grants Program; <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Describe)		
Project Description (25 words or less):	Continued growth and further development of our Therapeutic Recreation Programs (including horseback riding, Autism social programs and camps of all types) in York County.		
Anticipated Project Timetable (month/year format):	Start Date:	1/1/2012	End Date: 12/31/2012
Client Group to be Served by Project:	All children and adults with disabilities		
Geographical Area to be Served by Project:	<input type="checkbox"/> York City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All York County <input type="checkbox"/> Northern York County <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern York County <input type="checkbox"/> Western York County <input type="checkbox"/> Southwestern York County <input type="checkbox"/> Southern York County <input type="checkbox"/> Southeastern York County		
List Goals & Objectives Addressed by Project:	*Expand York Day Camp Schedule *Eliminate waiting list for horseback riding by adding additional locations and class times *Provide four weekend camps (Project Beacon) for children of actively deployed military parents and those that have recently returned from active duty.		

PROJECT FUNDING

A. COMMITTED To Date From:		B. Additional Funding SOUGHT From:	
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
A. TOTAL COMMITTED:	\$	B. TOTAL ADDITIONAL FUNDS SOUGHT:	\$
C. REQUESTED FROM YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:			\$5,000.00
D. TOTAL PROJECT COST:		A+B+C=D	\$

SIGNATURES

Staff Officer Signature:	Date:
Printed Name:	



PART I GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY FORM

Board Officer Signature:

Date:

Printed Name:

Continue on next page

Competitive Grant Application Instructions

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Grants are available for **time-limited, project-specific expenses** of charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, educational bodies, and government agencies. Organizations without 501(c)(3) status may collaborate with a fiscal agent.

Of particular interest are projects that:

- *Engage new partners in cooperative efforts.*
- *Leverage new resources – time, money, or know-how – to accomplish community priorities.*
- *Undertake activities that are of **strategic importance** and hold promise to make a **lasting, significant impact**.*

Grants are **NOT provided** for:

- *Projects that are unrelated, or marginally related, to the goals of each particular grant program.*
- *Endowment, capital campaigns, budget shortfalls, or debt retirement.*
- *Projects requiring a multiyear grant commitment.*
- *Multiple projects to the same grant program.*
- *Sectarian religious projects.*
- *Organizations with discriminatory employment or program practices.*
- *Association Dues.*
- *Scholarship, travel, conferences, or any form of direct financial assistance to individuals.*

Application to one grant program does not preclude the applicant from applying for other York County Community Foundation grants programs. Applicants must be current with post-grant reports for past projects funded by York County Community Foundation to be eligible to apply for new project funding.

PART I – GRANT SUMMARY APPLICATION FORM

PART II – PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – In no more than five pages, no smaller than 11 pt. font, please provide the following information:

Introduction. Describe the mission(s) and population(s) served by the applicant organization. Describe the project purpose and rationale – addressing its importance for York County and/or its potential to advance the missions of participating organizations. Describe how a grant from the Foundation may leverage additional funds for the project.

Need/Opportunity. Describe the needs or problems the project addresses. Cite plans, research, statistics or recommendations that support the proposed project.

Project Activities. Describe key project activities along for a timeline for completion.

Anticipated Results and Assessment. List **specific** outcomes anticipated and the corresponding indicators of success for each anticipated outcome and how you will measure the results. (For example: *Proposed Outcome:* Participation in the program increases; *Proposed Indicator:* Participation increases by 10% or by 25 people this year based on attendance records.)

Leadership. Describe the roles of staff, consultants, and/or volunteers providing project leadership. Indicate experience or credentials these leaders bring to the project.

**YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
2011 COMPETITIVE GRANTS
PART II – PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania

Introduction:

Easter Seals is the leading non-profit provider of services for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, physical and mental disabilities, and other special needs. For almost 90 years, we have been offering help and hope to children and adults living with disabilities and to the families that love and care for them. Easter Seals believes that all people – regardless of their disability status or financial resources – should have the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play in their communities and should be afforded dignity, respect and independence.

Individuals with disabilities and special needs find the highest-quality services designed to meet their individual needs when they receive services from Easter Seals. Teams of therapists, teachers and other health professionals help each participant overcome obstacles so that each individual has the opportunity to reach his or her personal goals. Easter Seals includes families as active members of any therapy program, and offers the support families need.

Outpatient therapy, respite care, therapeutic recreation, Autism Resource Centers, Child Development Centers, and Interpreting Services are some of the services we provide to over 2,600 adults and children every year in Central Pennsylvania. Individuals affected by conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida and traumatic brain injury, are some of the recipients who find unique compassion and specialized assistance through Easter Seals programs. Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania serves York County as well as the following 26 counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lycoming, McKean, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Potter, Snyder and Union.

Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania is renowned for its innovative Therapeutic Recreation (TR) programs. In fact, Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania **has over 500 participants** who participate annually in its TR program; the most of any affiliate in the state. We are proud of our recognition by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society as recipients of both the Agency Award and the Jack Snyder Community Service Award. Our TR programs include: Adventure Sports, Horseback Riding, and other activities designed to engage, challenge, and develop the abilities of children and adults with a variety of disabilities.

Our purpose with our TR programs and camps is to provide our participants with the following benefits and positive outcomes:

- Increased muscle strength and flexibility
- Enhanced balance
- Improved self-esteem and self-confidence
- Promotion of communication and interpersonal skills
- Development of neuro-motor function and sensory processing
- Group social interaction
- Building life skills
- Family respite time and sibling participation
- Participant self-direction and learning to take direction
- And, perhaps most importantly—fun!

Our TR programs encourage participation, in what many times, is a new venture. We are able to see the participants advance in the skills required to participate. In many instances, we provide these clients with the only available avenue to participate in such programming. Simply providing services that these clients wouldn't otherwise get the chance to do, is a fantastic opportunity for Easter Seals Central Pennsylvania.

Project Beacon, is a joint project between Easter Seals and the PA National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania, to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of these children of military families. Project Beacon is an opportunity for Easter Seals to provide a service to children with a unique disability, that of the military family. Starting in 2012, we will offer two to three camps specifically for children whose parents are actively deployed in the military or have recently returned from active duty. Our camping program provides a loving and supportive community in which children and adults of all ages experience acceptance and encouragement, benefit from a variety of activities such as hiking, swimming, sports, and crafts, and receive the opportunity for social interaction and personal growth in an environment that accommodates their unique needs. The estimated funding need for Project Beacon is in excess of \$20,000.

Thriving individuals of all abilities, leads to a thriving community. With life opportunities and experiences that we all enjoy, children and adults with disabilities become capable of living outside of their disabilities; contributing in their own way to the benefit of the society that they live in rather than becoming a burden to that same community. We believe that a grant from the York County Community Foundation will lend additional credibility to our programming along with furthering our efforts to make the York community aware of our programs and services and the benefits that they provide.

Need/Opportunity:

One of the main challenges that Easter Seals Central PA is continually facing is that of an ever changing landscape in the needs of our community. Easter Seals strives to provide the services that are needed, such as Project Beacon, and not the services that we expect or wish to provide. To that end, we find ourselves faced with an ever increasing population of children and adults with Autism as well as adults who are aging out of current programming. Over 60% of our participants fall on the Autism spectrum. Parents and caregivers are not only faced with the challenges of day to day care, but of providing their loved ones with opportunities to live their best lives. At Easter Seals, we provide answers to those families and ways in which they can help their loved ones achieve their goals with dignity, respect and independence. Their need becomes our opportunity to provide them with the necessary programming.

Project Activities:

At Easter Seals, our therapeutic recreation programs take place year-round and include snow skiing, horseback riding, scuba diving, aquatics, art therapy, rock climbing, water skiing and many more. Please refer to the enclosed program booklet for further details on the activities calendar for this fall. A program booklet is distributed to all past and present participants and area agencies four times per year.

2011-2012 Camp Schedule

The Recreation Respite Program will consist of the following dates and details are as follows:

Camp Lily Adult Respite Weekend	October 14-16, 2011	Camp Victory
Project Beacon Military Weekend	October 21-23, 2011	Camp Victory
Parent/Child Respite Weekend	November 4-6, 2011	Camp Victory
Club Lily Adult Respite Weekend	April 13-15, 2012	Camp Victory
Project Beacon Military Weekend	April 20-22, 2012	Camp Victory
Camp Amp Kids Weekend	May 18-20, 2012	Camp Joy El
Day Camps (several)	Dates TBD	York, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin & Centre Counties
ACES Camps (2)	Dates TBD	York County
Club Lily Adult Residential Camp	Dates TBD	Camp Victory
Camp Amp Kids Residential Camp	Dates TBD	Franklin County
Additional Residential Camp	Dates TBD	Pittsburgh Area
Lose the Training Wheels Camps (2)	Dates TBD	York & Altoona

The majority of our programs are held at Camp Victory in Millville, PA. This facility was built to accommodate children and adults with medical and special needs and is our location of choice. However, this facility is not available for children's camp. Therefore, we have reserved Camp Joy El, Greencastle, PA, for children's camp.

Participants in our programs receive a full week or weekend of recreation and fun. Programs are structured to foster community-building and a sense of independent decision-making. Programs include a majority of activities outdoors including: crafts, nature, hiking, adventure courses, swimming, bonfire programs and outdoor cooking. In every case, Easter Seals provides a staff to participant ratio of 1:3; except Project Beacon, which maintains 1:8. Participants who need more individualized care are invited to bring a non-parent, non-primary caregiver with them to the sessions. Additional funding will help us expand these programs and provide more individualized care for families who cannot provide an assistant.

Anticipated Results and Assessment:

These programs draw participants from all over our service area, as they are meeting a desperate need. Our respite programs are unique to the region and often are the difference between family division and unity.

In total, we expect to serve at least 300 individuals and families in the upcoming year through our camp programs alone and another 400+ individuals will participate in our TR programs during our fiscal year (September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012).

Proposed Outcome: We will have an increase in overall participation in programs and camps.

Proposed Indicator: We expect participation to increase by 10% or by 40 additional registrations this year. Our increases are noted by the number of registrations made for both TR programs and camp throughout the year.

Leadership:

Our TR programs and camps are lead by our Director of Therapeutic Recreation, Matt Ernst and Liz Bunting our Director of Camp and Special Programs. Both Matt and Liz bring a great deal of experience and success to Easter Seals. Matt has been with Easter Seals Central PA for 16 years and the growth and development of our programs and services is evident. Liz has been lending her creative energy and enthusiasm to our camps for over two years now. With the leadership of both of these stellar individuals, Easter Seals is certain to continue offering exceptional services to children and adults with disabilities in York County. Easter Seals Central PA has also been blessed with many volunteers, from all walks of life, who assist us every year in providing the best service and experience possible to our participants.

Collaborations:

Easter Seals Central PA has had the pleasure of developing critical and beneficial relationships with the following agencies:

Autism York
BRASS – Blue Ridge Adaptive Snow Sports
Climbnasium
Hempfield Recreation
PA Counseling Services
PA National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap
Pequea Ski Club
York Divers

All of these alliances have assisted us in achieving our goals of providing the best possible services and experiences to our participants. Easter Seals is unique in that it not only provides the only recreation based programming in the area, but it also provides different services in different areas of our region based on the specific needs of the communities we serve.

For 30 years, Easter Seals has ranked #1 among National Health Council members for the percentage of program dollars spent on direct client services. 98 cents of every dollar raised by us *stays* in Central Pennsylvania. 80% of local Easter Seals funds are spent directly on programs and services, earning us recognition as having very low overhead.

We are also proud to accept all interested clients to the Easter Seals family, no matter their disability or financial capabilities.

PART III – PROPOSAL BUDGET

CURRENT PARTNERS:

We are proud to have a host of new supporters joining us this fiscal year, which gives us every reason to be greatly confident in our ability to maintain and expand our programs and services. Some of our current leadership partners, along with The Hershey Co. are: The Whitaker Foundation; Highmark, Quandel; Members 1st Federal Credit Union; PinnacleHealth; M&T Bank; Capital Blue Cross; PA National Guard; Graystone Bank; SF& Co.; The Stabler Foundation; The McCormick Foundation; McKonly & Asbury LLC; McClure Company; Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; The Sides Group of Morgan Stanley SmithBarney; Lebo Skin Care Centers; Beasley Ford; First Capital Federal Credit Union; Media One; The Hilton Harrisburg Corp.; Eastern PCM; Enterprise; among others.

Program budget is attached.

