

January 4, 2010

Grant Proposal to Edwin H. Eddy Family Foundation

Submitted by: Kathy Johnson, Early Childhood Screening Coordinator
Duluth Public Schools
Barnes Early Childhood Center
2102 Blackman Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811

Summary:

The Early Childhood Screening program of the Duluth Public Schools requests \$4966.25 to fund the purchase of new equipment to conduct hearing screenings, including a GSI-18 audiometer with insert phones and a GSI-39 tympanometer.

Introduction of the Applicant Agency:

The Early Childhood Screening program for the Duluth Public Schools is located at Barnes Early Childhood Center, 2102 Blackman Avenue in Duluth, MN. The program is staffed part time by Kathy Johnson, Coordinator/Speech Pathologist and Cathy Johnson, Program Secretary. Several registered nurses and an occupational therapist are employed on an hourly basis to perform screenings throughout the school year. Marci Hoff, Director of Special Education, supervises this early childhood program.

Early Childhood Screening has existed in school districts statewide since established by a 1973 state law. Since 1992, Minnesota law has required early childhood health and developmental screening before kindergarten entrance. Current law suggests a target screening age during the third year. Every public school board is obligated to provide this free service. The purpose is to assist parents and communities to improve educational readiness and health of all young children in Minnesota through the early detection of health and developmental concerns that may interfere with a child's learning, growth and development. Required screening components are vision, hearing, growth, and a standardized developmental screening, which includes speech/language, fine/gross motor, cognitive, and social/emotional development. Children who are found to have needs in any of these categories are referred to appropriate agencies. Follow-up is completed on all referrals. Each record is sent to the appropriate Duluth public or private school at the time of kindergarten entrance to become the beginning of the child's health record. A comprehensive report is submitted each year to the State of Minnesota, which includes a summary of screenings, referrals, follow-up activities and budget. Current rates of reimbursement from the state are \$75 per each three year old, \$50 per each four year old, \$40 per each five year old and \$30 for children screened during their first thirty days of enrollment in kindergarten.

Early Childhood Screening serves approximately 1000 of Duluth's young children each school year. Follow-up information consistently indicates that 50% of all referrals made are in the critically interrelated areas of speech, language and hearing.

Need Statements:

As per Minnesota Department of Health recommendations, Early Childhood Screening uses a manual pure tone audiometer and tympanometer to screen hearing and middle ear status. The equipment currently in use is quite dated, indeed is no longer manufactured, and in recent years has required repairs. During each of the past two years, we have borrowed equipment from another program in order to finish the school year with properly functioning instruments.

In addition, a new concern has arisen with an increase in the amount of background noise in the hearing screening area, the result of a recently installed heating/air exchange system. Screeners suspect that this may be adversely impacting responses to the lowest frequency sounds (1000 Hz). As advised by Duluth Public Schools audiologist, Linda Kalweit, Au.D, the use of insert ear phones rather than a standard headset in these situations would alleviate this problem as a tighter seal is achieved within the ear canal and sound is more directly presented. Insert phones are also an important option because young children are susceptible to having collapsed ear canals with a standard headset. Standard ear phones can press on the outer ear causing the ear canal to close and leading to failures at 4000 Hz. Use of the insert phone in this situation would allow for a valid screening result. Some young children are also reluctant to wear standard ear phones and may be more agreeable to trying “ipod” looking inserts with which they may have some familiarity.

Early Childhood Screening needs to replace outdated and failing equipment for hearing screening.

Early Childhood Screening needs an audiometer with insert phones and necessary insert phone supplies (Earlink Foam Tips and Eartube Couplers).

Early Childhood Screening needs a tympanometer with a carrying case for protection during equipment storage and tympanometer printer paper to print graphed results, when results are not within the norm.

Purpose, goal and objective:

The purpose of Early Childhood Screening is to detect possible health or learning concerns, so that children can get needed help before they start school. It is our objective to consistently have functioning audiological equipment available to accurately screen hearing in our environment.

Method of achieving goal and objective:

Replace dated and failing audiometer and tympanometer with new and effective equipment.

Description of project impact on Duluth area children:

Children who receive early childhood screening at a young age are in a position to receive early intervention services or to be referred to preschool programs, such as School Readiness, one or two years before entering kindergarten. Negative findings during the hearing screening component may result in a suggestion for medical care to alleviate a temporary hearing loss or a referral to the district audiologist for comprehensive audiological testing, all with the ultimate purpose of maximizing the child's development and ability to learn. Additionally, parents are provided current and informative health and developmental information to help assure that Duluth's children will be ready for learning in school.

Assurance of non-duplication:

This comprehensive screening program is the only one of its kind in Duluth. All preschoolers who reside in Duluth may access this program beginning at age three years. Duluth Head Start students participate through a collaborative outreach screening. Surrounding school districts provide screening for their own prospective kindergartners. Some required Early Childhood Screening components, such as sensory screening or growth measurement are available at area doctors' offices or through Child and Teen and Check-ups.

Time frame of grant request and program operation:

This grant proposal seeks funding for a one time purchase of an audiometer with insert phones, tympanometer and necessary related items that would be used for years to come.

Coordination of program and funding with other organizations:

The Duluth Public Schools will receive \$58,524 reimbursement from the state of Minnesota for the 2008-2009 school year. The school district paid \$22,797 from General Education Basic Revenue (Foundation Aid)/ General Fund and \$34,727 from Special Education funds to operate this state mandated program. The total cost of this program was \$117,530. The budget includes staff wages and benefits, office supplies, printing, copyrighted screening forms, equipment maintenance expenses, postage, and in district travel.

Evaluation:

Early Childhood Screening will provide follow-up information to the Eddy Foundation upon purchase of this equipment.

Proposal Budget:

Audiometer

GSI -18 Audiometer, AC Power	\$1025.00
Includes:	
TDH-39 (60 ohm) Headset	
Carrying Case	
Audiogram Pad	
Instruction Manual	
Quick Reference Guide	
External Power Module	
Power Cord	
Earlink Foam Tip 3B Peds 750	\$277.00
Repl Eartube Couplers 10/bag x 3 @\$13.25 ea	\$39.75
ER Insert Phones, 50 ohm	\$498.00
Shipping Charges-estimate	\$50.00
Subtotal:	\$1889.75

Tympanometer

GSI- 39 Auto Tymp v5	\$2775.00
226 Hz Tymp Only	
Carrying Case, GSI 38/39	\$216.50
Printer Paper	\$35.00
Shipping Charges- estimate	\$50.00
Subtotal:	\$3076.50

TOTAL:	\$4966.25
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ATTACHMENTS/ additional information:

- Articles of Incorporation- does not apply
- List of Board of Directors- School Board
- Proof of Tax Exempt Status- ISD #709 MN ID: 801430
Federal Tax ID: 41-6003776
City Tax ID: 088-500
- Medical Technologies quote - audiometer and related items
- Medical technologies quote - tympanometer and related items
- Equipment information - GSI 18 Audiometer and GSI 39 Auto Tymp