

Lutheran Social Services WI upper MI Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

LSS built Connections, an IRIS consultant agency, from the ground up with a group of determined leaders who have personal and professional experience improving and navigating the long-term care system – and who understand it intimately.

Connections team participants have served as IRIS consultants and have experience as parents of people with disabilities and caregivers of older adults in need of long-term support. As a result, they understand the challenges participants face because they live them every day. The Connections team-based consultant approach facilitates sharing of these real-life experiences among our participants.

As an agency, LSS has been providing services and support to people with disabilities and older adults for over five decades. Programs and services have evolved over the intervening years in order to best empower participants to live the promise of self-determination.

Statement of Need

In an effort to bring resources together in one place and to facilitate the dissemination of information for Connections participants, we are proposing to host a Family Resource Event. The Family Resource Event will provide an opportunity for Connections participants and their families/care givers/natural supports to engage with local providers and vendors in a convenient and comfortable location. The location for the proposed Family Resource Event – the Clinton Rose Senior Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive – was selected based on the communities in which our participants reside. Based on the map (below) which details the percentage of People Living Below Poverty Level (darker shading = higher %), the location of the Clinton Rose Senior Center is an ideal location for directly impacting the community and Connections participants with additional resources and information. The Milwaukee Family Resource Event will serve as a pilot for Connections as we look at replicating the event in other areas of the state. Wispact Foundation support will allow Connections to gather data on the impact of the event and to develop a model for incorporating Family Resource Events into the program's annual calendar of services.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

The support of the Wispact Foundation is being requested due to the Family Resource Event's alignment with the Wispact Foundation focus on educational activities that promote fulfillment and edification for persons with disabilities. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide Connections participants with enhanced opportunities to identify, understand, and engage with resources that will facilitate self-determination.

Goal 1: People with disabilities and their family members/care givers will increase their knowledge and skills to live, work, and participate in their communities.

Objective: 500 Connections participants and their family members/care givers will increase their knowledge of and skills to navigate health, service, governmental, educational and community resources.

Goal 2: Connections will coordinate information dissemination that supports the meaningful inclusion, productivity, and independence of people with disabilities.

Objective: 500 Connections participants and their family members/care givers will identify at least 2 new resources to support independence.

Project Implementation Plan

Activity	Timeline	Responsible Staff Member
Secure Venue	Completed by 10/15/22	Beth Zopfi-Selig
Engage Vendors/Providers	Completed by 3/31/23	Sam Fuller
Design Flyers	Completed by 1/31/23	Sam Fuller
Mail Invitations (flyers)	Completed by 3/15/2023	Beth Zopfi-Selig
Secure Giveaways/Snacks	Completed by 4/1//23	Beth Zopfi-Selig
Family Resource Event	Proposed Date: 4/19/23	Beth Zopfi – Selig/Kevin Fech
Data Collection and Analysis	Completed by: 5/31/23	Sam Fuller

Evaluation Plan

Connections will document progress toward meeting the identified objectives utilizing the following methods:

- Event attendance (goal is to engage approximately 500 participants)
- Exit survey – staff will engage randomized participants in a short exit survey
- Formal survey – attendees (participants and family participants) will be asked to complete a formal survey related to information accessed and follow-up with resources
- Data analysis – survey data will be analyzed and used to develop a Family Resource Event model to be replicated in additional locations served by Connections

Budget

Line Item	Justification	Amount
Clinton Rose Senior Center	Site rental – 6 hours	\$550.000
Postage	Mailing event invitations to participants – 1600 pieces @ \$.60 per	\$960.00
Printing	Event invitations/flyers – 1600 pieces @ \$.32 per	\$512.00
Envelopes	Envelopes for mailing – 1600 @ \$.118 per	\$188.80
Staffing	5 staff participants @ \$23.00/hour per x 6 hours	\$690.00
Fruit Snacks	Snacks for participants – 500 @ \$.212 per	\$106.00
Giveaways	Grocery totes for attendees – 500 @ \$2.25 per	\$1,125
Total Request		\$4,131.80

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be recommended for approval of the a\$4,131.80 amount requested. The grant will provide for the entire cost of the Family Resource event and will directly benefit the persons with disabilities. The event will provide a great educational and information resource to Milwaukee’s disability community and aligns with the initiatives of the foundation.