

Pink Umbrella Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

Since 1963, REACH, Inc. has served adults and children with disabilities in the Chippewa Valley and the surrounding areas. Starting with less than ten clients, REACH now serves over 500 individuals and their families. Our programs include Supported Employment Services helping clients find competitive community-based employment, Adult Day Services focusing on daily living, communication, educational groups, pre-vocational skills, and employment opportunities, as well as the Hand in Hand childcare facility serving nearly 150 children with and without disabilities from ages six weeks to 12 years.

REACH's mission is to provide innovative opportunities for people with disabilities in order to promote self-determination and full participation in the community, regardless of their ability. One way we do that is through community integration so members can interact socially and develop healthy community relationships. From fishing to tours of local businesses, we want our members to enjoy every aspect of the Chippewa Valley community, regardless of their ability.

REACH is ready to get back to community engagement activities after the pandemic has mostly kept our members at the facility, but we need updates to our van fleet to do that safely and efficiently.

Statement of Need

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted much of the community integration events, but now our members and programs are eager to get back out into the community to learn and grow socially while building strong relationships and connections. Before we do, we need safe and reliable transportation, some wheelchair accessible, to transport our clients to and from those activities. With some of our vans having over 500,000 miles and models as old as 1998, we pay nearly \$10,000 a year on maintenance for our van fleet alone. On top of the financial burden, our vans needing regular maintenance takes the opportunity for community integration activities away from our members for days, weeks, or even months at a time. That is why we need to purchase new vans and make critical updates to some of the current vans so we can save money in the long run and continue to provide this important service to our members. We can do that with \$30,000 from the WisPact Foundation.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

REACH's mission aligns closely with WisPact's as we too promote more choices and opportunities to individuals with disabilities. Our goal of this project is to continue that mission by providing community integration activities for the over 500 members with disabilities we serve so they can enjoy the community just like everyone else, but we need a new wheelchair accessible van to better do that. Once we are awarded the \$30,000 and can purchase the van, we can increase the number of events and activities for our members. We can measure this objective by tracking the frequency of community-based activities our members attend throughout the year once we have the additional van.

Project Implementation Plan

Once awarded the \$30,000, our CEO Anne Woolever and Director of Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer Jim Thomas will be in charge of researching and purchasing the wheelchair accessible van. For our most recent purchases, we have worked with MobilityWorks, a business that helps companies and clients find the best mobility options. With future purchases, they can help research available options, as well. Once the grant money is awarded, our goal would be to have a van on the road and transporting clients within six months depending on local inventory of wheelchair accessible

vans. Development Coordinator Molly Dove will file required documentation on the purchase of the van and ensure we are within budget and hitting our timeline for the project.

Evaluation Plan

Development Coordinator Molly Dove, along with Program Directors in charge of planning and executing community integration activities, will track and log each activity that requires the use of the van purchased by the \$30,000 from the WisPact Foundation. Molly Dove will be primarily responsible on keeping that updated.

Budget

Based on previous research, the purchase of a gently used wheelchair accessible van is around \$30,000. The WisPact Foundation Grant would cover that purchase of a third van.

In the overall project of updating our van fleet with the total goal of \$210,000, local grants from the Pablo Foundation, the Xcel Energy Foundation, and the Eau Claire Community Foundation has funded over \$70,000 to cover previous purchases of two new vans. We have also raised over \$45,000 through fundraising events and general donations to cover the cost of required maintenance updates to our current fleet and portions of the other five vans still needing to purchase. We are estimating each van will cost around \$30,000, but we have found in some cases it cost less or more depending on the model and condition of the vehicle. Our plan is to purchase used vehicles, but we have also found reasonably-priced new vehicles too.

WisPact Foundation Grant Budget - \$30,000

Gently used wheelchair accessible van	\$30,000
---------------------------------------	----------

Overall Van Fleet Upgrade Project - \$210,000

Gently used wheelchair accessible van	\$30,000
Gently used wheelchair accessible van	\$30,000

Gently used wheelchair accessible van	<u>\$30,000</u>
Gently used wheelchair accessible van	\$301,000
Gently used wheelchair accessible van	\$30,000
Gently used wheelchair accessible van	\$30,000

Staff Recommendation

The grant can be recommended for approval. The wheelchair accessible van will provide a direct benefit to persons with disabilities; however, the grant must be capped at \$10,000.00. Should this grant be approved steps will be taken to ensure the organization can raise the rest of the funds to complete the van purchase.