

The Ability Center (ASAP) Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

Founded in 2008, the mission of The Ability Center (TAC) is to provide people impacted by disabilities with a daily opportunity to be fit, active, healthy, and to play. Our vision is to build communities where all abilities are provided a universal opportunity for health, wellness and recreation. Our main goal is to provide a higher quality of life for people of all abilities by transforming greater Milwaukee into the most universally inclusive recreation destination in the world. In 2021, The Ability Center programs impacted more than 5,000 students through its Adaptive Scholastic Athletic Program (ASAP) and 500 program participants through Open Gym and other adaptive opportunities. In fact, The Ability Center has experienced a 50% increase in events when comparing the last two quarters in 2021 to the first two quarters of 2022.

Statement of Need

The Ability Center is seeking a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to support the Adaptive Scholastic Athletic Program (ASAP). The Ability Center hosts disability awareness assemblies and inclusive physical education classes. Through this educationally inclusive and immersive curriculum, students, educators, and administrators learn that regardless of ability, everyBODY can play together. Additionally, The Ability Center educates students with disabilities how adaptive sports can help them stay fit and healthy and helps educators and administrators learn to identify students who may qualify to participate in competitive adaptive sports. Begun in 2018, the ASAP Program attracts interest from various schools and school districts annually. In January 2022, 33 ASAP events were scheduled throughout the state, including Eau Claire, Antigo, Allenton, Madison, Racine, and Waukesha. The ASAP reach is intense; depending on enrollment, a schoolwide assembly can touch more than 500 students, teachers, parents, and others.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

The main goal of ASAP is equity: able-bodied children learn about inclusion and gain perspective while having the opportunity to use an adaptive wheelchair to play with their friends; teachers learn to identify students who would benefit from an adaptive sports league; and children with disABILITIES are exposed to opportunities to stay healthy and active through adaptive sports. In 2021, The Ability Center coordinated two Adaptive Scholastic Athletic Programs (ASAP) reaching 836 students and teachers at Pius XI in Wauwatosa and Prairie School in Racine. During the first six months of 2022, 17 events have already been held in Waukesha, Antigo, Eau Claire and beyond – touching more than 2,800 children and adults.

ASAP Goals for 2023:

1. Increase in the number of students served year over year.
2. Increase in the number of new schools served year over year.
3. Increase in the number of students identified who may qualify for competitive adaptive sports.
4. Increase in the number of students who attend TAC Open Gym or other Adaptive Programs following an ASAP event.

Project Implementation Plan

The Adaptive Program Manager is responsible for scheduling and coordinating the statewide ASAP program. As a school-based education program, ASAP is available September - June and offers two different opportunities to engage students, educators and administrators in an interactive learning opportunity to showcase that everyBODY is capable. The half day assembly is led by a presentation from

a wheelchair athlete, followed by time for students and staff to play wheelchair basketball. A full-day (or longer) Physical Education class takeover is exactly that - staff from The Ability Center take over PE classes at the school to teach about various adaptive sports and provide disability awareness training.

Evaluation Plan

The Adaptive Program Manager in partnership with the Community Program Manager are responsible for collection of and documentation of the metrics associated with the program.

The success of The Ability Center programming is largely based on feedback from the participants during the event or what they share with their family, friends and neighbors following the event. One example of feedback on the ASAP program was from an educator from the Sun Prairie School shared: “hands down the best assembly we have ever had at school. For the first time, ALL students felt a sense of belonging.”

In general, The Ability Center measures the success of ASAP by tracking the number of presentations, the number of new school locations, the total number of participants (with and without disabilities). Following each presentation, a survey is sent to each school that enables the administration to provide valuable feedback and help guide any changes to the ASAP presentation. One of the most important features of the ASAP program is that it provides children with disabilities the opportunity to learn about adaptive sports and educators how to identify students with disabilities who might benefit from adaptive sports. Therefore, The Ability Center also tracks the number of students who have attended an ASAP event and have since attended or participated in Open Gym, 3v3 Wheelchair basketball or engaged with The Ability Center in a different way.

Budget

The below budget reflects hard costs and personnel costs associated exclusively with the ASAP Program. While Damian Buchman's, along with the Adaptive Program Manager, attend all events, Damian's time is not reflected here, nor are general overhead costs associated with The Ability Center – rent, internet, HR, accounting, etc. That said, Bader Philanthropies and Soref Charitable Trust both contribute to TAC's general programming, with a portion of each of their grants dedicated to ASAP.

ASAP Project Budget	
REVENUE	
Bader Philanthropies	\$5,000
Soref Charitable Trust	\$10,000
WisPact	\$5,000
School Funding	\$12,500
TOTAL	\$32,500
EXPENSES	
Adaptive Program Manager (50% of salary)	\$20,000
Community Program Manager (10% of salary)	\$5,000
Trailer/Truck Maintenance Fees	\$500
New Chairs	\$10,000
Chairs (repair)	\$1,000
Athletic Equipment	\$500
Mileage	\$500
TOTAL	\$32,500

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be approved. The \$5,000.00 can be applied toward the \$10,000.00 cost of the new chairs that will directly benefit the disabled participants in the ASAP program. The cost is allowable under the initiatives of the foundation.