

Wisconsibs Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

WisconSibs mission is to foster a community of support for sisters and brothers of individuals with disabilities. Our vision sees siblings thriving throughout their unique lifelong journey. WisconSibs Inc. is not only the state's first and only non-profit dedicated to supporting sisters and brothers of individuals with disabilities but is the first of its kind in the United States. The organization's founder and current Executive Director, Harriet Redman created the non-profit called the Fox Valley Sibling Support Network in 1998. This network has been helping sisters and brothers of people with disabilities proactively deal with the challenges and the joys in their life-long journey as siblings by offering disability education, skills training, coping strategies for mental health, family-centered future planning workshops, Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum, and respite.

The organization started in the Fox Valley and expanded as it became a founding chapter of a new national Sibling Leadership Network. In 2014, the organization rebranded and became WisconSibs, Inc. The name change better emphasized our service population and our statewide impact. An impact that has continued to grow as we work to expand our services statewide. In August 2022, we will begin our 25th year.

Statement of Need

WisconSibs is seeking a grant in the amount of \$9,000.00 to support the Journey Forward Program. WisconSibs Journey Forward Program aims to help provide information, expertise, peer support, and accountability. Sibling caregivers and their families can develop a comprehensive plan for the future, which includes a letter of intent. This document includes practical directions and information for maintaining continuity in daily life, and describes the supports needed to achieve these outcomes. From guardianship, financial, and medical concerns to daily habits, dreams, recreation, and community supports; this plan provides a road map that develops with a person and their changing needs. It helps siblings and their families develop goals and set priorities for the future of their aging loved one-a future that is full of dynamic changes.

We are requesting \$9,000 to provide 3 Journey Forward future planning workshops (either virtual or in-person) throughout Wisconsin in the next 12 months. This would provide 90-150 participants, including adult siblings, their sisters or brothers with disabilities, and parents (when possible). Participants benefit from professionally led discussions and local resources to create advanced plans for the future.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

The purpose of this project aligns with Wispact's educational priority area. We aim to to reduce the fear and difficulty of having conversations about future planning and begin working on a plan for the future. This project has a positive impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities (beneficiaries), who take an active role in the workshops and planning process, so that they can achieve ongoing edification and fulfillment with the proper educational resources, supports, and services in place.

Goal #1: Participants will leave these events with a written document which describes their sibling's desired future living arrangement, community role, and lifestyle preferences.

Measurable Objective #1: 80% of participants complete at least 50% of their letter of intent within 3 months.

Goal #2: Develop goals and set priorities for the future with their aging loved ones.

Measurable Objective #2: 90% of participants develop at least 2 goals and identify steps to reach goals. As much as possible, the person with disabilities takes an active role in the workshops and planning process.

Goal #3: Connect with local resources to ease the stress and fear that surrounds aging and disability.

Measurable Objective #3: At least 35% of caregivers visit attorney and develop a special needs trust or other appropriate legal documentation to protect aging parents or vulnerable siblings, or both.

Project Implementation Plan

The Journey Forward Program requires community partners, planning experts, 4 staff members: a lead facilitator, 2 workshop facilitators, and an onsite host. Recruiting of partners, experts, and facilitators starts at least 6 months prior to each event. Promotion begins 3 months prior to event. Each event consists of two workshops scheduled 1- 3 months apart:

Workshop 1: Introduction to planning and the value of taking the big step, professional panel addressing financial, legal, housing, work & leisure (Siblings with disabilities have their own session during this panel doing their individual planning assessment, scrapbook pages, and discussion), action steps for future-Letter of Intent, and networking with siblings.

Workshop 2: Review and sharing, small groups with professionals - (Siblings with disabilities complete their scrapbooks), and networking.

Evaluation Plan

We will continue to conduct post-program surveys, track statistics, and meet goals that are both stated in funding proposals and are a priority to our service population. Information related to outcome measurements and evidenced-based activities for participants with disabilities (beneficiaries) will be collected by workshop facilitators, program development staff, and database personnel. This information can be made available at the end of the funding period, either in a final report or in another form if requested.

Budget

2022-2023

INCOME

		WisconSibs Journey Forward Project	
	Fees for Service	\$3,650	
	Individual Contributions	\$2,350	
	Bader Philanthropies Grant	\$10,000	
	Wispack Grant	\$9,000	
	ThedaCare Grant	\$5,000	
	Fundraisers/Donations	\$6,000	
	In-kind donations	\$500	
Total	INCOME	\$36,500	Total

EXPENSE

	Total Amount	Amount to be covered by this grant
	Salaries/Benefits	\$-
	Contracted Services	\$3,000
	Occupancy Utilities	\$-
	Supplies/Equipment	\$3,000
	Advertising	\$1,000
	Printing	\$500
	Facilities Rental	\$-
	Training	\$1,500
	Travel & Meetings	\$-
	General Operating (8% indirect)	\$-
	In-Kind Expenditures	\$-
	\$500	\$-
Budget	Expense	\$9,000

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be approved for the amount requested of \$9,000.00. The program directly benefits the disabled individuals helping to create comprehensive plans for their well-being and provide valuable information and educational opportunities. The expenses to be covered with the grant align with initiatives of the foundation.