

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children		Federal Tax ID#: 74-1143132		Are you a 501(3)(c) charity? Yes	
Address: 603 E. Hildebrand Avenue	City: San Antonio	State: Texas	Zip Code: 78212		
Website: www.sunshinecottage.org		Fax: (210) 824-0579			

Head Of Organization

Name: Belinda Pustka, Ph.D.	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: bpustka@sunshinecottage.org	Phone: (210) 824-0579

Application Contact

Name: Miriam Elizondo	Title: Director of Development	E-Mail Address: melizondo@sunshinecottage.org	Phone: (210) 824-0579
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Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation	
Year	Funding \$
2007	\$25,000
2008	\$10,000
2010	\$10,000
2012	\$5,000
2014	\$15,000
2015	\$10,000
2016	\$10,000
Total	\$85,000

Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined?
No

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$20,000	\$871,451	\$8,540,926

Mission Statement:
Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children promotes early identification and intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and helps them develop their maximum potential through listening, spoken language and literacy.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
Audiology Equipment and Materials

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
09/01/2019	08/31/2020

Program / Project Description:
Sunshine Cottage is one of the most comprehensive auditory-verbal educational programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the country and is recognized internationally as a premier center promoting listening, spoken language, and literacy. Our overarching purpose is to make it possible for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to communicate using listening and spoken language and build successful self-reliant lives realizing their maximum potential.

At Sunshine Cottage, our audiologists serve as the child's educational and primary hearing health professional. Our goals include diagnostic testing to evaluate hearing loss and to ensure that each child has consistent access to sound necessary for optimal speech and language development. We work together with the child's family and all members of the child's professional team.

Audiological services at Sunshine Cottage include:

- o Comprehensive hearing evaluations for all children who enroll. Plus, comprehensive hearing evaluations for children birth to age four years referred by doctors and hospitals
- o To ensure appropriate access to sound for each child's speech, language and listening development, audiologists collaborate with parents, parent advisors, teachers, and speech-pathologists
- o Earmold impressions and fitting hearing technology

- o Hearing aid programming and verification for the student's hearing loss using recommended pediatric settings
- o Programming for Cochlear, Med-El and Advanced Bionics Cochlear Implant (CI) processors
- o If a cochlear implant is determined to be appropriate, audiologists work as a team with parent advisors, parents, and physicians throughout the process and after surgery. Sunshine Cottage audiologists usually provide "initial stimulation," turning on the cochlear implant to bring sound to the baby for the first time and mapping (programming) the device to each baby's need.
- o Fitting and management of school or personal assistive technology equipment (also known as FM)
- o Daily listening checks of hearing equipment (hearing aids, cochlear implants, BAHA, and FM) to make sure each child has access to sound

Audiologists also maintain and use five sound-proof testing booths and two rooms specialized for testing newborns to 6 months of age. When a repair to hearing technology is needed, audiologists can do simple maintenance and adjustments or send the equipment to manufacturing companies for repair.

Specifically, this grant will help us replace one audiometer that has reached the end of its productive life. Maintenance contracts are purchased and maintained on all testing equipment, which allows us to use this expensive equipment as long as possible. The estimate we received for a new audiometer that best meets the needs of audiology testing for children is \$17,000.

Audiometers are used along with other testing devices. Our ears have three distinct parts: the outer, middle, and inner ear. Audiometry tests can detect sensorineural hearing loss (damage to the nerve or cochlea) or conductive hearing loss (damage to the eardrum or the tiny ossicle bones).

The remaining \$3,000 from this grant will purchase 30 sets of earmolds for babies in the Parent Infant Program who are being fitted for their first hearing aids through our hearing aid loaner program.

Earmolds are an essential apparatus for a child's hearing aid. Earmolds provide a seal in the ear so that sound can reach deep into the inner ear and then be processed in the brain. When a child has been medically cleared by a pediatric ear, nose, and throat physician for hearing aids, Sunshine Cottage begins the process to fit babies with hearing aids.

Earmolds are custom made to fit each child's ears. If the earmolds are too small, they will fall out of the ears. If they are too big, they will allow feedback, and the auditory information will not be captured. It is crucial that feedback is prevented for the child to receive maximum benefit from the hearing aids. Our audiologists have materials that measure for a custom device. Children grow quickly, including the ear canal, and earmolds have to be refitted periodically. For babies, new earmolds may be needed 3 to 4 times each year.

Evaluation Plan:

Objectives with target number to be served and evaluation methods follow:

1) Diagnose baby's hearing loss before three months old - target 200 babies, 0 - 6 months old, and 175 children over 6 months of age. These number targets are children from the community outside of Sunshine Cottage. Audiologists inform parents immediately of the results of each test. Additionally, they will record diagnosis in an individual chart and send test results to medical professionals as requested. The number of children tested, age at test, and results/diagnoses are monitored and reported where appropriate.

2) A baby who is deaf or hard of hearing should be enrolled in an intervention program by 6 months old. The number of babies diagnosed with hearing loss varies each year. When a child is diagnosed with a hearing loss, our audiologist will make referrals to appropriate medical and intervention professionals.

3) Ensure that children who are deaf or hard of hearing have access to sound during all waking hours - target 200 children in PIP and 130 students. Audiologists fit initial loaner technology for babies and necessary loaner technology for students. The department maintains an inventory of the type and age of all equipment used by our children.

4) Ensure all hearing technology in classrooms, hearing technology (hearing aids or cochlear implants) used by students, and testing equipment are in working order. Target - 130 student's hearing aids or cochlear implants, hearing technology in 23 classrooms, and 4 common areas. Audiologists monitor daily checks of each child's hearing technology with periodic checking and monitoring of other hearing technology.

5) Audiological management - target 200 children in PIP and 130 students in school. Audiologists test each child on a set schedule or as needed, coordinate with teachers or medical professionals on audiological issues with children, determine that appropriate levels of hearing is provided by each device. Individual records are maintained for each child.

6) Each child who is deaf or hard-of-hearing and attends Sunshine Cottage is evaluated by an audiologist on a schedule based on age (3-4 times a year through preschool and less often as they grow) or at any time the child reports a problem hearing. Also, individual goals are set for each child in listening, language, and speech. If those goals are not met, the child's audiologist, parent-advisor or teaching professional, and speech therapist, for school-age children, meet to assess and make an action plan. Results of hearing tests, speech evaluations, educational testing, and other factors are entered into a computer program that compiles overall results of progress.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Sunshine Cottage accepts insurance payments for any qualifying service and is certified for most area Medicaid programs. Some families can afford to pay fees charged for testing or tuition, but we do not turn away families who are unable to pay. We will continue to seek grants and charitable contributions to support testing, clinical and educational services for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing as well as operating expenses. Insurance payments are low or, in some cases, care is not covered. Medicaid, for example, will pay the cost of surgery for a child to receive a cochlear implant but not the audiology services necessary to map the device to the child's needs or monitor usage and progress in acquiring listening skills. The Texas Legislature passed a bill in the last session requiring all insurance plans to cover hearing aids for children, but we have not yet seen results from that requirement.

At the same time, we are producing educational products for listening and spoken language and a new computer application for speech therapists used for children with normal or impaired hearing. These products are sold and used in all U.S. states and throughout the world. We hope that we can develop a steady income stream from the sale of these products.

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
Audiometer	\$17,000	\$17,000

Earmolds	\$13,400	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$30,400	\$20,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

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