

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: Mark E. Eads	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: meads@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
2019	\$10,000
Total	\$95,000

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	\$212,000	\$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.

We do not use or teach sign language. No child who can benefit from our services is turned away for inability to pay.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
Audiology - FM System Renovation

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
01/04/2021	05/31/2022

Program / Project Description:
We want our students to meet educational and social goals expected for their age and to be successful in a mainstream school when they leave Sunshine Cottage.

This project will replace or upgrade FM (Frequency Modulation) and soundfield systems used in Sunshine Cottage classrooms and throughout the facility to provide students with access to clear sound. This technology includes a stationary system in each room, including speakers and mobile systems, including a transmitter worn by the teacher, receivers to attach to hearing aids, and microphones used by students to ask questions. This equipment ties to a computer-based monitoring system and is an essential part of our Listening and Spoken Language environment.

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing must have better access to sound in classrooms. This equipment will provide a clear signal with improved and consistent sound, allowing students reliable and continuous auditory information. Hearing the teacher's voice and sounds from other media sources, such as computer and smartboard technologies, makes the educational environment more conducive to learning.

Clarity of sound is necessary for students to understand the information being shared by the teacher and others in the classroom. Essentially, these systems improve classroom acoustic environments by improving signal to noise ratios. In a noisy classroom, the teacher's voice can be drowned out by noises such as chairs moving or side conversations between students.

Those of us with normal hearing sometimes have trouble hearing a conversation in a noisy setting like a restaurant. A small amount of background noise in a classroom provides a similar barrier to hearing clearly.

With hearing and language improved by technology, children are happy to come to school and make friends because others can understand their speech, and their language is meaningful. In early childhood, most learning is about social skills, feelings, and how we think about others. Once we have a vocabulary to understand those concepts, we can understand how to make friends, talk, listen to parents and teachers, and explain why school is important.

This equipment will benefit all children enrolled at Sunshine Cottage from birth through fifth grade. We estimate serving 700 or more children in 2021-2022. Our demographics closely match Bexar County: 6% African American, 4% Asian, 32% Caucasian, 53% Hispanic, and 5% other. More than half of our families fall within the poverty range. 20% of the babies we serve have additional handicapping conditions.

More than 46% of children we serve would qualify for free or reduced lunch if in public school, and 29% of families have annual incomes less than \$30,000.

Evaluation Plan:

Audiologists will regularly evaluate the system to ensure sound from transmitters (teacher's body-worn microphone or hand-held) is being sent to receivers (children's hearing device).

Individual hearing evaluations, conducted between 1 and 4 times annually based on age and hearing loss, show the benefit of improved technology by measuring understanding of sounds heard.

Content-based assessments, observation of classroom performance, and increased engagement from students are monitored daily or regularly by teachers and speech-language therapists. All goals are measured against children of the same age who have normal hearing.

As an overall evaluation of each student, teachers note daily language samples, enter the date on a listening and language assessment developed at Sunshine Cottage, conduct regular subject matter tests, and use standardized tests in Texas.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

This project takes place every 8 to 10 years at Sunshine Cottage, with the project lasting 18 - 24 months. FM (Frequency Modulation) and soundfield systems are an integral part of our Listening and Spoken Language Education method because various parts ensure consistent and precise sound throughout our facility. These systems have been used at Sunshine Cottage for 50 years and have improved with transmitting and receiving sound. As will all technology, there comes a time when it becomes ineffective, or the replacements available are vastly superior technology. A significant expense for us, this replacement and updating cost approaches \$400,000 with the cost spread over two budget cycles. Each year, our operating budget includes maintenance funds for FM Systems and small purchases, such as students' additional receivers when our enrollment increases.

We are fortunate to have an endowment, established in the 1950s, that provides about 66% of our annual operating budget. Additional income from Oil and Gas Assets amounts to 7% of the operating budget. These assets are adversely affected by the economic downturn.

Each year, we must raise the balance of our operating budget from donations, events, and grants as do most nonprofits. Although we charge tuition for our school and some service-related fees, no program here is self-sustaining. Sunshine Cottage will continue to look for ways to raise funds to ensure that these vital programs remain in Bexar County and surrounding counties. As a charitable organization, we plan to raise funds to support our operating budget and large technology needs, such as this project.

Line item Budget:		
Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
24 Digimaster Speakers	\$20,000	\$20,000
241 Roger and Roger-x receivers	\$192,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$212,000	\$20,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

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