



MT. DIABLO ADULT EDUCATION
A DIVISION OF MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 4, 2019

Ms. Melissa Boilin
Program Officer
Firedoll Foundation
1460 Maria Lane, Suite 400
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Dear Ms. Boilin:

Mt. Diablo Adult Education respectfully requests a grant from the Firedoll Foundation, in the amount of \$22,000.00 to fund the following: Student Support Services Specialist (\$19,830.60) for the On Track Program; Community Access funds for travel training (\$1,000.00); funding to purchase art supplies for the class (\$500.00) and funds to cover the cost of miscellaneous classroom expenses (\$669.40).

Project Summary

On Track is a day program through Mt. Diablo Adult Education, a division of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. It addresses the unique needs of adults with acquired brain injury through providing education and training in Cognitive Skills and Academics, Wellness and Independent Living, and Work Readiness and Experience. With the assistance of the Student Support Services Specialist, students and their families/caregivers receive much needed support in the following areas:

- Identification of service needs outside of the program, and referral and assistance procuring resources/services.
- Individual support to students, depending on need (priority to those with minimal or no caregiver support), that may include crisis intervention, access to resources/services, support needed to obtain and maintain volunteer or paid employment, leisure skills development and housing and/or independent living support.
- Support to caregivers/families as needed, and act as the liaison between the caregivers and the program (progress meetings, crisis intervention and referrals, caregiver workshops, etc.)
- Outreach to individuals in the community with acquired brain injury who would benefit from the program, but lack awareness, resources, support, and/or transportation to access the program.
- Outreach to schools, organizations, and local companies who would benefit from brain injury prevention education, concussion awareness and protocol as well as stroke awareness.

Brain HQ software has been utilized to help students establish a baseline and track progress in short and long-term memory, reasoning, organization skills, and visual perception. However, after using the software for approximately two years, students have expressed a need to take a break from the program. The data received from the software indicates the following: 2 students improved memory; 2 students improved people skills; 1 student improved brain speed. Consequently we will not be renewing our licenses for the program.

The instructor continues to use the Mind Bender workbooks which were purchased at the beginning of the school year. These exercises are supplemented with a variety of other brain games and interactive activities.

Specific Need

The program currently serves 23 adults with ABI and continues to enroll a number of young adults. The Student Support Services Specialist (SSSS) has expanded services and support to include a focus on workforce preparation and/or transition to higher education and training to meet the needs of a younger population.

Our younger students require more individualized time to address life skills and develop goals and plans for achievement. Families are often working and unable to take time off to help with issues such as: appointments, travel training and many aspects of life management. The SSSS meets with students at the program and often drives to students' homes or to a meeting site in the community to provide these services.

In addition to providing services and supports during the On Track program hours, the SSSS also works with students and their families in the evenings and on weekends as needed. The SSSS also provides continuity of services and supports during the time when the adult school is closed for breaks and holidays throughout the year. Students are able to maintain established routines and continue to gain skills at a time when families are often working and unable to provide the needed transportation and support.

The Student Support Services Specialist provides information and resources for students and their family members regarding SSI/SSDI, Medi-Cal, Medicare, housing and employment. They also coordinate presentations for students and families to help them navigate these complex systems. Providing resources is an essential function of the SSSS position.

The Tuesday morning art class has been incredibly impactful for students. The instructor utilizes techniques that encourage students to get in touch with their feelings through artistic expression. The instructor would like to expose students to a wider variety of art mediums; however the cost of art supplies is quite expensive and extends beyond the instructional supplies budget.

Increasing student's ability to access their community through public transportation is essential. The majority of On Track students are unable to drive and must rely on family and/or public transportation to get to the program. In order to provide alternative travel options, the program staff will be teaching a Community Access Class. Each student and staff member will need a Clipper Card in order to more easily access the Bay Area Transit System. The cost of public transportation can be quite expensive particularly if traveling on BART.

Classroom supplies are purchased as needed throughout the school year, however there are often limited funds remaining in the spring and summer months. In particular, the cost of ink for the classroom printers is so high that it often is cost prohibitive and leaves the staff unable to print at the end of the year. Having additional funding to purchase items such as ink for the classroom printers and student binders/journals, etc. will ensure that the class has essential supplies.

Organizations Working With Us

The Student Support Services Specialist regularly collaborates with the following organizations and providers:

- John Muir Neuropsychology
- Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa
- Mt. Diablo Unified School District
- On Track Booster Association
- Centre for Neuro Skills
- California Department of Rehabilitation
- Social Security Administration
- IHSS services of Contra Costa County
- Cal State University East-Bay Center for Communicative Disorders, Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic
- Regional Center of the East Bay
- Food Bank of Contra Costa
- Alta Bates Herrick Campus Brain Injury Program
- Schurig Center
- Chevron's ENABLED Employee Network
- Hospice of the East Bay

Evaluation Plan to Determine Success

Assessment measures to evaluate the success of the project are individualized to measure specific support services outcomes, depending on the need and services provided. Individual assessment measures may include:

- Intake and Annual Needs Assessment
- Individual Student Goals and Progress Review, mid-year and end-of-year
- Student transitioning to work and/or college
- Caregiver participation in support services
- Student self-reporting
- CASAS Life and Work Assessment pre and post test
- Student utilizing public transportation to access their community
- End of Year Annual Summary Report
- Students sharing art work at BAW

The Firedoll Foundation provides for essential support and resources to help the On Track program to better serve our students and their families. We are tremendously grateful for the many years of support and appreciate your consideration for continued funding of the Student Support Services Specialist. Additionally, we request funding for art supplies, transportation and admission fees to do community access, and funds to purchase classroom supplies.

Should you require further information, please contact Karen Lingenfelter (925) 685-7340, ext. 6721.

Respectfully yours,

Karen Lingenfelter
Coordinator, Adults with Disabilities
Mt. Diablo Adult Education

Dr. Robert Martinez,
Superintendent
Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Vittoria Abbate
Director College & Career and Adult Education

Cc: Paige Endo, Vice Principal
Jennifer Dougherty, Fiscal Analyst