

RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO AUTISM SPEAKS LOCAL
IMPACT GRANT PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING
TO REQUEST FUNDING FOR THE LARAMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PROJECT LIFESAVER
PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00**

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE SIX TRANSMITTERS AND
PROVIDE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR PROJECT LIFESAVER.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Laramie County desires to participate in the Autism Speaks
Local Impact Grant Program by sponsoring this grant application to assist in financing this project; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Laramie County has been provided with preliminary cost
estimates and information on this project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY that a
grant application in the amount of \$2,500.00 be submitted to the Autism Speaks for consideration of
assistance in funding the Laramie County Project Lifesaver Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sandra Newland, or her successor in the position of Laramie
County Grants Manager, is appointed as agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioners to
execute and submit applications and certifications for these funds and to receive funds and implement
the programs funded under this grant.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019.

By: _____
Linda Heath, Chairman

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

Date: _____

Received and Approved as to Form only By:



Mark Voss, County Attorney

Date: 2/13/19

Laramie County Lifesaver Program

Autism Speaks Grant Application Winter 2019

Laramie County, Wyoming

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Application Form

Project Name*

What is the name of your project?

Laramie County Lifesaver Program

Tax Exempt Status*

Does your organization have 501c3 tax exempt status?

Yes

State*

In which state will your program take place?

Wyoming,WY

City*

In which city/cities will your program take place?

Cheyenne

Website*

What is your organization's website?

<https://laramiecounty.com>

Category*

Which category does your proposal fall into? Please select one. ***Please note, each organization can submit one application per category (up to nine), but only ONE will be funded.***

Supportive Technology/Sensory Equipment

Participant Ages*

Which age group/s of *people with autism* will ultimately benefit from your program? For example, if you are training parents, please choose the age group/s of their children with autism that will benefit. Please select all that apply.

- 0-2 (Early Intervention)
- 3-5 (preschool)
- 6-15 (school age)
- 16-22 (transition age)
- 23 and older (adults)

Target Audience*

Which population/s will your program serve? Select all that apply.

Individuals who need limited supports
 Individuals who need moderate supports
 Individuals who need intensive supports
 Family members

Numbers Served*

What is the expected number of people to be served through the grant, if funded?

6

Organization*

Provide a brief history of your organization, its mission, and a description of current activities.

"The Laramie County Sheriff's Department in partnership with the community is dedicated to providing ethical and professional services that promote and protect the well-being, safety, and security of all people in the County; and to operating a safe constitutional jail system." Since 1867 the Sheriff's Department has provided a wide array of services to our community to include community policing, detention, education and public service. With the ever changing dynamics of law enforcement, we strive to serve our community while carrying out our statutory requirements. The Laramie County Sheriff's Department is located in the rural Southeast corner of the State of Wyoming, positioned between I-80 and I-25 intersecting in our capital city of Cheyenne. The population of our community is approximately 98,327 per the 2017 estimated consensus, with 9,242 individuals having a reported disability (9.4% of the population).

Organization, Continued*

Please describe where you envision your organization's presence in the local community in the next three years.

The Laramie County Sheriff's Department serves a population of over 31,000 county specific residences that span 2,688 square miles of rural country. The Wyoming climate is typically cold with inclement weather nine months out of the year. Our department averages around 43,805 calls for service on an annual basis. We are currently experiencing a large increase of calls in our patrol division and are on track to increase this rate by 7,695 in 2019. The Sheriff's Department runs "Project Lifesaver" through the Search and Rescue function that is mandated by Wyoming State Statute 19-13-117. The project is a rapid response partnership aiding clients living with Autism, Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome and other cognitive disabilities.

Abstract*

Please describe the services to be provided in the following format, with 4-5 sentences per answer. ***Applications that do not answer the questions below will be disqualified.***

1. What is the *need* or *problem* the program for which you're requesting funding is trying to *address*?
2. *How* will you address the need or problem described above?
3. What will the *outcome/s* be?

1. The CDC estimates that one in fifty-nine children have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum disorders by age eight and according to national statistics, over 50% of all children with Autism will wander. The Project Lifesaver Program is primarily comprised of Autistic individuals with a projected increase in the next few years due to the prevalence of cognitive disabilities. Our local resources are being tasked with providing care and assistance for this population. Project Lifesaver was started in 2010 and we have grown to serve thirty-three clients to date, with a fluctuating rate of up to fifty clients. Transmitters have expiration dates and also require replacement if damaged, this keeps our available operational transmitters around forty. While the clientele basis of the program is strong, it does not meet the needs within the community. More transmitters are requested from our department than we can provide.

2. Project Lifesaver utilizes radio technology in a wristband that emits a tracking signal. The wristband is reliable, responsive, practical and affordable compared to other services. Project Lifesaver relies on proven radio technology in conjunction with a specially trained search and rescue team to locate any missing individual enrolled in the program. When caregivers notify the Project Lifesaver agency that their loved one is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanders last known location and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Project Lifesaver allows individuals to be active in life including school, work and social activities without families having to worry about their loved ones potential for wandering off. Project Lifesaver simply looks like a watch, so it is not an apparent or an obvious physical characteristic separating the individual from his or her peers. This technology allows participants to enjoy everyday life without restriction or limitations of any kind for complete inclusion. To date our department has been able to provide Project Lifesaver to our community with no cost to the families participating and endeavor to continue this practice. It is our goal to provide services to an additional ten families per year at no cost, with an ultimate goal of being able to help up to one hundred clients. This year we are focusing on outreach activities to fulfill the current needs of the community. We will be conducting this outreach through promotional events, distributing pamphlets and providing community support to families with loved ones that wander, due to cognitive disabilities such as Autism.

3. Project Lifesaver has a strong community support within Laramie County to include the Sheriff's Department, the City of Cheyenne Police Department and the Wyoming Mounted Search and Rescue Association. Our department recognizes that disabilities, such as Autism, are on the rise in our community. Project Lifesaver is a beneficial answer to many families worried about the wandering of their loved ones. It is a complete program, with training, support, equipment and consultation, which allows the client and their family to be directly involved with the first responder community. We base our effectiveness on the ability to provide transmitters to individuals who demonstrate a need. It is our hope that these clients never need the services that we provide, but it is a tool that will help locate them safely in an efficient manner if they do wander. We would be thrilled if Autism Speaks would partner with us to provide transmitters to an additional six clients and assistance with our outreach efforts. Grant funding will go directly towards the equipment and promotional materials such as pamphlets. Our department views this program as a mechanism that allows us to serve the vulnerable to meet our mission of protecting human life.

Recruitment*

How will the program recruit clients to participate in the program?

Our program currently conducts limited outreach, due to our inability to provide the necessary equipment to everyone that qualifies. If funded we will reach out to the community to offer Project Lifesaver through outreach. We do this through our many community connections to find clients that would benefit from this service. If funded we could begin this increased recruitment immediately.

Outcomes and Impact*

What do you expect to be the result of your project? Please discuss how you will measure *true impact* on the lives of participants, their families, caregivers, peers and support networks.

We can provide measurable outcomes for specific individual's involvement in the program through the National Project Lifesaver Database that provides a profile of all clients served to include medical conditions warranting service. This database is secure and only authorized personnel are allowed to access the information. This data provides us with additional information that may be used in a search. Our department maintains close connections with our clients and we follow up with them and their families on a monthly basis or more frequently as needed. This relationship allows clients to become familiar and comfortable with the first responders who may at some point be looking for them. Project Lifesaver facilitates a rapid response and location; due to the known fact that the longer an individual is missing there is a decrease in survival rate.

This request will provide needed services to our community members living with Autism. Project Lifesaver saves tax payer dollars by providing a quick response to the last known location of the individual and searches are typically reduced from days or hours to minutes. Search times for Project Lifesaver clients

take approximately 95% less time than standard search operations. Average tracking time with the equipment is within twenty-two minutes and individuals are usually found unharmed and are able to be reunited with family immediately. This is why our request of six transmitters and promotional materials is important to serving our ever-growing Autistic community.

The cost of the personalized transmitter with one year's replacement of wristbands and batteries is \$350 (the transmitter is secure to avoid tampering or removal). Other operating expenses include the purchase of the monitoring equipment and the cost of repairs or replacement items. Our department utilizes volunteers to reduce costs associated with monthly maintenance. This request will allow us to add up to six clients to our program. The county's current budget will fill in any identified gaps, such as the volunteer services to monitor and replace equipment as needed for clients.

The true impact of those participating in the Project Lifesaver Program is peace of mind afforded to family members and safety to individuals. Direct measurement of success will be based off of the additional clients added to the Project Lifesaver Program.

Sustainability*

How will you ensure financial sustainability and continued demand and participation in the program after funds from Autism Speaks are spent?

Project Lifesaver has become an integral component of our law enforcement department. Not only does this program help us serve and protect the community, but it allows for the safe return of loved ones to their families. This program has the internal commitment from team members such as the Sheriff and the County Commissioners. Laramie County is a community that invests in its citizens and provides generous donations when needed.

As long as the community needs Project Lifesaver, our department will be administering this critical piece of civic protection. We will ensure financial sustainability through outreach, fundraising and internal support.

Replicability*

Please describe your plan to establish best practices and replicate them in your community, state and region. How will your organization grow and thrive as a result of funding?

Project Lifesaver is an international program that was implemented in 1999. It provides law enforcement, fire/rescue, and caregivers with a program designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. Project Lifesaver can be used and implemented in any community with success and resources from the International Program. "The program was structured in a way that strategically combined state of the art locating technologies, innovative search and rescue methods, and community policing courses that educated first responders about cognitive conditions." Our program currently serves thirty three individuals and up to fifty since its inception in 2010. The Laramie County Sheriff's Department will continue to follow best practices established by other agencies using Project Lifesaver standards. If funded we will be able to expand our services to an additional six individuals and families that will be provided with peace of mind from the dangers of wandering.

Underserved*

Does the program address the needs of the following populations? Select all that apply.

- Rural (no services readily accessible in the community)
- Economically disadvantaged (near or at the poverty line)
- Other

Underserved, Continued*

Please explain your selections below.

Project Lifesaver does not limit participation based on any determining factor other than the individuals need for service. We provide service to any Laramie County community member regardless of age, race, nationality, gender or ability to pay. Laramie County is primarily a rural community and our services extend to smaller jurisdictions such as the towns of Albin, Burns and Pine Bluffs. These community members need the most support and Project Lifesaver assists this population. Any citizen that demonstrates a need due to a medical or identified condition, that directly causes them to wander or place themselves in danger, qualifies for a transmitter. This can be brought to our attention by the families, physicians, caregivers or friends of the individual.

Staff*

Please briefly describe the qualifications of the staff who will be directly running the program. What degrees, certifications, and skills do they have to successfully run this program? *There is no need to upload resumes.*

The program is operated under the Laramie County Sheriff's Department in partnership with the Cheyenne Police Department. Detective Donald Heiduck and Lt. Don Hollingshead are both certified Project Lifesaver instructors and responders, as is Becky Juschka with the Cheyenne Police Department. Donald Heiduck has been with the Laramie County Sheriff's Department since 1987 and was one of the first individuals to implement Project Lifesaver in Laramie County. He has worked to get the State of Wyoming to provide legislation on "Kevin's Law," which is a bill to help protect special needs individuals who have suffered a traumatic brain injury and others who have cognitive disorders, like Autism or Alzheimer's, and frequently wander off.

Lt. Don Hollingshead has been with the Laramie County Sheriff's Department since 1995 and along with Detective Heiduck, was instrumental in the implementation of Project Lifesaver in our community. Lt. Hollingshead is highly qualified as a responder and trainer for Project Lifesaver.

Sandra Newland is the Laramie County Grants Manager, and will assist the Sheriff's Department in the administration of any grant funds to maintain compliance. Ms. Newland is responsible for the administration of all Laramie County grants from federal to foundation, and has been with the county since 2010.

The program can attribute its success to the nine volunteers who dedicate their time to help our clients at no cost.

Budget*

What is the total dollar amount of funding you are requesting from Autism Speaks? **The maximum is \$5,000.**

\$2,500.00

Budget in Detail*

Please list what is included in the \$5,000 or less budget. ***Budgets that do not provide an exact breakdown of the \$5,000 or less request will be disqualified.*** Include costs for staff, materials, equipment, indirect costs and other with explanation. The following items are PROHIBITED under our guidelines:

- Endowment, debt reduction, or fundraising activities
- Administrative salaries, i.e. those not directly working in the program for which you are requesting funding
- Food, apparel or equipment that can be donated in kind
- Rent or financing of buildings

Our budget is simple; we are requesting funds to purchase equipment that will directly serve autistic clients by providing them with a Project Lifesaver transmitter. We are also requesting money to facilitate an aggressive outreach campaign in our community to identify potential clients.

6 Transmitters with a year supply of wristbands and batteries at a cost of \$350.00 each

\$350 X 6 = \$2,100.00

Promotional materials (pamphlets, flyers, and outreach events) for a total cost of \$400.00

533 printed items @ approximately \$.75 per item = \$400.00

TOTAL Request: \$2,500.00

All other associated costs will be absorbed by our department and community donations. Our greatest need and reason for this application is to request funding to provide transmitters. If funded we would be able to purchase this equipment immediately.

Autism Speaks Walk*

Did your organization participate in a local Autism Speaks Walk or event in 2018?

No

Walk/Event Capacity

If so, in what capacity?

Walk/Event, cont'd

If you selected "other," please explain.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded