

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM DETAIL SHEET

ISSUE: Special Needs Network, Inc.

AMOUNT: \$1,500.00

BACKGROUND: The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) supports events that promote self-advocacy, leadership and education, thereby enabling people with developmental disabilities and their family members to expand their knowledge and skills.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION: Special Needs Network, Inc. is requesting a sponsorship for the 14th Annual Christmas Care Exchange & Toy Giveaway. event is open to families with special needs children, their siblings, and their typically developing peers from our underserved communities, to enjoy a day of community holiday celebration. This event typically welcomes over 1,000 attendees made up of parents, children, community stakeholders, celebrity guests, elected officials, and civic leaders for a day filled with lots of activities, fun, resources, and our signature toy giveaway. The event is scheduled for December 17, 2022.

These have become staple resource points for the marginalized communities in the Los Angeles County. As a bridge to the consumers in the South Los Angeles and other surrounding communities, they offer resources which help consumers increase their awareness and access to systems of care which help them to exercise more control in services and supports receiving as well as connect to services to connect them to necessary services.

Parents and caregivers are recruited for the Parent Advocacy Mentor (PAM) trainings which have yielded non-profit leaders, legislative advocates, and other community activists.

In 2020, they served over 1,500 families with toys, backpacks, and food packages. This year they anticipate serving just as many people in person, creating a safe and welcoming environment for individuals with disabilities and their families which include integration with their typical community members which enjoying arts & crafts, entertainment, and food.

SCDD's funds would be utilized for outreach, translation, and marketing (Radio Ad).

Special Needs Network, Inc. will distribute PPE &/or test-kits along with SCDD resources (pamphlets, tip-sheets) during this event.

Special Needs Network, Inc. has never applied for or received a sponsorship from SCDD.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL/OBJECTIVE: Goal 3.2-The Council will engage in 100 projects and events in the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety, and emerging issues, reaching 25,000 people (family/self advocates/others) with information and resources to enhance their knowledge and increase their capacity to obtain supports and services that are important to them.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTIVITY: Since the beginning of FY 2022-23 the Council has awarded \$2,400 in funds for sponsorship requests. The Council allocates \$25,000 per fiscal year for sponsorships. The fiscal year began July 1, 2022.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Special Needs Network, Inc.'s request for sponsorship.

ATTACHMENTS(S): The Special Needs Network, Inc.'s request for sponsorship.

PREPARED: Kristie Allensworth October 18, 2022

Special Needs Network, Inc.
**California's Go-To Organization for Autism, Special Needs, Advocacy
and Standing Up For Under Served Communities**

Sponsorship Request Application
2022 14th Annual Christmas Care Exchange & Toy Giveaway

4401 Crenshaw Boulevard Suite 215

Los Angeles, CA 90043

Juan Carlos Garcia

Associate Vice President – Operations

JCGarcia@snnla.org

Estimated Date: December 17, 2022

Impact:

As with all other key community events throughout the year (Autism/Disability Rights Conference, Back-to-School), these have become staple resource points for our marginalized communities in the Los Angeles County. As a bridge to the consumers in the South Los Angeles and other surrounding communities, we offer resources which help consumers increase their awareness and access to systems of care which help them to exercise more control in services and supports receiving as well as connect to services to connect them to necessary services. With the significant disparity in service access for Black children after parents have expressed initial concerns, our community collaborations and event outreach provide tools for families to eradicate these health and educational inequities which are prevalent in lower income, working-class communities. Parents and caregivers are recruited for our Parent Advocacy Mentor (PAM) trainings which have yielded non-profit leaders, legislative advocates, and other community activists.

Realizing the increased needs since the onset of the pandemic, we have partnered with corporate and other community partners to provide internet and communication resources, COVID-related supplies, infant supplies, and food packages – perishables and non-perishables at our key community events. In 2020, through a carefully orchestrated drive-through Christmas event, we served over 1,500 families with toys, backpacks, and food packages.

This year we anticipate serving just as many people in person, creating a safe and welcoming environment for individuals with disabilities and their families which include integration with their typical community members which enjoying arts & crafts, entertainment, and food. Our community leaders, celebrities, and other community volunteers help create a joyful holiday experience for all the children while uplifting economically struggling parents/caregivers by helping with the distribution of toys and other home goods.

Through Special Needs Network's vast social media reach and community network sharing, families from areas as far as Inland Empire attend this and other of our events and trainings.

Aside from grant funding from DDS, we have been funded by The Irvine Group, Jewish Women's Foundation, Black Equity Initiative, to name a few. This is our first time requesting or receiving funding from SCDD.

Amount Requested: \$1,500

Budget-

15,000	Facility Rental
6,000	Equipment – Tables, Chairs, Canopies (consideration for 40 vendor/specialty booths min.)
700	Event Signage & Banners
2,300	Event Decor
500	Photography
600	Entertainment – DJ & Set Up
1,500	Radio Ad
600	Outreach (includes translation, print media ads, flyers)
300	Santa Claus
150	PickUps / Deliveries / Event Labor
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30,000	Total (Budget excludes any costs for food, beverages; costs may have increased since these prior Event prices)

No previous SCDD sponsorships applied for or received

SCDD's funds would be utilized for outreach, translation, and marketing (Radio Ad).

October 18, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the Annual Christmas Craft and Holiday Toy drive sponsored by Special Needs Network Inc. (SNN).

Every year Special Needs Network, Inc. (SNN) has reached out to community leaders, public officials, various agencies and corporations to carry out its mission to serve the local underserved communities. This family event captures the holiday spirit for those that may not be able to provide toys and other necessary items for their families.

With contributions, donations, grants and sponsor support each year the number of children and families served has grown. In addition, the result of COVID related issues has paused the impact of this event.

Undeterred SNN has continued to serve and strive to help by conducting virtual or drive by events when in person was not an option. Fortunately, this year's event in December will be in person and children and families will again be able to gather and share a morning of games, events, and receive a gift from Santa and his helpers.

If you are able, please consider assisting them by underwriting the worthwhile community wide event that brings much needed support and smiles to families.

With gratitude,

Richard P. Fernandez

Richard P. Fernandez
Major Gift Officer
Charles R. Drew University of College and Medicine

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM DETAIL SHEET

ISSUE: Special Needs Network, Inc.

AMOUNT: \$1,500.00

BACKGROUND: The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) supports events that promote self-advocacy, leadership and education, thereby enabling people with developmental disabilities and their family members to expand their knowledge and skills.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION: Special Needs Network, Inc. is requesting a sponsorship for the Mobile Flex Vote Center Event. This community-based program helps us to support consumer empowerment through the voting process which can lead to systemic changes and improved services to our often overlooked, marginalized populations. The event is scheduled for November 5, 2022.

The Mobile Voting Program serves as an extension of a traditional Vote Center, providing the same experiences, but with one major difference by taking voting to the voters. Providing unique voting opportunities to voters who may need it the most.

The target audience is senior citizens, intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), persons experiencing homelessness, and local community members.

This center will:

- Assist community members get registered or update registration to facilitate same-day voting
- Receive Absentee Voter Ballots
- Provide booths for onsite voting

SCDD's funds would be utilized for outreach, translation, and marketing (Radio Ad).

Special Needs Network, Inc. will distribute PPE &/or test-kits along with SCDD resources (pamphlets, tip-sheets) during this event.

Special Needs Network, Inc. has never applied for or received a sponsorship from SCDD.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL/OBJECTIVE: Goal 3.2-The Council will engage in 100 projects and events in the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety, and emerging issues, reaching 25,000 people (family/self advocates/others) with information and resources to enhance their knowledge and increase their capacity to obtain supports and services that are important to them.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTIVITY: Since the beginning of FY 2022-23 the Council has awarded \$2,400 in funds for sponsorship requests. The Council allocates \$25,000 per fiscal year for sponsorships. The fiscal year began July 1, 2022.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Special Needs Network, Inc.'s request for sponsorship.

ATTACHMENTS(S): The Special Needs Network, Inc.'s request for sponsorship.

PREPARED: Kristie Allensworth October 18, 2022

Special Needs Network, Inc.
**California's Go-To Organization for Autism, Special Needs, Advocacy
and Standing Up For Under Served Communities**

Sponsorship Request Application
Mobile Flex Vote Center Event

4401 Crenshaw Boulevard Suite 215

Los Angeles, CA 90043

Juan Carlos Garcia

Associate Vice President – Operations

JCGarcia@snnla.org

Date: November 5, 2022

Location: Chase/Bakewell Building – Special Needs Network Headquarters

Impact:

Since 2020, Special Needs Network has partnered with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to facilitate enhanced community voter engagement with the new early voting centers. We are bringing voter registration and the voting process to the voters to ensure that everyone's vote is counted – especially our disability votes! This community-based program helps us to support consumer empowerment through the voting process which can lead to systemic changes and improved services to our often overlooked, marginalized populations. Promotion of this event is supported by community event outreach, radio ads, and digital communications. Location business partners that will be promoting the event include: Brotherhood Crusade Youth Services, Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness, and Los Angeles Urban League.

This center will:

- Assist community members get registered or update registration to facilitate same-day voting
- Receive Absentee Voter Ballots
- Provide booths for onsite voting

Target Audience: Seniors, individuals with disabilities, persons experiencing homelessness, and any other local community members.

Amount Requested: \$1,500

A projected Budget is attached for review. No previous funding applications made or received from SCDD

SCDD's funds would be utilized for outreach, translation, and marketing (Radio Ad).

Special Needs Network, Inc. will distribute PPE &/or test-kits along with SCDD resources (pamphlets, tip-sheets) during this event.

Budget

500	Document Translation
1,500	Outreach and Marketing (Radio Ad)
2,000	Promotional Swag – GOTV Advocacy (T-shirts, Buttons)
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4,000	Total



THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW OFFICE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND BEVERLY HILLS BAR ASSOCIATIONS
The Southern California Affiliate of The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

October 18, 2022

State Council on Developmental Disabilities
3831 North Freeway Blvd. #125
Sacramento, CA 95834

RE: Special Needs Network

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support on behalf of Public Counsel for Special Needs Network, which provides critical advocacy assistance to children with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the Los Angeles community and beyond. I have had the good fortune of working with Special Needs Network for over thirteen years; thus, I feel confident speaking to its qualifications.

Public Counsel is the nation's largest *pro bono* law firm, with the power of more than 5,000 attorneys, law students and other professionals working for people in need. Public Counsel's Children's Rights Project serves more than 6,000 of the most vulnerable children in Los Angeles annually with one-on-one legal help, policy and legislation, and impact litigation. We protect the rights of children and youth dually served by the developmental services and child welfare systems.

Special Needs Network has assisted thousands of children in navigating the multiple systems of care through intensive parent mentor and professional trainings, widespread distribution of extremely informative materials, and targeted outreach to particularly vulnerable populations, among other means.

Special Needs Network has become a clear leader in the State for helping to enhance the public awareness of autism and other developmental disabilities and delays, as well as the inequities in services funding that families of color endure within the developmental services system.

Public Counsel has worked with Special Needs Network on many occasions over the past thirteen years and has found its staff to be well-organized, extremely dedicated, and wholly committed to the families for whom they serve. Special Needs Network has proven to be extremely effective in helping families meaningfully access the special education and regional center systems and the complex sets of laws upon which those systems are governed. Furthermore, Special Needs Network has also served to expand the theoretical and practical knowledge of the professional community, such as attorneys, social workers, child care providers, and foster family agencies, by ensuring that these professionals are kept abreast of the most current information in their field relating to the welfare of children with developmental disabilities.

It is without hesitation that Public Counsel supports Special Needs Network in its continued endeavor to provide this essential work through support from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. If you would like to speak directly with me regarding our wholehearted support for Special Needs Network, please do not hesitate to call me at (213) 385-2977, ext. 249.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Capra". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a thin blue line.

Brian Capra
Senior Staff Attorney
Public Counsel

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM DETAIL SHEET

ISSUE: Special Needs Network, Inc.

AMOUNT: \$1,500.00

BACKGROUND: The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) supports events that promote self-advocacy, leadership and education, thereby enabling people with developmental disabilities and their family members to expand their knowledge and skills. The training is scheduled for October 22, 29 and November 5, 12, 2022.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION: Special Needs Network, Inc. is requesting a sponsorship for the Stepping Stones Parent Advocacy Mentor (PAM) Training. This programming helps connect parents/caregivers to networks for social support and community engagement by volunteering at our key events. This is a virtual conversion of their 8-week 25-hour signature intensive training program. This year the PAM training focuses on Early Start/Early Intervention for birth to 5 years. The virtual model has exponentially expanded out outreach to areas beyond Los Angeles in California and even other states as well as out-of-country. Although the target audience is African American and Hispanic families, which make up 95% of the participants, the training is open to all at no cost.

The PAM training teaches individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their family members how to:

- Identify the early warning signs for developmental disorders
- Navigate system of care and access to Regional Center Early Start services
- Support your child's transition to public school with a successful IEP
- Learn from experts and connect with other parents

SCDD's funds would be utilized to Outreach and curriculum document translations in addition to live translation during the training session.

Special Needs Network, Inc. has never applied for or received a sponsorship from SCDD.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL/OBJECTIVE: Goal 3.2-The Council will engage in 100 projects and events in the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety, and emerging issues, reaching 25,000 people (family/self advocates/others) with information and resources to enhance their knowledge and increase their capacity to obtain supports and services that are important to them.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTIVITY: Since the beginning of FY 2022-23 the Council has awarded \$2,400 in funds for sponsorship requests. The Council allocates \$25,000 per fiscal year for sponsorships. The fiscal year began July 1, 2022.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve Special Needs Network, Inc.'s request for sponsorship.

ATTACHMENTS(S): The Special Needs Network, Inc.'s request for sponsorship.

PREPARED: Kristie Allensworth October 12, 2022

Special Needs Network, Inc.
**California's Go-To Organization for Autism, Special Needs, Advocacy
and Standing Up For Under Served Communities**

Sponsorship Request Application
Stepping Stones Parent Advocacy Mentor Training

4401 Crenshaw Boulevard Suite 215

Los Angeles, CA 90043

Juan Carlos Garcia

Associate Vice President – Operations

JCGarcia@snnla.org

Date: October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2022

Location: Virtual - Zoom

Impact:

This program is a virtual conversion of our 8-week 25-hour signature intensive training program. At the onset of COVID-19, we were in the midst of preparation for our 25th cycle of this in-person training and, within a 30-day period, we developed a 4-session, 8 hour virtual training program formulated around our core educational goals for families of individuals with developmental disabilities. The flexibility of this training model has included past programs for military families to our current focus on Early Start/Early Intervention for birth to 5 years. The virtual model has exponentially expanded out outreach to areas beyond Los Angeles in California and even other states as well as out-of-country (Nigeria, Canada). Although the target audience is African American and Hispanic families, which make up 95% of the participants, the training is open to all at no cost.

Some graduate outcomes include (4) non-profits started, multiple parent-support groups, and a pipeline of empowered advocates who can better advocate for their loved ones as well as serve as mentors in educational and regional center service access. This programming helps connect parents/caregivers to networks for social support and community engagement by volunteering at our key events.

Our program:

- Brings effective, culturally competent professionals to bring understanding and empowerment to caregivers
- Focuses on connecting the most vulnerable, underserved minority populations to high-quality services
- Forges an action-based coalition of empowered advocates to work with policy-makers on systems change.

Budget

- 500 Document Translation
- 1,000 Outreach – Paper media and community drops
- 2,000 Speaker Fees (4)
- 1,300 Translators – 4 sessions
- _____
- 4,800 Total

Amount Requested: \$1,500 (to cover 4 sessions) No prior SCDD sponsorships applied for or received

SCDD Funding would be used toward Outreach and curriculum document translations in addition to live translation during the training session

October 18, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Special Need Network (SNN) Parent Advocacy Mentor (PAM) Training Program

My name is Cheryl Green. I am a single mom of my beautiful young adult daughter Irene, who is 23- years old and has autism. Connecting with Special Needs Network through the PAM program has been extremely valuable in my effectiveness in attaining the necessary services and supports for her, both with the regional center and the educational system. Irene has been affiliated with SNN youth programs since the age of 5 years old. When I attended the PAM training, it was a certified intensive 18-week, 25-hour training which not only broadened my advocacy skills for my daughter but created a network of lifelong friendships and services for myself as her caregiver and for her. Irene graduated high school where she was a gold medalist sprinter and the first girl with autism to be recruited and selected to the varsity cheer team. Because of SNN'S support, Irene attends Jazz Hands for Autism Music Academy, a vocational, job-readiness training, and job placement program for student musicians with autism. After several years of attending the summer Camp JPAC, my daughter was able to gain work experience and further strengthen her independence and social skills as a Junior Camp Counselor. Using the tools that I have learned from Areva Martin and SNN, I have been able to get Irene cutting edge therapies and the help she needs at no cost to me. Irene, once a shy, reserved kid who struggled to give eye contact, follow simple instructions, and even tie her shoes, through CAMP JPAC and other SNN programs, is now blossoming into a confident young adult. We have been able to share our story, and give hope to family's beginning their journey, at several of SNN's fundraising events. I am most proud to have found someone in my neighborhood that looks like me, was experiencing what I was, and cared about building a community-based support for our families where high-quality developmental disability specialists and services are so sparse. Areva Martin and the Special Needs Network also helped me to raise awareness in the faith-based circle by hosting Autism-Awareness Sundays at my church which reaches thousands of community members.

We whole-heartedly support the continuance of the PAM program which has now surpassed twenty-five cycles of training cohorts of BIPOC parents and caregivers who are hungry for education and support to better advocate and serve their loved ones. On this lifelong journey, we are always happy to support the work of SNN in closing the gap on systemic barriers which I and many of our other parent's face. In closing, SNN has helped me dream big for Irene and taught me that although she will always have autism, there is nothing she cannot accomplish with the proper support, love and a community that embraces her and all the things that make her unique.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Green

Los Angeles

PAM Grad Cycle 5 / Year: 2012