



Category for which you wish to apply : ***Disabilities Services-*** Agencies are invited to submit programs designed to support persons with disabilities to access opportunities and build skills to become active members of their communities. Programs may include socialization or life skills programming, employment training, or programs that enable individuals of all abilities to access and become involved with community resources and programs (including schools, synagogues, and social groups).

Agency name and community: ***Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties Somerville, NJ***

Agency Budget: ***\$646,540***

Contact information for the point person on the submission: ***Jerry Starr, LCSW 150-A West High Street, Somerville, NJ 07677 908 725-7799 jestarr@jewishfamilysvc.org***

Staff listing by title (of staff involved in program)

- Manager, Community Based Support Services
- Special Needs Program Coordinator
- Social Learning Group Facilitator
- Young Adult Social Club Facilitator
- Career Counselor
- MSW intern

200-word program summary (addressing the criteria listed above)

Expanding Horizons is a special needs program initiated by JFSofSHW in 2015, building on previous experiences with special needs populations. The program, which received an AFJCA grant for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, enabled the hiring of a Special Needs Program Coordinator. Through this role, the program has doubled its Social Learning groups for children on the Autism Spectrum by offering two groups per week for two different age ranges, re-established a parent support component, offered a sibling support group, and initiated consultation services to area synagogue and JCC preschools. An additional component serves young adults with disabilities bringing them together for socialization and recreational opportunities. Services of the JFS Career Counselor are also available to assist these young adults ranging in age from 18-35. Building on the credibility established, the JCC has requested ongoing consultation to assist with integration and management of children with special needs into the regular pre-k classroom. It has garnered the respect of a local, state funded agency that serves the special needs population and they have requested replication of the Social Learning Group Component in an underserved county in both our and their catchment areas. They have offered to support this program with partial funding.

Total program cost if applicable and funding sources: \$73,885. Sources of funding: Client fees, AFJCA Grant, Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation matching gift, Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties; Nancy and Arthur Lee Special Needs Fund, third party reimbursement.

A pdf file or link pertaining to the program or as part of the strategy

List of 3 major outcomes and evaluation method(s) used to determine those outcomes

- Increase by 50% the number of children/youth with disabilities served by the Program (measured by attendance records, consultation records)
- Establish ongoing consulting relationships with at least two organizations serving children with special needs (measured by ongoing documentation)
- 85% of those served will demonstrate satisfaction with JFS services
- 60% of identified target population served will demonstrate improvement in social skills/classroom or group behaviors