



Impact100 Westchester Core Mission Grant Report: Sustaining Safe Residential Living for Persons with Disabilities During COVID-19

Cerebral Palsy of Westchester: Core Mission Grant Use

Impact100 Westchester’s generous Core Mission Grant of \$24,500, received June 3, 2020, was used to offset the following unbudgeted expenditures with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic:

EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Overtime Labor Costs (average \$2,000 per week for five houses x 28 weeks) June-December	\$120,000	\$280,000
Quarantine Labor Costs for staff that lived-in with quarantining residents - (3) x 14 days	-	\$22,000
Additional Food and household supplies delivered to each residence (\$200 per residence X five houses X 12 weeks, \$100 per residence X two apartments X 12 weeks)	\$14,400	\$14,400
Professional sanitation of all residential facilities	\$10,000	\$15,600
Staff transportation costs	\$6,000	-
Technology Upgrades to allow for virtual communication and delivery of virtual programming to residencies	-	\$8,700
Protective gear and cleaning products - 5 residential houses and 2 apartments	\$3,600	\$10,793
Overhead - 7%		\$23,500
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$154,000</u>	<u>\$374,993</u>

Grant Need and Beneficiaries

CPW’s most significant challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic has been in operating our seven residences for adults with disabilities.

Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) operates seven residential communities serving 52 medically fragile adults with developmental disabilities – five group homes and two supported apartments. CPW’s residence community residents are men and women, ages 21-90. Two of the group homes are located in New Rochelle, two in White Plains, and one in Rye Brook. Our two supported apartments are in White Plains. Each of these sites provides quality care and support tailored to the needs of the residents, helping them to develop their own skills that lessen dependence and promote self-esteem, value, and self-worth.

Given the compromised immune systems of our residents, COVID-19 could be devastating to our population. CPW works to have four staff members rotating in each home, to ensure that residents’ needs are met and that now, more than ever, they remain safe. However, at the

beginning of the pandemic, many CPW staff members were concerned about coming to work at the group homes, either due to vulnerable family members or concerns about taking public transportation. As a result, CPW's residences risked being perilously understaffed. CPW addressed staffing concerns by increasing the length of work shifts, providing hazard pay incentives, providing transportation for staff members who needed it, and providing special arrangements with staff who quarantined along with isolating residential individuals.

We have also taken major precautions to keep the homes sanitized and safe. Our residences are cleaned daily. Staff members are tested for temperatures before their shifts begin, answer daily health questions, and they wear protective gear which we have been able to secure and provide. We have also had food and supplies delivered daily, as staff members are currently unable to leave the premises to shop.

During this unprecedented time, our residents and staff were forced to quickly adapt to online recreation and alternative means of communication with resident's families. This increased the usage of technology in our programs – and along with that a demand for electronic tablets. We quickly learned that electronic tablets simplified online experiences and allowed for easy Zoom access for communication and remote therapy, recreational, fitness, and arts programs. CPW purchased numerous tablets to each of our residencies, along with protective and adaptive cases and appropriate software and apps. Our IT staff continues to aid with remote training and support. The tablets are used by CPW residents and staff daily.

Impact100 Westchester Grant Impact

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the loss of revenue from fee-for-service programming, and the resulting necessary (but unbudgeted) expenditures, *CPW's budget was stretched very thin*. Impact100 Westchester's generosity, however, helped provide the resources to enable us to attain the following positive outcomes:

- The residence communities have remained fully staffed at all times;
- Staff who lacked their own vehicles received safe transportation support to get to and from work;
- Residences have had sufficient healthy food and supplies;
- Staff have had sufficient protective gear, including masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer;
- Residences continue to be sanitized frequently to minimize the risk of infection;
- Residences were provided with additional and enhanced technology and support to aid in remote communication and virtual services; and
- Those living at the residences have been made to feel secure amidst the stresses of the pandemic.

CPW thanks Impact100 Westchester for its generous Core Mission Grant and for your support in serving our medically-fragile residents with disabilities during these unprecedented times.