



EASTON ROTARY SERVICE FOUNDATION

Rotary Club of Easton
Easton, Pennsylvania

2886 Hope Ridge Drive, Easton, PA 18045-8144

GRANT APPLICATION

Organization Name Via of the Lehigh Valley

Address 336 West Spruce St.

City Bethlehem State PA Zip 18018

Phone 610-317-8000 Fax 610-867-5385

Email m.grasso@vianet.org

Contact Person Michele Grasso Title VP, Development & Communications

Project Director Chelsea Reiter Title Director of Community and Adult Training

Project Title Community Connections Services for Easton Residents with Disabilities

Grant Period Fiscal Year 22-23

Total Cost of Project \$1,887,562 Amount Requested \$2,500

Does this project involve collaboration with another organization? No

If so, which organization? _____

Signature of Approving Agency Personnel *Michele Grasso* Date March 6, 2023

Name of Approving Agency Personnel Michele Grasso Title VP, Development & Communications



**Grant Request from Via of the Lehigh Valley to
Easton Rotary Service Foundation
Community Connections Services for Easton Residents with Disabilities
March 7, 2023**

Brief Description of the Organization

Via of the Lehigh Valley is a non-profit agency that provides services for children and adults with disabilities like autism, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome. Via's mission is to help people reach their full potential through a rewarding career, meaningful relationships, and an enriching community life. Via creates pathways to success through vocation, inclusion, and advocacy.

Summary of the Proposal

It is essential for people with disabilities to be part of the communities in which they live. Through Community Connections, Via helps people gain access to different volunteer, educational, and recreation opportunities – and helps them learn how to access them independently. Individuals explore interests and learn preferences while working on vocational, socialization, and communication skills.

Project Description

Program Need and Population Served:

All people, regardless of abilities, should have access to, choice of, and an opportunity to participate in a full range of community activities. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have limited cognitive capacities and adaptive behaviors for participating in activities of daily living on their own. They exhibit less community participation, fewer social relationships, and lower leisure and employment participation.

Despite their limitations, individuals with IDD have the capacity to participate in a range of community activities when provided the opportunity and appropriate supports. When individuals with IDD participate and live in the community, the benefits include greater community, civic, and social participation that enhances their physical, mental, and social wellbeing.

Disability inclusion means understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everybody has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires.

Program Description, Goals, and Measurable Outcomes:



Via's Community Connections program provides the supports that individuals with IDD need so they can access and participate in their communities outside of employment as part of a meaningful day. Community Connections activities include volunteering; participating in postsecondary, adult, or continuing education; accessing community facilities such as a local library, gym, or recreation center; participating in retirement or senior pastimes; and engaging in any other activities that people with and without disabilities do in their off-work time. Such activities may support career exploration for those not yet working or between jobs, supplement employment hours for those who are working part-time, or serve as a retirement option. Community Connections promotes healthy attitudes and practices among people with disabilities.

Community Connections services and supports are individualized to the interests of the individual, promote community membership and contribution, build the individual's skills and social connections, and are based on the individual's goals. Via is committed to fostering community integration for individuals with IDD to help them meet their full potential. Our staff help individuals gain life skills, develop friendships, and learn how to take advantage of all the community has to offer. Via also advocates for inclusion and equal access to community activities.

This service is provided in home and community settings and addresses social determinants of health that influence health equity. It includes support in the areas of self-care, nutrition, access to wellness activities including physical and mental fitness activities, communication, fine and gross motor skills, mobility, personal adjustment, relationship development, socialization, and use of community resources including accessing health care providers.

This service is offered in small groups or one-to-one. Small group participants meet at a hub location close to their homes and then are transported by Via staff to activities in the community. In Via's one-to-one service, staff provide transportation from the individual's home to activities and then back to their home. These services are developed for the individual based on their needs and interests.

Via helps people discover and identify their preferences and choose community activities in which they can participate as independently as possible. These experiences facilitate interpersonal relationships and allow people to explore vocational options. Via staff coach people on vocational skills, volunteerism, public transportation, socialization, communication skills, and recreation.

Participants and their families/caregivers and their Individual Support Team, including Via staff, develop Individual Support Plans (ISP) through a Person-Centered Planning Process. The ISP includes information about each participant's personal preferences, dreams and wishes, medical history/current medical concerns, and communication preferences. Included in each person's



ISP are goals related to nutrition, behavioral health, exercise and wellness activities, and socialization.

The ISP is a living document and is revised if there has been no progress on an outcome, if an outcome is no longer appropriate, or if an outcome needs to be added. Participants and their families/caregivers and their Individual Support Team, including Via staff, meet at least once a year. Via also surveys families and participants to determine how satisfied they are with services, what changes they would like to see, and whether a new service would be something Via should undertake.

Community Connections offers:

- Individualized volunteer opportunities at local organizations
- Life skills development
- Recreational activities tailored to individual preferences
- Opportunities to participate in continuing education and enrichment courses
- Independent living opportunities through supported living in the community
- Health promotion and prevention activities including programs that promote physical activity, improve nutrition, and general health

This is an ongoing program that is offered five days a week during normal business hours as well as on weekends and in the evening depending upon a participant's ISP.

Budget:

The total cost to provide this service is \$1,887,562. Revenue of \$1,611,368 comes from Lehigh and Northampton counties, managed care organizations, other counties, and United Way designations. In addition, we recently received a grant of \$10,000 from Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation for participants who live in Northampton County and are over the age of 50.

We ask for donations and grants to fund the \$276,194 gap between expected revenue and expenses.

Currently, 97 individuals are being served by this service, with 17 living in Easton (18% of total participants). The cost to provide Community Connections services to Easton residents is \$339,761.

The budget for this service is included with grant request attachments.

**Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc
Community Connections**

REVENUES	2022 - 2023 Budget
Lehigh County - Base	18,842
Lehigh County - Waiver	826,269
Northampton County - Base	9,614
Northampton County - Waiver	709,347
Other Counties	18,944
United Way Designations	20,000
Managed Care Organizations	8,352
Total Revenues	1,611,368

EXPENSES	
Wages	1,170,799
FICA / Medicare	89,566
Worker's Compensation	7,165
Medical Insurance	139,126
GTL / AD&D Insurance	7,533
Immunization	1,665
Purchased Personnel Services	5,602
Program Supplies	750
Activity Fees	1,010
Office Supplies	662
Computer Consultant	3,885
Telephone	6,160
Postage	47
Occupancy	4,457
Equipment Repairs	4,522
Gasoline / Oil	44,045
Vehicle Repairs	11,147
Auto Insurance	13,589
Auto Licenses / Registration	1,103
Staff Mileage	49,337
Auto Rental	31,551
Staff Development	2,786
Recruitment	8,271
Depreciation	67,111
Miscellaneous	3,892
Administrative Allocation	211,782
Total Expenses	1,887,562

Net Excess (Deficiency)	(276,194)
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Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. Board of Directors

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Sharon Geroulo
Jeremy Sestito

Chair, Community Advocate
Vice-Chair, Truist
Treasurer, Victaulic

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Nakia Flowers
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Katie Jeanes
Michael Keller
Andrew Krohn

BSI Corporate Benefits
Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.
Buckno Lisicky & Company
Securitas Security USA
Barry Isett & Associates
Bangor Area High School

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: OCT 29 1991

Employer Identification Number:
23-1457999

DLN:
17053242955007

VIA OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY INC
336 W SPRUCE ST
BETHLEHEM, PA 18018-3739

Contact Person:
D. A. DOWNING
Contact Telephone Number:
(513) 241-5199

Date of Exemption:
August, 1973

Internal Revenue Code
Section 501(c)(3)

Dear Applicant:

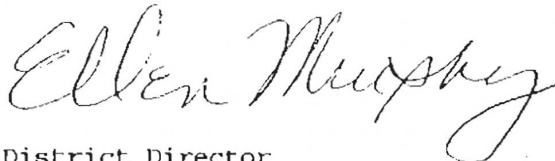
Thank you for submitting the information shown on the enclosure. We have made it a part of your file.

The changes indicated do not adversely affect your exempt status and the exemption letter issued to you continues in effect.

Please let us know about any future change in the character, purpose, method of operation, name or address of your organization. This is a requirement for retaining your exempt status.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



District Director

VIA OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY INC

Item Changed

From

To

The merger on December 31, 1996 between the organization and United Cerebral Palsy of Lehigh Valley with you being the survivor and United Cerebral Palsy of Lehigh Valley terminating does not effect your exempt status under Section 501(c)(3).