

2. PURPOSE OF GRANT

PROPOSED PROJECT

To purchase, implement and further develop an MIS-supported, context-rich, dynamic outcomes tracking system for Privacy1 Center — a demonstration project.

The first goal of the requested funding is to purchase and deploy an automated tracking and information management program to monitor student learning outcomes and Privacy1 Center success. Privacy1 Center will utilize the computer application, R/Client, developed and distributed by SymServe of Bethel Park, PA. Privacy1 Center's Executive Director has had successful experience with this software package which can be made easily available via network to all families, faculty, providers and other stakeholders to monitor, evaluate and determine the learning outcomes for each child. This data set will allow for ongoing evaluation of the success rate of each program and service, and can provide administrators and financial supporters with essential information for decision-making. The new *Individualized Educational Plan, Individualized Family Service Plan, and Faculty Notes* forms and procedures developed at Privacy1 Center (mentioned above in the "Accomplishments and Highlights of the past 12 months" section) are currently all paper and template driven, and will benefit greatly from computerization.

Establishing a fully functioning computer software system is essential to developing the necessary expertise in measuring, tracking and evaluating the outcomes of Privacy1 Center's programs. A further goal is to develop a "routine electronic information documentation culture" among the teaching staff at Privacy1 Center as they work closely with the children and their families. Having sufficient computing equipment, network hardware, software, and support is the precursor to utilizing and further developing the specialized software described for managing Privacy1 Center's services and administration.

\$119,742 are budgeted to establish, develop and maintain the systems described over a two year period. Reference the project budget herein for system specifications, and Attachments that provide details regarding R/Client software.

This computing solution is labeled as a demonstration project. Other educators who specialize in providing auditory oral education to children with hearing impairments have expressed great interest in Privacy1 MIS-Outcomes project. Over forty "Option" schools (reference "Option International" in **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS** section below) are very likely candidates for implementation of the model. Of this group, six schools have expressed direct interest in mirroring the program at their earliest opportunity after Privacy1 Center has successfully deployed. One school, Privcay2 School of New York is likely to follow immediately in Privacy1 Center's footsteps.

Funding of Privacy1 Center's MIS-Outcomes program will be leveraged in the deaf and hard of hearing community through fundraising efforts, shared development and

implementation by these other organizations, and the national potential reaches well beyond this single group.

NEED

“Stakeholders” in Privacy1 Center’s students’ special education are diverse, ranging from families, educational staff, medical and psychological therapists to social service agencies and their myriad of collaborators. Simultaneously facilitating special and standard educational development is a complex matter, and one of the primary functions of Privacy1 Center’s proposed MIS-Outcomes project is to manage the process while providing easily accessible and interpretive data on each child’s progress, ideally allowing for up to date, comprehensive information for making critical decisions about each child’s prognosis and progress. A user-friendly, computerized tracking system of instructional and developmental outcomes for children with hearing impairments and their families can answer these needs.

Currently, Privacy1 Center has a paper system of student record management. There is a wealth of field information that is often lost on hand-written charts that make information organization, analysis, and sharing difficult. During this school year, the Privacy1 Center developed and implemented a systematic method of documenting service plan goals and objectives as well as *Faculty Notes* (see section on “Accomplishments in the past 12 months” above). Most of the faculty members have begun their documentation electronically using a Microsoft Word template. Rich patterns of strategies and issues identification and resolution are already evident in these evolving documents. It is clear that this data can be utilized to further the knowledge of the field.

Computerizing student, faculty, and Privacy1 Center goals and objectives will enable tracking, and therefore allow...

- (1.) ...evaluation of the degree to which these goals and objectives are attained;
- (2.) ...specific progress measurement;
- (3.) ...a perspective beyond the details. Computerization enables pattern recognition, and informed solution sharing. The knowledge, experiences, and intuitions of each stakeholder will be captured and shared. There is a richness of strategies and processes that teaching staff creatively apply on a daily basis, and systematically capturing these approaches will benefit the field.
- (4.) ...understanding of how these goals and objectives are attained. What works — what doesn’t? What are reasonable time lines for success? How do goals and objectives change over time for each individual child as well as for the group? This information, in aggregate format, can then be shared with stakeholders and used to advocate for families and children.

The ease of sharing this complex set of information, which is used to make life-impacting decisions as to each student’s development, is critical, and computerization is central to assuring comprehensive access. To the best knowledge of this organization, there is no comparable existing, vertically integrated, computing

package that addresses the complex and unique issues faced by Privacy1 Center and other schools serving deaf and hard of hearing infants and children.

TARGET POPULATION

Initially, the proposed project will directly input the student population of Privacy1 Center San Diego and its student body of twenty-one students. It is anticipated that the Privacy2 School of New York (P2NY) will follow Privacy1 Center's solution deployment with their own program utilizing the same customized forms and reports in a matter of weeks. P2NY's student population is the largest of similar Option Schools at approximately 135 students. The other five of the Option Schools that have already expressed interest in utilizing Privacy1 Center's MIS-Outcomes model represent approximately 300 students who could benefit in the near term. Next up will be the rest of the 45 Option schools with a collective student body of somewhat less than 2,000 students who could benefit from Privacy1 Center's program development in a relatively close time frame. Beyond these schools with demonstrated interest in the project is the greater population of hearing impaired children.

There are only six oral education schools in California. Six to thirty infants out of a thousand live births arrive with some hearing impairment. Hearing loss is recognized as the #1 newborn disability in the United States, yet thousands continue to be unidentified.

The 2000 census accounted for 198,621 children between the ages of newborn to five in San Diego. With estimates of hearing impairment ranging from six tenths of one percent (0.6%) to three percent (3.0%), it is calculated that 1,200 – 6,000 of these San Diego children have some level of hearing impairment and would benefit by receiving audiologic services.

There are some 530,000 live births annually in California, and its Newborns Hearing Screening program, intended to cover 100% of the state's newborns, is instead successfully screening 37%, or 201,000 of these babies. Only 1,100 of these children are actually referred for services, and only 900 of those children are successfully evaluated – 0.17%.

Better screening will lead to increasing demand for services. A significant number of infants, toddlers and children need services similar to what Privacy1 Center provides, and that number will increase. Children are referred to Privacy1 Center by school districts, early intervention programs, health and human services providers, as well as family and friends.