

## **PROGRAM APPLICATION**

**2010-2011 Grant Process**

### **SECTION 2**

**(If you are seeking funding for more than one program, complete a separate program application for each)**

**Program Name\_The Growing Place Special Needs Program**

Address (Program Location) Families of children attending our Working Parent Program at all locations

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**Name the targeted community concern addressed through this program (i.e. youth delinquency)**  
Helping Children Succeed

**Provide a brief written summary of the program seeking funding in 2010-11**

The Growing Place Special Needs program assists families of children who may have undiagnosed special needs. Early care and education programs are the first school environment that children are exposed to at a young age. When young children are in group settings it becomes quickly evident that a child may have a special need. This program provides additional staff support needed while The Growing Place and the family traverse a path to assist their child. The behavior of a child with an undiagnosed special need may compromise the needs of the other children in the program due to the attention needed for the one child. The Special Needs program provides additional staff support to allow children to remain in a high quality early care and education setting. Families then are able to make appointments with developmental pediatricians and other specialists that will evaluate the child and assist the family. Due to the shortage of developmental pediatricians families are waiting between 6 to 12 months to get appointments. Once a child has been diagnosed and the proper paperwork has been filed the family would be entitled to Provider 50 services which may include a therapeutic support staff member paid insurance companies to assist the child with part or all of their day. When this would happen the support staff that United Way has been assisting through The Growing Place would move to another student in need. There are also school age children who have teacher aid assistance during the school day who may come to The Growing Place before and after school and

need support that would not be provided by any other agency. This child would not be able to attend without the extra support provided through United Way. Then the family may be unable to work which would cause great financial distress.

**What is the target population(s)? Give supporting demographic need information and source.**

The children who attend The Growing Place from toddlers through school age are able to access this program on a temporary basis or until outside agencies would provide individualized instruction. The Growing Place has over 400 children enrolled in all of our programs. Due to the amount of United Way funding no more than 12 children would be able to be assisted in one year. The children that are currently being assisted through this program have special needs such as Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Autism Spectrum, Attention Deficit Disorder and some children with physical disabilities such as strokes at birth which affects mobility.

**Describe how the program improves the lives of the targeted population**

There has been a substantial increase in the number of children who exhibit behavioral, developmental or physical issues that need to be addressed by professionals. With this increase, early care and education centers are challenged to serve all children without compromising the integrity of their programs. Many centers are forced to ask families to leave or refuse services to children whose behaviors require one staff member be assigned only to that child.

This year we have found an interesting development in young Kindergarten age boys specifically. There is a great deal of stress induced behaviors being presented prior to the boys going to their afternoon session of Kindergarten. Many of the boys are having tantrums, refusing to leave on the required uniforms needed to be worn to school and also refusing to get on the bus to go to school. Although we already have three staff members in a class of 17 at times it takes more to ensure that there is a smooth transition to public school. The pressure that is being placed on these young children is resulting in stress induced defiant behavior. Several of these families in the special needs program through United Way but did not or were not able to get appointments with a developmental pediatrician prior to the start of this school year. These young boys need a large amount of individualized attention to assist them in managing their day. Although The Growing Place is inclusive of all children with special needs the financial burden is extremely difficult. Through the use of the Special Needs program The Growing Place has more options to assist children and their families while ensuring that every child in our program receives the attention and quality program they deserve.

Complete Program Outcome Worksheet (attach using UWMC template)

Complete Program Financial Form (attach using UWMC template)