



Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 9, 2018

Contact: Jenny Neugart, Project Coordinator, Jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov, (608) 266-7707

Padres e Hijos en Accion Awarded 2018 Sparks Grant

Madison, Wisconsin - The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) has awarded a 2018-19 Sparks grant to Padres e Hijos en Accion in Madison, WI.

The Padres e Hijos en Acción organization aims to offer activities in Spanish to allow children and their family members the opportunity to enhance their quality of life by fully participating in the larger community. Activities include cooking, gardening, biking, jumping (in a trampoline park) and climbing. These activities are essential for children with disabilities as they help develop social skills, communication skills, independent skills, and gross motor skills. Participants will also have access to literacy activities and family members will receive information on advocating for their child(ren) and disability service resources. Padres e Hijos en Acción serves over 50 kids with special needs in Dane County.

The purpose of SPARKS Grants is to organize local grassroots groups that identify and make changes in their communities that result in a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities. SPARKS Grants are funded by the BPDD and are available to people with developmental disabilities and family members in Wisconsin.

"BPDD's SPARKS grants ignite creative ideas that come straight from people with disabilities, their families and allies," said Beth Swedeen, BPDD Executive Director. "People know their own local communities and have great ideas on how to improve them. SPARKS grants provide the seed money and training to create real local changes that allow people with disabilities to more readily contribute to their communities."

BPDD has awarded Sparks grants to 5 other organizations throughout the state, including two projects focused on transportation, a Hispanic group working with youth with disabilities on gross motor activities and a group connecting underserved families to disability.

Past BPDD SPARKS grants have included a public awareness effort to build an inclusive playground, development of accessible community gardens, voting projects, and organizing civic groups that intentionally involve people with disabilities.

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities is charged under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities.

General information on BPDD's SPARKS grant program can be found at <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/sparks-grants/>