

# ACA, Ohio Grant Program Application

Camp Oty'Okwa

Address: 24799 Purcell Rd.

South Bloomingville, OH 43152

Contact: Rachel Gratz, Life Skills Director

rgratz@bbbscentralohio.org

614-625-8244

Camp ACA #: 1002

## Project Title and Explanation

### Life Skills Education Camp

Camp Oty'Okwa has recently begun a program focused on teaching life skills to underserved youth within the state of Ohio with the goal of helping them gain skills for living independently as an adult. Thus far, the program has focused on teenage youth currently in the foster care system but the program is expanding significantly to serve youth in a variety of other situations, including those who have experienced trauma, have been exposed to crime, or have "aged-out" of our traditional camp program. The Life Skills Camp program will consist of residential weekend camps throughout the school year and week-long camps throughout the summer in which youth will be able to attend camp and participate in workshops about various life skills-related topics. An example camp weekend may include workshops on communicating appropriately, sewing, setting goals, basic car maintenance, cooking, creating a budget, healthy relationships, and a nature hike. Ongoing positive involvement with youth is beneficial for their long-term development and skill-building, so the same campers may return multiple times throughout the year and workshops will be developed to build upon previously-learned skills.

Life Skills campers are housed in a building that is equipped with a kitchen, so they are responsible for preparing their own meals as a group and cleaning up afterward, in addition to participating in the scheduled life skills workshops. Life Skills Camp will utilize camp counselors to provide oversight for the campers while attending camp and attending the life skills workshops, and each workshop will be taught by the Life Skills Director, camp counselors, or other guest educators from the community.

As a new program at Camp Oty'Okwa, funding has already been secured from the Ohio Attorney General's Office for a full-time Life Skills Director and other portions of the camp experience, including meals and lodging. However, there are a significant amount of supplies that will be essential to be able to provide the wide array of workshops and educational opportunities that are intended. Camp Oty'Okwa is requesting funding from this ACA grant to purchase supplies that can be utilized throughout the program, particularly related to teaching sewing, basic tool usage/home repairs, financial management, and cooking, along with linens for the campers to use while attending each session.

## Purpose

Many youth in the foster care system will emancipate from custody as an adult with minimal familial or other support and may lack the skills to be able to succeed on their own. The goal of this program is to enhance their learning to have the skills to be able to meet their own needs and be self-sufficient in the community as an adult. The program aims to expand its reach and serve youth not only in the foster care system, but any youth who have been the victim of crime, trauma, or other negative life circumstances that may adversely impact their education or development of skills for living independently. Most schools no longer provide “home ec” or “shop” class, but those skills are essential to be able to live independently in a cost-effective way. Some schools no longer have full-time counselors, so there is no venue for youth to learn about healthy relationships, problem-solving, or even how to communicate professionally and in-person with others in our tech-based society.

Youth who have experienced adverse life circumstances often never have the opportunity to attend camp and have possibly never been in the woods or in a natural setting, so attending camp provides a completely new environment and challenges them to expand their knowledge and grow outside of their comfort zone. This program aims to create a learning environment that will help minimize the gap between the youth we serve and those who have not experienced the same negative life experiences and promote the skills for healthy and self-sufficient lifestyles as they reach adulthood.

Life Skills camp is an exciting addition to Camp Oty’Okwa’s previously offered camp options and targets youth who might otherwise not continue attending camp. Life Skills camp will provide additional opportunities to the youth who have “grown up” at camp and have already experienced much of what the traditional camp program can offer. It will re-engage those youth who are venturing closer toward adulthood and looking for a new experience, while instilling the confidence and competence to be able to live independently as an adult.

## Budget

For the Life Skills Camp program, much of the necessary funding has been secured through the Ohio Attorney General’s Office to provide the staffing, lodging, and meals for campers. Camp Oty’Okwa is requesting \$2,500 from ACA, Ohio to be utilized in the following ways:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost each</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
<b>Sewing supplies:</b>			
Sewing machine & carrying case	\$100	3	\$300
Fabric/buttons/sewing supplies	varies		\$150
<b>Cooking supplies:</b>			
Pots & Pans set & utensils	\$100	2	\$200
Glass baking pans – set of 3	\$20	2	\$40
Muffin/cupcake pans	\$5	2	\$10
Knife & cutting board set	\$10	6	\$60
Mixing bowl sets	\$5	3	\$15
Hand mixer	\$15	1	\$15
Griddle	\$25	2	\$50
Crock Pot	\$30	2	\$60

Oven mitts/towels/dishrags	\$1	15	\$15
Food storage containers set	\$10	2	\$20
Storage containers/totes	\$8	10	\$80
<b>Supplies to build enclosed shelves with youth for storage of supplies &amp; tools for other woodworking projects:</b>			
Wood/hardware for shelves – 2 sets	\$110	2	\$220
Hammers	\$10	10	\$100
Screwdriver set	\$15	2	\$30
Tape measures	\$5	4	\$20
Sandpaper	\$10	2	\$20
Cordless circular saw	\$70	1	\$70
Cordless drill	\$50	2	\$100
<b>Financial management supplies:</b>			
Basic calculators – for budgeting	\$10	10	\$100
Play money set	\$10	2	\$20
Notebooks	\$1	150	\$150
2'x3' dry erase board & markers	\$30	1	\$30
<b>Linens to use while at camp:</b>			
Sleeping bags	\$30	20	\$500
Towel & washcloth	\$5	25	\$125
		<b>Total Cost:</b>	\$2,500

If the entire grant amount is not awarded, it would minimize the program's ability to purchase supplies for the life skills workshops. Life Skills Camp would still take place, but certain workshops may have to be adjusted or eliminated to accommodate for a lack of supplies to properly facilitate those workshops.

#### Time Framework

Life Skills camp is a new full-time, year-round camp program at Camp Oty'Okwa. The supplies identified in this grant would be purchased by early June, in time for the summer camp sessions to fully utilize them and be able to provide a wide array of workshop options. The supplies will continue to be used throughout the year and subsequent years as the program is on-going.