

Sheridan County

APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL TAX FUNDS

FISCAL YEARS 2011 TO 2015
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Rehabilitation Enterprises of North Eastern Wyoming Phone: (307) 672-7481

CONTACT PERSON: Jeff Foster ADDRESS: 1969 S. Sheridan Ave. Sheridan, WY 82801

AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: \$30,000 AMOUNT APPROVED: _____

TAX STATUS: 501 (c) (3) FEDERAL ID NO: 83-0215226 EMAIL: jfooster@renew-wyo.com

DESCRIBE THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION:

We are a diverse, community-based non-profit organization providing services for adults and children with developmental disabilities including Case Management, Evaluation, Community Living, Vocational Evaluation, and referral.
Mission: Empower Persons With disabilities and Their Families to Live, Love, Learn, Work and Play.

DESSCRIBE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTION PROCESS:

The RENEW Board of Directors are dedicated volunteers who guide the operation and growth. The Chairman, with the advice and consent of the Board, shall appoint at least three (3) Board members to a nominating committee. Board members are invited to submit names of individuals interested in serving on the Board to the Nominations Chairman. The nominations committee shall submit a list of individuals willing to serve on the board to all Board Members. Election of Board members and Officers shall be by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board.

NO OF BOARD MEMBERS: Nine TERM: Three Years

LIST NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS: MIA J. MIKESELL – Chairman (Sheridan)
MARK PIXLEY- Vice Chairman (Sheridan)
CAROLYN HOLSO – Secretary (Upton)
DONNA BOMBECK – Treasurer (Newcastle)
COLLEEN OSBORNE (Gillette)
RENEE NACK (Newcastle)
HOPE BILLINGSLEY (Gillette)
LYNN VARS (Sheridan)
LARRY W. SAMSON (Sheridan)

BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTING FUNDS (Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate the reason County, rather than City, Optional One Cent Sales tax funds are appropriate; if possible, estimate the number of citizens that will benefit):

Our services are comprehensive. RENEW is a one-stop agency for persons with disabilities. Whether an individual needs job training, job placement, speech therapy, nursing, medication management, a place to live, advice on assistive technology, among others; RENEW can deliver the service.

We serve all ages, from infants to senior citizens. RENEW provides services to families with children with developmental disabilities and offer job and life-skills training to adults.

Our services are all day, every day. The work doesn't stop after 5:00 p.m. RENEW residences are staffed everyday of the year, twenty four hours a day. Key staff is scheduled for on-call emergency services at any time. Our staff arranges doctor's appointments, vacations, and emergency shelter, as everyday occurrences. The staff are advocates for people with disabilities every day of the year.

RENEW is a grassroots locally founded organization. RENEW was founded by parents of young adults with developmental disabilities who wanted to provide employment opportunities for them. RENEW remains today a community based organization, with no regional or national affiliations, to assist us. RENEW services continue to be tailored to the identified needs of each community we serve.

Current RENEW Programs:

Residential Services. *RENEW provides housing and life-skills training in 6 group homes, and 1 apartment complex, in the Sheridan community.*

Day habilitation service *and activities for people with moderate to severe disabilities are procured at our Service Center.*

Employment services *enable clients to pursue employment in the community where they may go to work on their own, or they may have employment support with staff that accompany them and assist with on-the-job-training. Those unable to work in the community often have work options at RENEW. Clients are employed in food service, janitorial, shredding and as courtesy clerks at grocery stores.*

Skilled nursing. *RENEW employs a registered nurse that delivers specific services to individuals with developmental and other disabilities. These services are provided in our group homes, our services centers, and in private homes in the communities.*

Transportation. RENEW provides transportation to work, appointments, shopping and weekend recreation, on demand, with its fleet of mini-buses and vans. Transportation is the hub of RENEW's services. We provide:

- All transfer of clients to and from their residential homes to the service center
- Medical appointments
- Psychology
- Shopping
- Recreation
- Airports
- Employment

The RENEW transportation policy ensures that transportation services are provided in a safe, efficient and timely matter in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. There is a \$1.50 fee for each ride.

One of the most limiting characteristics of our population is restricted mobility. For example, very few adults with developmental disabilities in our service area have a driver's license. Additionally, RENEW provides transportation to the Sheridan County general population and all Sheridan County transportation service was tracked as follows in this annual account of the 2009 calendar year:*

<u>Purpose:</u>	<u>Ridership Bus # 60</u>	<u>Ridership Bus #61</u>
Medical/Dental	1,621	1,397
Social/Recreation	489	388
Educational	10,453	8,369
Employment	920	994
Personal	26	32
Aides/Escorts	1,141	881
Empty returns	1,935	1,731
Total	16,585	13,792

Total rides 30,792 in 2009 calendar year and total 27,163 miles traveled.

Additional Sheridan County Bus Statistical Ridership Categorization of the 2009 Calendar Year

<i>Group</i>	<i>Ridership Bus #60</i>	<i>Ridership Bus #61</i>
<i>General Public</i>	<i>1,148</i>	<i>881</i>
<i>Public Handicapped</i>	<i>9,860</i>	<i>8,728</i>
<i>Public Wheelchair</i>	<i>1,050</i>	<i>589</i>
<i>Elderly General & Handicapped</i>	<i>1,661</i>	<i>1,519</i>
<i>Elderly Wheelchair</i>	<i>931</i>	<i>491</i>
<i>General other</i>	<i>1,935</i>	<i>1,766</i>

Additionally, RENEW has four vans that are used for staff and client rides to Employment, KARES, Shopping, Education/Training, Volunteering and Emergencies providing for 9,487 riders in 2009.

- Van Rides
- Van #30 3,004
- Van # 35 3,661
- Van # 44 1,870
- Windstar 952

Actual Transportation number of rides for two buses #60 and #61 in the Sheridan area 2008:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Riders</u>
▪ <i>Medical:</i>	<i>2,323</i>
▪ <i>Education:</i>	<i>18,834</i>
▪ <i>Employment</i>	<i>1,916</i>
▪ <i>Social Functions</i>	<i>731</i>
▪ <i>Personal</i>	<i>275</i>
▪ <i>Aides/escorts</i>	<i>3,442</i>
▪ <i>Contract</i>	<i>312</i>
▪ <i>Public</i>	<i>241</i>
▪ <u><i>Other</i></u>	<u><i>3,275</i></u>
<i>Total</i>	<i>31,349</i>

Additionally, four vans are used for staff and client rides to Employment, KARES, Shopping, Education/Training, Volunteering and Emergencies for 10,682 rides in 2008.

2008 Totals

<u>Van</u>	<u>Rides</u>	<u>Miles</u>
▪ Van #30	4,159	16,950
▪ Van # 35	2,619	18,983
▪ Van #44	2,110	5,822
▪ Windstar Van	1795	1,578

**Ridership is tracked daily and reported monthly to the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA). The above tracking is condensed from those spreadsheets reports as they are considerable in length but are available upon request.*

The actual number of persons to benefit is somewhat complicated to quantify. The impact to specific client and staff of RENEW is between 150-200 individuals in Sheridan but the actual impact within the Sheridan community is significantly greater. Consider the extended families, employment services, food services, transportation, volunteering, advertising, etc. you can see the impact is extensive.

Impact if we are not awarded the grant or it is reduced:

The State funding formula is flawed and does not take into account the local cost of living differences in the community providing the service. For example, a client served in Sheridan is funded by the State at the exact same level as that same person would be if served in Torrington, Worland or Casper or anywhere else in the state where wages and other operating expenses are significantly less than Sheridan.

If RENEW is unable to pay its personnel according to what the economy demands, we will continue to lose key staff and be impaired in our ability to recruit those necessary to continue as an effective provider of services to those with developmental disabilities. The recent reduction in waiver billing (10% reduction for '09-'10 from the State) and recent changes in the funding model used by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health , have compounded the already stressed financial position of RENEW. As a result of the State not providing adequate funding. We have already closed one supervised residence in the past months. If our workforce continues to shrink, we will be forced to discontinue other services in Sheridan County that are identified as budgetary drains. People will be without the supports

they need and we could see many of those we serve facing discharge from the services they desperately need. This could increase the drain on other social services that are not designed to meet their need and may not be able to achieve budgetary efficiencies RENEW has typically established.

RENEW has eliminated the positions of one Housing Manager four Home Supervisors, an Assistant Operations Manager, one Case Manager, two accounting positions, two day supervisors, one transportation driver, the entire LifeQuest psychology service and thirty DCP's (Direct Care Professional) in the past year. We believe it is imperative to restore nominal front line supervisors to re-establish the health and safety standards that our clients have come to rely on and deserve.

It is no longer economically possible for RENEW to supplement the public transportation services offered in Sheridan County at the current level nor to bear the full costs of maintaining training services for other agencies with our current losses and difficulties of retaining staff. We have had to look at every service area and assess its ability to financially carry itself. If RENEW is not able to operate Public Transportation without considerable financial loss, many people will not be able to live independently in our community, access other services or get to work.

If RENEW discontinues Employment Services, many people will be out of work and many employers will be without the workforce they need. Loss of Case Management will cripple some of the for-profit services providers that are not able to meet that need on their own.

The worst case scenario is the ever present endangerment of the health and lives of the most vulnerable people we serve and a tremendous additional increase of demand on the social services of our community that frankly are not set-up or funded to provide these specialized services.

RENEW has a long and proud history of significantly contributing to the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. For thirty-eight years, as a diverse local community-based organization, RENEW has made great strides in inclusion by offering client services, community living and community employment as an alternative to institutionalization.

Without additional funding we will see a rapid regression of all the gains made by those we serve.

A generation ago, deplorable conditions in state institutions demanded that services for individuals with developmental disabilities be provided through a network of privately run community organizations We can't afford to take steps backward or become a society that abandons those persons who are the most vulnerable.

Potentially, these steps may be required to preserve our organization:

- Reduced individual staff earnings*
- Reduced or eliminating staff benefits*

- *Increase employee portion for health insurance*
- *Eliminate outside staff training*
- *Reduce client community access*
- *Discontinue National Accreditation by CARF*

RENEW was founded in 1972. If funding is not provided, RENEW quite possibly will have to further cut its employee ranks (comprising over 80% of our operational costs) and/or further reduce supervised residences. RENEW eliminated 46 positions in Sheridan (34% of its workforce) from last year. RENEW also put a freeze on over-time hours, annual wage increases, closed one supervised residence, is considering putting property on the market to sell, initiated a spending freeze virtually across the board on all but absolutely essential resources. President and CEO, Larry Samson as well as Vice President, Sandy Thiel took voluntary pay cuts.

*The request of the city and county is simply to re-establish sorely needed staff supervision and management of our services, and to inject cash flow to eliminate the further evaporation of now extremely limited financial resources. This legislative session restored some funding. Beginning in July 2010 we will realize a 7 ½ % increase in Medicaid fees over what we received this year. This will certainly help when applied against **23% decrease in funding** we have endured over the past two years. But the shortfall remains significant. Simply stated, the organization has virtually no more cash available to inject into this financially strapped operation.*

OBLIGATIONS:

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES OF APPROVED FUNDS (Indicate amount per year and years for which funds are requested)

	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
2011	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client Services
2012	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client Services
2013	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client Services
2014	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client services
2015	\$30,000	Operation Costs including transportation/Case Management/Client Services

GOALS AND BENEFITS TO THE SHERIDAN AREA COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURES LISTED ABOVE:

RENEW Gives Back to Our Communities

RENEW clients and staff actively participates in community life. We employ the community, are employed in the community, participate in the community activities such as The Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Special Olympic activities, the Sheridan Community Christmas Dinner, The Christmas stroll, the WYO Rodeo parade, and adopt a highway, among others. RENEW takes part in community celebrations, health fairs, and offers presentations in disability awareness.

RENEW strives to help people with disabilities more fully enjoy the benefits and responsibilities of community life.

Transportation to the entire community is provided. RENEW provides local, public transportation in Sheridan County and has done so for decades. RENEW provides transportation to the public, seniors, underprivileged, disabled, children and many more. RENEW's transportation is a diverse provider of public transportation in our area with beneficiaries of several service organizations, employers and also those with disabilities.

DESCRIBE LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT ONE CENT OPTIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED (If applicable):

RENEW received no budget assistance from the City of Sheridan nor Sheridan County last year.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING FOR THE CITY OF SHERIDAN OPTIONAL ONE CENT TAX FUNDS. IF SO, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND FOR WHAT YEAR(S) AND PURPOSE.

Yes, for the same years and purpose.

	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
2011	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client Services
2012	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client Services
2013	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client Services
2014	\$30,000	Operation Costs including Transportation/Case Management/Client services
2015	\$30,000	Operation Costs including transportation/Case Management/Client Services

**PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LAST FISCAL YEAR AUDIT (Or Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement).

**PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.

**PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LATEST IRS 990 (if Applicable).

SIGNED: 

TITLE: Harold E. Jensen CEO

DATE: 24 March 2010

Please complete this application. You may provide additional information if you wish.