

Request for Funding to

Improve the Lives of Maryland's Children



MARYLAND'S CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT



Please support funding for Kennedy Krieger Institute to continue its work in establishing the Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice, and for it to expand its LEAP Program, which offers special education services for Maryland's children, teens and young adults with complex neurodevelopmental conditions.

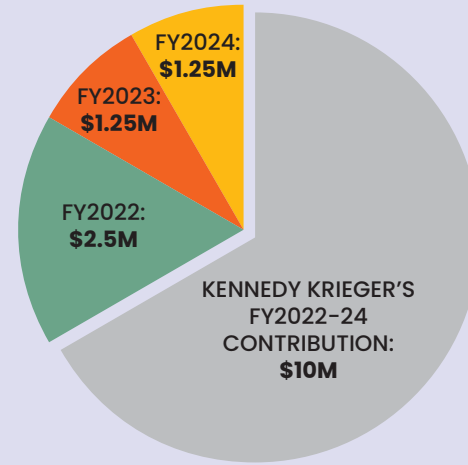


Kennedy Krieger Institute

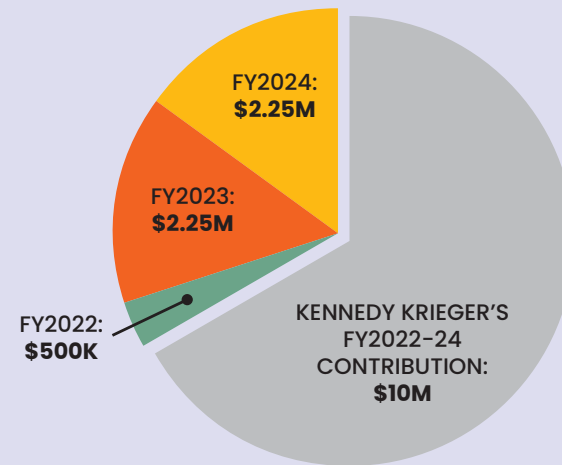
Request No. 1: Continued funding to support Kennedy Krieger Institute's Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice

- ◆ Creating and launching the center requires \$30 million. Kennedy Krieger will fund two-thirds of the expense through fundraising.
- ◆ For fiscal year 2022, Kennedy Krieger received \$500,000 in operating funds and \$2.5 million in capital funds from the state of Maryland. THANK YOU!
- ◆ For fiscal years 2023 and 2024, Kennedy Krieger is requesting \$2.25 million in operating funds and \$1.25 million in capital funds, each year, from the state of Maryland.
 - The additional operating funds will be used to staff the center and recruit researchers.
 - The additional capital funds will allow for the renovation of the space needed to run the center.
- ◆ Over the next two years, Kennedy Krieger will contribute \$10 million in operating funds and \$10 million in capital funds.
- ◆ Progress has already been made:
 - Two lead researchers have been recruited—one has already begun work, and the other will begin work in early 2022.
 - An architectural firm has been retained for assessment of existing research lab space at 707 North Broadway, Baltimore. Recommendations are expected in January 2022.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST



OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST



Request No. 2: Funding to Expand Kennedy Krieger Institute's LEAP Program, and Its Vital Educational and Behavioral Services

- ◆ GOAL: Increase the capacity of the LEAP (Lifeskills and Education for Students with Autism and other Pervasive Behavioral Challenges) Program to serve more students—and to serve them more effectively. This requires \$15 million in capital funds.
- ◆ Kennedy Krieger requests \$2.5 million in capital funds for each of the next two fiscal years (2023 and 2024) from the state of Maryland.
- ◆ Over the next two years, Kennedy Krieger will contribute \$10 million in capital funds to this initiative.



A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Kennedy Krieger's LEAP Program, one of our four special education schools, serves students 5 to 21 years old from across Maryland. Each student has a severe designated educational disability and has been referred to Kennedy Krieger School Programs by their local school system.

As recently as 20 years ago, before LEAP was established, Maryland's students with complex disabilities were often separated from their families and sent out of state to residential facilities, at great expense to Maryland, and distress to their families. LEAP was established to allow these students to continue living with their families while attending school.

Publicly funded and privately run, LEAP is accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Most of the program's students have autism spectrum disorder and/or severe cognitive and behavioral challenges. Each requires a highly structured environment that meets their academic, communication, social, behavioral and medical needs, with designated areas for individual and therapeutic instruction as well as sensory and behavioral breaks.

LEAP's students also need a high level of individual instruction, and therefore a high staff-to-student ratio. A typical LEAP classroom serves only five to seven students, with just as many—if not more—adult staff members in the room.

LEAP's buildings were not originally designed to serve school children, let alone those with complex disabilities and behavioral challenges. The current LEAP physical space has at times been an obstacle to effectively implementing our best instructional and behavioral practices.

Many students were referred to the LEAP Program because of their challenging behaviors, including aggression and self-injury. Providing separate spaces within, or close to, their classrooms to safely manage these behaviors, while keeping them at the school, is essential.

We ask the state for funding to help us renovate and expand our LEAP buildings to safely and effectively accommodate more students.

Visit KennedyKrieger.org/MarylandKids or use the QR code to the right to learn more.



MARYLAND'S CHILDREN NEED OUR HELP NOW

Children growing up in poverty, hunger, overcrowded schools, under-resourced communities and/or unstable housing—major sources of toxic stress—are at an increased risk of poor developmental outcomes. So, too, are children exposed to episodes of violence, discrimination and/or racism—major sources of traumatic stress. Experiencing toxic and/or traumatic stress during development can lead to serious health conditions, both mental and physical, with adverse consequences that start in childhood and unfold over a lifetime.

In response, Kennedy Krieger is establishing the Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice to study the ways in which cultural disparities and inequities affect a child's developing brain and nervous system, and ultimately their overall health.

Recent events across Maryland and our nation underscore the importance of this work and the need for it to begin immediately. No organization in the nation is better prepared than Kennedy Krieger to do the necessary work to understand

how social injustice affects children's development, and how to use that understanding to improve outcomes.

We ask for our state's continued support, so that together, we can improve the lives of Maryland's children.

We cannot wait. Children's lives and future livelihoods—and the success of our state—depend on it.

Visit KennedyKrieger.org/MarylandKids or use the QR code to the right to learn more.



MARYLAND'S CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT

Our children are our state's future. Maryland can and will lead the way to better health and education for our children and families.

We welcome your questions and hope you will agree to continue support for our Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice, and to support the expansion of our LEAP Program. Ensuring that all of Maryland's children have the services, treatments, education and opportunities they need to live their lives to the fullest is a moral imperative for our state, and one that we are dedicated to fulfilling.

Your support is crucial to our being able to make that happen for Maryland's children.

For more information about our funding requests, our Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice and our LEAP Program:

Visit KennedyKrieger.org/MarylandKids or use the QR code to the right

Email Emily Arneson, director of government relations, at Arneson@KennedyKrieger.org



"The vision of the Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice is to better understand the effects of toxic and traumatic stress on children. The center's work is vital to our children's future, and being able to be a part of that work was the driving force behind my decision to move to Baltimore."

– Dr. Maya Opendak

"We were drawn to [the LEAP Program at] Kennedy Krieger by the fact that every interaction...we had with the staff [made it clear]...that the focus was on our child."

– Jim, father of Luke, a student at LEAP

ABOUT KENNEDY KRIEGER

Kennedy Krieger Institute, an internationally known nonprofit organization located in the greater Baltimore-Washington, D.C., region, transforms the lives of more than 25,000 individuals a year through inpatient and outpatient medical, behavioral health and wellness therapies; home and community services; school-based programs; training and education for professionals; and advocacy.

Kennedy Krieger provides a wide range of services for children, adolescents and adults with diseases, disorders and injuries that impact the nervous system, ranging from mild to severe.

The Institute is home to a team of investigators who contribute to the understanding of how disorders develop, while at the same time pioneering new interventions and methods of early diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

Visit KennedyKrieger.org/Anthem to watch a short video about the Institute.



Kennedy Krieger Institute