

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2019

Ms. Caren Harp
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – US Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Administrator Harp,

I write to support the application of Eluna for funding through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)'s *Mentoring Strategies for Youth Impacted by Opioids* program. Support from the OJJDP will be used to expand Camp Mariposa, a national addiction prevention and mentoring program for children affected by a family member's substance misuse.

New Hampshire families have been especially overwhelmed by the effects of a devastating opioid epidemic. Our state is home to one of the highest numbers of overdose-related deaths in the nation, meaning countless children have been exposed to addiction and illicit drugs in their most formative years. Unfortunately, for many of these affected children, there is neither effective guidance nor a support system in place to help them cope with their family member's addiction.

Eluna's Camp Mariposa program offers comfort, hope and healing to families and children from all across the nation who have been affected by family substance misuse. This fully-sponsored weekend program is designed to provide coping skills, to connect with supportive peers and mentors and to impart critical knowledge about the dangers of opioid misuse, all while trying to break the intergenerational cycle of addiction. OJJDP studies show that this kind of mentoring leads to significant reductions in illegal drug and alcohol use, truancy and aggressive behavior.

With support from OJJDP, Eluna will be able to offer six free weekend camps a year at its Nashua, NH location for youth ages 9-12. This grant would provide funding to expand services to teenagers, including an overnight camp specifically designed to meet the needs of teens impacted by the substance use disorder of a close family member. In addition, it would fund additional activities for youth, mentors and their families in between camp weekends.

Eluna has done wonderful work turning the tides of this destructive epidemic, and I believe its work should be expanded to reach more families in New Hampshire and other states. I fully support Eluna's grant application and urge your favorable consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis on my staff at 603-647-7500 or jon_jarvis@shaheen.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator