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Tangram Receives \$7.5 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment to Support Financial Sustainability Efforts

INDIANAPOLIS—Tangram, Inc. has been awarded a \$7.5 million grant under Lilly Endowment Inc.'s latest round of financial sustainability grants to central Indiana human services agencies.

This grant is one of 10 grants totaling \$80 million that are designed to help agencies that serve persons with disabilities and vulnerable children and youth enhance their long-term impact by building stronger financial futures. Lilly Endowment believes that the programs and services these agencies provide help central Indiana be a more caring community.

This transformational grant will support strategic efforts to position Tangram for success now and well into the future, ensuring that the organization is able to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. As this is the largest grant that Tangram has ever received, the agency has developed a comprehensive plan for the use of the funds, which includes:

- Utilizing nearly \$600,000 over three years to invest in Tangram employees through increased wages and training opportunities, which will reduce turnover and build a more effective workforce,
- Investing over \$700,000 in strategic planning efforts and debt reduction to position Tangram for growth and long-term stability,
- Implementing integrated technology solutions to streamline internal processes and allow for a more mobile workforce, and
- Creating an endowment with over six million dollars to fund mission-driven strategic efforts in the future.

"Tangram has served Central Indiana and individuals with disabilities for more than 30 years and is humbled by this grant from Lilly Endowment, which recognizes the need for the life sustaining services and the financial challenges that organizations often encounter while providing these services. An investment in Tangram's future, this grant will empower Tangram to build capacity and strengthen our infrastructure so that we can confidently move forward with our mission of creating extraordinary lives for people with disabilities and persist in the face of unexpected financial challenges. We are excited by the possibilities represented by this grant and extend our most sincere thanks to Lilly Endowment," said Angie Tyler, president and CEO of Tangram.

This financial sustainability grant and the grants to the nine other agencies complement Lilly Endowment's regular support of human services organizations through direct grants and grants to the United Way of Central Indiana. According to Lilly Endowment, these agencies are undercapitalized for the level of assistance they provide. Many of them rely on public sector support, and all of them look to philanthropy to help fund their efforts. They have a history of stretching every dollar at their disposal.

"The staff and leadership of these agencies work every day to help children, adults and families who are among the most vulnerable residents in central Indiana," said Ace Yakey, the Endowment's vice president for community development. "These grants don't take the place of ongoing support for day-to-day operations. Instead, the funds will help the agencies build financial infrastructures that will position them better to weather financial challenges and serve more people more effectively."

This grant was approved under the third round of grants Lilly Endowment has made since 2015 to support the long-term sustainability plans of charitable organizations based in central Indiana. In 2015, the Endowment made grants to 14 arts and cultural organizations totaling \$100 million. In 2016, the Endowment made grants totaling \$100 million to support the long-term sustainability plans of 15 human services organizations that are primarily focused on providing services in low-income neighborhoods in Indianapolis.

Tangram, Inc.: Established in 1985 by family members of six individuals with disabilities in Hancock County, IN, Tangram has grown to provide individualized independent living services to over 250 individuals in 17 counties throughout Indiana, amounting to over 500,000 hours of supports provided in the last year. Tangram is a CARF-accredited United Way partner agency whose mission encompasses the following: Tangram supports people with disabilities by designing services to meet their specific needs and desires. We assist them to live full, meaningful, and happy lives, at home and as members of their community. Tangram joins with community partners to create inclusive and sustainable solutions to challenges faced by those impacted by disabilities.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private family foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family – J.K. Lilly Sr., and his sons J.K. Jr. and Eli – through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While these gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.