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State pays \$1 million on
mortgage for Easter Seals 8.34

The state of Illinois awarded \$1 million to Easter Seals DuPage to retire the mortgage on its facility at 830 S. Addison St., Villa Park.

As a result of this new funding, Easter Seals DuPage will be able to provide lower cost services to more than 2,500 persons with disabilities.

Easter Seals DuPage owns half of the building in Villa Park; the other half of the building is owned and occupied by United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago. Easter Seals owes more than \$800,000 on a construction loan mortgage. Monthly payments have been made on the original \$1 million loan, but this expense has cut into the organization's ability to help families pay for services.

The \$1 million award will pay the bal-

ance on the loan and reimburse Easter Seals for the monthly payments they have already made. The funds were included in the state's fiscal year 2007 budget passed earlier this year by the Illinois General Assembly.

"Medical care is costly and we refuse to turn families away for an inability to pay," said Mary Alice D'Arcy, president and chief executive officer. "Taking the funds we were using to pay our building mortgage and being able to instead use those funds for services is key and something we are extremely grateful for and proud to do."

Easter Seals DuPage provides about \$1.5 million worth of services each year to more than 2,500 children with disabilities, of which 30 percent are disadvantaged or low-income.