

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Affordable Housing Plus Program

Contract Analyst: Vincenza Githens

Organization: Cornerstones

Phone #: 703-324-3289

Program Description: Provide supportive services to individuals to ensure they do not return to homelessness once they enter permanent housing.

Program Outcome: Persons will move into permanent housing and do not return to homelessness.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$73,822/GF - \$125,698 **Total:** \$199,520

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 228

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 217

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 137

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 137

Program Activities this Quarter:

The case managers continue to provide case management services to their clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Case management meetings have been conducted via phone, Zoom videoconferencing, and face-to-face meetings. The face-to-face meetings include both office and/or home visits while practicing social distancing. Case managers have been working in the office 2 – 3 days a week and more as needed to meet the needs of the clients. Even when case managers work from home, they also go into the field and conduct home visits as needed. Case managers have worked with clients to help them get their basic needs met, getting the youth connected to summer activities, helping parents to get their children prepared for school in the fall, helping with housing recertification packets and other applications, etc.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

This quarter it has been a challenge for case managers to try to make sure that clients received the monthly child tax credit. The system for applying for the child tax credit and unemployment was challenging. Some client's unemployment checks stopped, and unpaid rent and utilities continue to be a challenge for our clients. We continue to work with them to assist with budgeting skills, employment services, and connection to community resources for financial assistance.

Program Achievements:

- Client received a promotion at work.
- Client's son was accepted into Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.
- Client's daughter is enrolled in advanced English class, and she is doing well too.
- Client began an IT position job with a starting salary of \$55,000/yr.
- Client quit smoking.
- Client who was unemployed for 3+ years due to cancer was able to obtain a job in his field of engineering earning \$100K/year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program Challenges This Quarter:

This quarter it has been a challenge for case managers to try to make sure that clients received the monthly child tax credit. The system for applying for the child tax credit and unemployment was challenging. Some client's unemployment checks stopped, and unpaid rent and utilities continue to be a challenge for our clients. We continue to work with them to assist with budgeting skills, employment services, and connection to community resources for financial assistance.

Changes in Client Population:

This quarter we had 1 move out and 2 move-ins.

Staff Turnover:

None

Client Story:

In April 2020, we had a single mom and her 2 children move into our program. This mom came in our program motivated to make strides towards self-sufficiency. She mentioned to her case manager in the beginning that she would not be in our program for long. When she got into our program she worked at a gastroenterologists' office while going to school for public health. She had a desire to improve her income. Her case manager referred her to the Cornerstones' employment specialist for employment services such as resume building, etc. Once the client's resume was updated, she applied for a county job as a public health worker in the school system where she earned \$20/hr. She did not stop there, she was still motivated to increase her income, so she obtained a computer software certification. She was nervous about applying for jobs in this new field but with the encouragement from her case managers she decided to apply for jobs. She was called for a phone screening for an IT position in which she applied for an she was informed that she did not have a lot of experience in the IT field. During the phone screening she was very convincing and despite her not having IT experience, she was passed to the next step on an interview. Then after the interview she obtained the job in the IT field earning \$55K/year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Kids and Parents Engage
Contract Analyst: Vincenza Githens

Organization: Cornerstones
Phone #: 703-324-3289

Program Description: Improve the academic performance of targeted children and youth through Afterschool Out-of-School-Time (OST) programming which includes homework help and enrichment programming.

Program Outcome: Youth will have improved academic performance.

Funded Amount: CSBG (TANF) - \$145,056/GF -\$0 **Total:** \$145,056

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 66

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 50

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 44

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 44

Program Activities This Quarter:

Individual Family Conferences: Cornerstones Afterschool begins each program year in the Fall with Individual Family Conferences. This is one of our chief family engagement strategies. Beginning in September, Herndon program staff meet with each youth participant's family. This time allows for staff to check in with the family, assess goals for the year, review program policies and procedures, express program staff expectations, and receive expectations from the youth and their family. During this time, staff also reviews the vision and mission of the program and what this means for their family. If families reveal a need for support, this meeting allows for us to engage in discussions around support resources and make appropriate referrals within Cornerstones, with partners, and/or with other agencies as appropriate. As the program returned to a partly "in-person" format, Family Conferences also returned to in-person meetings held at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. Reston program staff will conduct Family Conferences in October.

How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:

- Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation: During in-person programming, NWFCU Foundation provides monthly support by hosting "Wacky Wednesday" in which they provide volunteers and program materials to support enrichment activity. This would be a "special guest" who provides the youth participants with a new experience. For example, it might be a musician who brings in instruments and engages the students in creating original songs. As we continue to navigate new strategies to address consequences of the COVID-19 health crisis, NWFCU will look to re-engage in-person with the program in Spring of 2022. One of our safety strategies is the creation of individual supply boxes for each youth to use during program. NWFCU provided many of the supplies needed to ensure that each participant would have a completely outfitted box which includes age-appropriate scissors, liquid glue, glue sticks, pencils, erasers, multicultural crayons, multicultural colored pencils, traditional crayons and colored pencils.
- Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS): During in-person programming, NCS provides space for the afterschool programming and supports

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

programming efforts in both Herndon and Reston. In addition, NCS provides opportunities for program staff to engage in youth development trainings and access various resources to enhance program efforts.

Program Achievements:

Every registered family for Cornerstones Afterschool (Herndon), completed the required family conference.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

Due to space constraints, we determined it was not in line with safety guidelines to bring all youth back in person as the same time. The result is a hybrid schedule that provides two days of in-person programming and two days of virtual programming, with each grade pod receiving one Friday per month of in-person STEAM programming.

Changes in Client Population:

Herndon Afterschool site: There have not been changes in our client population

Reston Afterschool site: We are anticipating a change in the client population as it relates to our program efforts in Reston. The last 18 months provided all of us with an opportunity to think differently about the way we do what we do. While we cannot wait to return to a sense of our “normal,” we are excited by the reality that our normal has changed and new things are on the horizon. Part of our rethinking has been where should we house the Reston programs? After much consideration and conversations, the conclusion is that we feel the communities we serve will be best served by relocating onsite Reston programs from the Cedar Ridge Community Center to the Stonegate Community Center. While this does entail a change in the client population geographically, the demographic make-up is essentially unchanged. Both communities are subsidized housing complexes (low-income) and both are very diverse community racially, ethnically, religiously, etc. While this move will present some challenges, after careful and thoughtful analysis the pros outweigh the cons. Part of our analysis was the acknowledgement that this will be a loss to the Cedar Ridge Community after such an extended presence. However, we believe that we will be able to partner with community entities (ex. Restoration Church) to better meet identified needs and provide support for community youth at Cedar Ridge. We also considered the impact to the Southgate Community Center (SCC) and the perception of service duplication to the targeted community. However, after speaking with SCC staff and discussing the possible move, the additional resource was seen as a much-needed benefit. We will report more on this change in the second quarter report, as the transition began at the beginning of October 2021.

Staff Turnover:

The program is currently recruiting for two program aides.

Client Story:

As we do not provide afterschool programming during the first three months of the first quarter, we do not currently have a client story to provide.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Multicultural Center

Organization: Northern Virginia Family Service

Contract Analyst: Vannessa Calderon

Phone #: 703-324-3269

Program Description: Provide direct assistance and/or referrals for clients to be able to meet their basic needs (such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, employment, medical services, etc.) and access community resources that promote stability.

Program Outcome: Adults have access to safety net (community resources) that promote stability.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$191,656/GF - \$117,467 **Total:** \$309,123

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 130

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 123

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 106

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 106

Program Activities this Quarter:

During this quarter, case management activities included assistance with public benefits applications, connecting clients to free COVID testing and vaccination resources, food pantries, rental assistance programs, legal assistance etc. In terms of direct assistance, donations of food, medicines, diapers, a stroller, backpacks and school supplies for children, and gift cards were delivered to clients' houses. Clients were also assisted with various online applications and appointment scheduling.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

Clients usually need professional support related to legal matters. NVFS counts on an array of partners that help clients with different legal issues, from eviction prevention to unpaid wages, to immigration relief, among others. The Multicultural Center provides immigration legal services for underserved populations, but our resources are limited and currently overwhelmed by the amount of need. Some of the partners who both refer to our services and receive referrals from us are: Ayuda, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Tahirih Justice Center, Legal Aid Justice Center, Just Neighbors, and Catholic Charities.

Program Achievements:

During this past quarter, the Multicultural Center of NVFS distributed backpacks to 52 low-income children in Fairfax County, as part of the organization's annual "Back to School" fundraising and distribution program.

Program Challenges This Quarter:

COVID is still the biggest challenge for our clients. We have had clients infected with COVID multiple times, which has caused them to lose their jobs and fall behind with their rent and bills.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Changes in Client Population:

During this quarter we are seeing clients who are struggling to find employment due to contracting COVID. Clients who made progress in the past are falling back on their financial responsibilities and are having to rely on community resources.

Staff Turnover:

None

Client Story:

Client is 54-year-old female from Honduras who came to services after she was no longer able to work due to health issues. Client needs to have knee surgery to be able to return to the workforce but cannot access SSDI benefits. Client was referred to the County for financial and rent assistance. She was also referred to Food for Others. NVFS gave client gift cards to help with personal care items and other needs that may come up. During times when client is not able to go pick up food, she was connected with a community church who is able to deliver food for her. NVFS advocated for her with INOVA as she is not able to pay for her knee surgery. Client is currently waiting to get the surgery at the end of the month and receive rent assistance from the county.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Permanent Supportive Housing

Contract Analyst: Vincenza Githens

Organization: Pathway Homes Inc.

Phone #: 703-324-3289

Program Description: Provide support in moving into permanent housing if not currently housed, education on lease requirements and community rules, training on basic living skills that support housing stability (budget, care of self and personal space, etc.), assistance emergent and ongoing healthcare needs, conflict resolution and problem-solving skills training, advocacy in support to ensure housing rights are not violated, support in accessing community resources to sustain independent living in the community, advocacy with landlord as appropriate, social skills training to include interpersonal skills and assertiveness skills training and support in transitioning to other stable permanent housing as needed/preferred, to adults with severe mental illnesses and/or other co-occurring disabilities.

Program Outcome: To have access to affordable, accessible housing with the supportive services necessary to live as independently as possible in a community setting.

Funded Amount: CSBG \$97,899/GF - \$16,169 **Total:** \$114,068

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 33

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 30

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 31

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 31

Program Activities This Quarter:

The program has a 75% client vaccination rate. Unvaccinated clients are provided continued education, encouragement, and link to resources about vaccinations. Activities continue to focus on developing independently living skills needed for healthy and successful independently living, integration within the community where they reside, and accessing needed resources to maintain health, stability and productive lives. Emphasis is placed on maintaining healthy, stable housing; learning to manage the symptoms of both physical and mental illnesses; money management and budgeting training; health education and following through with needed screenings and physicals; education on proper nutrition and learning meal preparation skills; managing medications and adhering to physician recommendations; learning to use public transportation and accessing other available transportation services; and linking and accessing those needed community resources. Continued to identify need for intensive re-stabilization supports for those most impacted by the pandemic, especially those that struggled to utilize telehealth and avoided needed medical appointments and those who experienced significant isolation related to loss of usual daily activities/structure and inability to engage in-person with family and established support networks.

How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:

An essential part of skill building services include providing education on available resources, assistance with applying for those services and training in ongoing access/utilization of these resources. We are partnered with DHCD to increase housing resources and to support individuals with securing more independent or accessible housing and in understanding Fair Housing and their rights in securing reasonable accommodations. We partner with Department

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

of Health, local health centers and local PCPs to obtain medical services for the underserved or underinsured of our population. We work very closely with the Fairfax CSB to support clients in accessing mental health and substance use disorder services. Our staff are routinely making needed referrals and connecting our clients with the local food banks as available in their location. We connect clients with transportation services as appropriate and partner with the consumer-driven drop-in centers to provide our clients with supportive networks and with recovery resources. We connect individuals with the Laurie Mitchell Center for support with employment and IT training and access. We were also able to partner with the Brain Foundation this quarter to find creative housing alternatives for two clients with unique needs.

Program Achievements:

- One individual graduated from the program/needin in-home services due to achieving her goals and being able to independently attend to independent living tasks.
- One client who was referred due to needing supports around meeting requirements of her probation successfully completed her probation in September and is remaining clean and sober and engaged in the needed supports to continue to move forward in her recovery.
- Another client who relapsed during the pandemic was successfully linked and enrolled in intensive residential substance use treatment which she began last week.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

The client highlighted under challenges last quarter was eventually evicted from his apartment related to his behavioral issues and failure to pay his rent. The crisis, however, has resulted in him re-engaging with supportive services and accepting assistance. He is currently homeless but has resumed medications, is beginning to restabilize and working with the Community Support Services staff to resolve his debts and seek alternative housing. Restabilizing clients and reconnecting individuals to services and resources suspended or inaccessible during the pandemic, is an ongoing challenge and focus for the team.

Changes in Client Population:

None

Staff Turnover:

None

Client Story:

We are serving two individuals who have been roommates in Reston for many years. Approximately 1.5 years ago, the landlord of the home they rented needed to sell the home and these two guys were displaced. They secured housing in a large congregate setting in Annandale that was rather loud, chaotic and overly stimulating for them. They were struggling to continue services with trusted therapists and psychiatrists in Reston due to the distance from Annandale and additional commuting challenges. In partnership with the Brain Foundation, we were able to

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

find a small, quiet townhome in Reston that had two vacant bedrooms at the same time. The guys were assisted in relocating back to Reston, which they call “home” and to stay together as roommates. They are located close enough to the mental health center that they can walk to their appointments which has simultaneously increased their level of independence in accessing needed services.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Culmore Youth Outreach Program

Contract Analyst: Vannessa Calderon

Organization: Second Story

Phone #: 703-324-3269

Program Description: Provide youth with activities that encourage them to stay in school and improve their academic achievement which includes supervised recreation, homework assistance, enrichment activities and assistance with college applications.

Program Outcome: Youth will have improved academic performance.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$78,225/GF -\$0 **Total:** \$78,225

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 200

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 160

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 153

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 153

Program/Service Activities This Quarter:

During this quarter, CYOP staff continued to work in person or via phone calls to provide services, wellness checks and resources to the teens. We continued to adhere to CDC protocols by limiting the amount of youth to 10 children every 4 hours in the facility to allow more teens to participate. Staff continue to provide food donations and toiletries to the youth and continue to make referrals for other resources such as for rent assistance, employment researching, health insurance, COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. Continued efforts in gang prevention through community engagement, hosting field trips, workshops and having guest speakers. The teens created gang prevention posters and t-shirts to bring awareness to gang's recruitment among adolescence and the different lifestyles they can lead by being involved in a gang versus being gang free. They also had painting sessions of creating canvases to further express themselves of choosing to live in a positive way. The CYOP welcomed 3 guest speakers this month who came and spoke to the teen girls about gang prevention, trafficking, warning signs, ways to help a friend, and how to keep safe and away from gang activity. The girls enjoyed this session because everything was confidential, they shared their personal experiences, knowledges and understanding of how girls are used within gang activity. This conference gave them a voice and a space to share, reflect and to have safety measures in place if they were ever approached by gangs for recruitment.

The program provided field trips to Wolf Trap, Smithsonian National Zoological Park in DC, Old Town Alexandria, Six Flags and Yorktown Aquatics Center for the swimming pool. Teens submitted their report cards for a bike raffle to award their hard work and dedication with online learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Four youth workers worked and supported around the center with staff on numerous activities, task and assignments. Eight teens also applied for the youth workers program by submitting applications to the teen center coordinator for employment and consideration. During the selection process staff acknowledges and review grades, behaviors and how well teens connect with other peers. The youth council met on Monday's weekly to discuss numerous topics and learn about what youth council means and their purpose in the communities. A Baking Club was formed to learn about cooking methods, importance of hygiene and cleanliness in the kitchen and baked things such as brownies, cookies and ice cream & sundaes.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

A teen participated in filming this month for our upcoming fundraiser event, he got a chance to share his experience with the afterschool programs, give insight on how the programs help families and teens in need and overcame his fears of public speaking. Teens also participated in Active Fairfax Transportation Plan public information meeting virtually, Fairfax County is establishing a vision and goals for safe, convenient, and enjoyable sidewalks, bikeways and trails in Fairfax County as part of the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan project. Teens shared their thoughts, asked questions, reviewed the proposed roadmap and shared their feedback. This month staff completed 3 trainings online for Partner in Prevention Program through Fairfax County including Healthy Relationships Plus, Making Proud Choices, & Catch my Breath programs (staff received certificates for 2 of the online trainings). Staff also participated for five days for an hour in The 8th Annual Fairfax County Public Schools 2021 Mental Health and Wellness Conference. The conference features keynote speakers who focus on social emotional learning and resiliency.

How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:

- Kentucky Fried Chicken and Food for Others are used to supply food for the Teens.
- BRAWS delivers feminine hygiene products to young female participants.
- Coastal Beach Truck provided free prepared meals to the Teens
- George Mason University counseling students provided both a virtual and in person group mental health workshop and career presentation. They talked about exploring potential careers, college preparation and matching teen's personal interest with potential jobs and future careers. They also provided resources related to college, jobs, internships and more.
- ProTask with resume workshop and donated laptops.
- Western Fairfax Christian Ministries provided food donations
- Saint John's Episcopal church provided food donations
- Food for Others to provided groceries to the teen center families.
- INOVA Partnership for Healthier Youth helped teens apply for health insurance.

Program Achievements:

- 95% of our teens have successfully passed their grade level. 5% who needed greater assistance have made plans to improve their first quarter grades. Most grades are inconclusive as the school year quarter has not ended and grades have not been posted up to date.
- During our "Back to School Event" "CYOP gave over 80 teens' book bags and school supplies items. The teens also received hygiene packages, big box of hand sanitizer and received cupcakes and Subway sandwiches. The teens were happy that the program supported them academically by providing those needed things for school.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

Some challenges included technology issues with their school laptop, accessing and understanding the school system login for their homework. There has also been an increase in school violence among youth in middle schools and high school, teen pregnancy, as well as family conflict that are negatively affecting the youths' mental health.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Changes in Client Population:

None

Staff Turnover:

None

Client Story:

During the month of July, the teen center coordinator worked directly with two teen moms on providing resources, diapers, baby formula, and baby items. One teen is a soon to be mom and came to the program to gain guidance, support and mentorship. She is a 10th grade high school student with dreams and hopes for her future. Staff provided weekly calls and coaching sessions to create a plan of things to do before the birth of the baby, such as applying for childcare voucher, Medicaid, WIC, TANF and Food stamp assistance. The teen wants to apply for employment after the birth of her baby in September 2021 and requested assistance with creating a resume, job search, interview skills and other needed skills. The teen also recently had a baby shower and the CYOP was able to provide a baby crib and mattress, newborn diapers, and baby bottles. The teen and her family were so excited and happy to receive this donation because they often struggle with items needed for their home especially with the new baby coming. The teen has been coming to the Teen Center for homework support because she needs assistance with English and Math. She has mentioned that more than anything she needs to learn English well, the coordinator and teen have a weekly work study plan.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Second Story for Homeless Youth

Contract Analyst: Vannessa Calderon

Organization: Second Story

Phone #: 703-324-3269

Program Description: Provide homeless unaccompanied Fairfax County High School students with assistance in locating and affording safe, stable, appropriate housing.

Program Outcome: Individuals are successfully housed.

Funded Amount: CSBG (TANF) - \$106,009/GF – \$0

Total: \$106,009

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 16

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 14

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 8

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 8

Program Activities This Quarter:

Case management, individual therapy, and housing were provided to eight adults this quarter.

How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:

Second Story for Homeless Youth partners with various non-profits and community-based groups to provide supportive services to the clients in the program. Agencies such as Fairfax County CSB, Food for Others, the Lamb Center, and KIND offer supportive services to clients. One of the strongest partnerships is with the Fairfax County Public Schools, who provide referrals to the program and support to the students already enrolled, including assistance with transportation, enrolling in school, and obtaining tutoring and financial support for school activities such as graduation. Lastly, BRAWS provides feminine hygiene supplies to youth in the program, which meets a critical area of need for homeless young women. These agencies are in part responsible for the success of the youth in the program.

Program Achievements:

We have continued to be able to provide program services with little disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients are continuing to receive as much of the supports, services, and tangible goods that we can provide, and procedures and protocols to ensure safety and social distancing are still in place. Second Story has been providing additional rental payments for youth who lost their employment to prevent them from becoming homeless during the pandemic. As the schools opened fully in person in August, we have seen an increase in contact from school social workers and seeing an uptick in applications from young people. We are also seeing some increase in landlords willing to house our clients in their homes.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

Challenges still center on uneasiness about COVID variants and continued vaccination tentativeness, especially with clients. Case managers have increased education and outreach efforts. Another major challenge involves an increase in anxiety, stress and depression symptoms in clients. Our therapeutic case manager has been reaching out to offer therapy services to clients, and case managers have increased in person meetings to make sure clients have face to face contact with people who can listen and refer them to CSB services as needed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Changes in Client Population:

Two youth completed the program successfully and were discharged to stable housing and four new clients were added.

Staff Turnover:

Michelle Stitt left Second Story to further her education and Angel Cregge, formerly the Program Manager of SSYM has now taken over for Second Story for Homeless Youth as of August 2021.

Client Story:

“Joshua” joined Second Story for Homeless Youth after he went to talk to his guidance counselor about the difficulty he was having attending school while needing to work to pay for where he was living. His guidance counselor helped him apply and he was happy to be able to work less with SSHY’s help to pay his rent. During the pandemic, when his job cut his hours and then laid him off, he again was worried that he would have to drop out of school so that he could work multiple part time jobs. Joshua talked to his case manager, who reassured him that his rent would be paid for in full until he could find another job. He was able to find another job a few months later, while keeping up with his school work. He was able to graduate from high school and is now continuing his education at Northern Virginia Community College. He was also able to stay in his current rental arrangement and find a new job that paid more so that he is able to pay his rent in full. Joshua was even offered to speak on a promotional video so that he could share his story with other clients and potential donors since he said he would have never made it through high school without SSHY help.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Second Story for Young Mothers

Organization: Second Story

Contract Analyst: Vannessa Calderon

Phone #: 703-324-3269

Program Description: Provide young women 18 to 22 years old, who are homeless single mothers and their children with safe stable housing, food, and clothing.

Program Outcome: Clients will have access to safety net resources that promote stability.

Funded Amount: CSBG (TANF) - \$64,414/GF -\$0 **Total:** \$64,414

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 20

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 16

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 7

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 7

Program/Service Activities This Quarter:

Case management, individual therapy, life skills groups, and parenting skills groups were provided to three adults and their four children this quarter. In addition, all children four months and older were assessed to determine if they had any developmental delays. Clients also participated in groups on parenting, financial education, resume writing, computer literacy skills, setting boundaries, practical life skills, nutrition, time management, cleaning, replacing negative thoughts, fire drill/safety, and first aid and CPR.

How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:

The Young Mothers program continues to partner with various non-profits and community-based groups to provide relevant services to the Clients in the program. Groups like the Financial Empowerment Center, the Chris Atwood Foundation, Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, Generation Hope, and Hilton International have provided life skills groups to the residents, based on their subject areas of expertise. The county has provided its Active Parenting program for parenting skills education. George Mason University provided information and assistance on job obtainment and retention. Community groups, such as a local church, provide monthly dinners where residents can enjoy good food, learn how to cook, and practice social skills. HomeAid, a local non-profit dedicated to improving shelter housing, helped YM in the past by renovating a townhouse to provide safe shelter for two families. These groups and more contribute to making the program a safe, educational, and supportive experience for the young mothers and children who live there.

Program Achievements:

During this quarter, we were able to continue to provide services and supports to Clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a few changes in program protocols and procedures to provide safety to staff and residents during this challenging time. We provided extra support to Clients who lost their employment and income sources so that their needs, and those of their children, could be met.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program Challenges this Quarter:

We continue to face challenges with young women inquiring about the program, filling out applications and meeting with staff, and then deciding not to move in with strangers due to worries about COVID-19 and the Delta variant.

Changes in Client Population:

The program saw one YM Client choose to discharge from the program after one year and she was able to sign a lease for her own apartment. Another young mother discharged from the program after giving birth to her daughter, since her family was being supportive of her and she wanted to take advantage of their help. This young mother knows she would be welcomed back if her situation changes. The program also saw the admission of a young mother with two children escaping a domestic violence situation with her husband.

Staff Turnover:

Kesha Taffe, who was relief counselor at Second Story for Teens in Crisis program has taken over Program Manager of SSYM starting in August 2021.

Client Story:

“Becky” and her almost 6-month year old son entered Second Story for Young Mothers due to unstable housing and her wanting to gain independence. Upon entering SSYM, Becky desired to further her educational goals by taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College in efforts to obtain a degree as a nurse. Becky also wanted to provide a safe and stable home for her son, obtain stable employment and obtain a car. Becky was able to progress with most of her desired goals during the year she remained in the program. Becky did struggle in a few areas, such as maintaining permanent employment and adhering to some rules of the program. In August 2021 Becky came to the decision that she had gained the skills needed to launch into independence, thus Becky chose to voluntarily discharge. While at SSYM, Becky obtained full-time employment with Fairfax County public schools, enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College, saved a portion of her income, navigated available resources and responded to the needs of her child. Becky left SSYM with linkage to support for her son, supports to further her education, a car through Vehicles for Change, benefits in place, and monies saved. Becky was able to rent a 2-bedroom apartment for her and her son, and attributes gaining knowledge and understating on how to read a lease and independent living strategies while at SSYM. Becky noted that while at SSYM her son felt safe and secure which helped him thrive.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Early Learning Center

Contract Analyst: Vanessa Calderon

Organization: United Community Ministries

Phone #: 703-324-3289

Program Description: Provide high quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old utilizing evidence-based curriculum and certified assessment materials to ensure children are provided with developmentally appropriate services that enhance their ability to move through the proper developmental stages and ensure academic success as they prepare for kindergarten.

Program Outcome: Children reach benchmarks supporting school readiness.

Funded Amount: CSBG (TANF) - \$86,235/GF - \$53,667 **Total:** \$139,902

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 20

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 14

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 14

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 14

Program/Service Activities This Quarter:

During the reporting period, the Early Learning Center (ELC) successfully reopened its doors! The ELC is located in a Fairfax County Public School (FCPS). FCPS closed to in-person learning on March 13, 2020. Consent from FCPS to reopen the childcare center in the month of August 2020. Due to unsustainably low enrollment levels, United Community decided to close the Center once again. United Community actively budgeted and worked on a plan to reopen with the help of a contracted Marketing team. The ELC budgeted to enroll at least 30 children from July 1st to December 2021. We have met our goal within the first quarter! The ELC has successfully rehired 6 teachers and the Assistant Director. We are actively recruiting for more teachers as we aspire to increase our enrollment.

How Local Partners are used to enhance our Program:

We are working with a local marketing group called Digigeeks, in effort to increase our ELC enrollment efforts. We have reinstated our partnership with Virginia Preschool Initiative, Al Pals, and Project Opportunity. We received new and gently used children's books from a local organization called "Book Bee". Children are able to pick out books of their choice to take home and add to their personal library. We received an anonymous donation of 25 children's backpacks. The backpacks were distributed to 5 of our rising kindergartners and some given to older siblings.

United Community has a fairly new program called Family Achievement Program. FAP is a long-term program that provides intensive wrap around case management services to families at or below the poverty level and focuses on the following areas. Their focus is:

- Crisis Intervention
- Childcare Assistance
- Financial Assistance
- Employment Assistance

We have successfully enrolled 6 children referred to us from the Family Achievement Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

We were inspected by Virginia Department of Education licensing and did not receive any violations! We successfully sent 5 students off to kindergarten READY to continue their learning and development. All 5 children were assessed with our Ages and Stages developmental assessment. The children were learning and developing at and above the expectations!

Program Challenges this Quarter:

We have effectively reopened the center but are challenged with filling vacant teacher positions, a notable challenge for other local early learning centers. The agency is currently brainstorming creative ways to recruit qualified teachers.

Changes in Client Population:

None

Staff Turnover:

Seven staff members were rehired during the reporting period. We are currently recruiting to fill all vacant positions.

Client Story:

The Hong family has been part of the ELC family since 2012. Mr and Mrs.Hong initially learned about the center from a neighbor. They toured our center in 2012 and instantly enrolled their toddler, Isabelle. Isabelle grew, learned and thrived at the ELC through the years. When Isabelle was transitioning to the Early Preschool classroom the Hong's shared they were expecting a little boy and planned to enroll him in our Infant classroom. We watched Ms.Hong belly grow over the next few months and truly felt we were a part of the family. When baby Andrew was born, the Hong family emailed the center photos to share with all the staff. Six weeks later we all met baby Andrew as he enrolled in the infant classroom. Almost 2 years go by, and Isabelle is about to transition to kindergarten and Andrew is now at the toddler age. The Hong's shared once again they were expecting another little boy, James. Just as before the Hong's shared photos of their new bundle and enrolled baby James in the Infant classroom. A few years pass. Isabelle and Andrew are doing great in elementary school and come to visit us often as they pick up James from the ELC daily. James is now in the Pre-K classroom. James transitioned to Pre-K in the winter of 2019. As time goes on James is building relationships with his teachers and friends in the classroom. He loves to build in the block area and his favorite song is the "Good Morning, Buenos Dias"!

In the spring March 2020, Covid hits! The ELC is told that we must shut down because Fairfax County Public Schools were closing due to the Covid pandemic. We were all faced with so much uncertainty and unsure of when we would be able to return. Five months later we were given the green light from FCPS to reopen the ELC. We surveyed our families and over 35 families said they would like to return when we reopened August 2020. To our surprise only 10 children returned to the center. Families were still very uneasy about returning to childcare considering the risk of possible exposure to Covid. Many families were unemployed and some able to work from home.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Mrs.Hong would send emails to check in on the teachers and send her prayers and well wishes to us as we attempted to reopen in August. The Hong family truly missed the ELC but was one of the many families that decided not to return until they were absolutely sure it was safe to do so.

August 2020 came and went, and we had to close the center once again because the enrollment was so low and unsustainable. We were devastated.

It's now summer May 2021 and the Center Director and United Community leadership team has created a comprehensive plan to reopen the ELC July 1, 2021. With so much uncertainty, faith and optimism we reopened! The Hong family was the first family to respond to reenrolling. With Isabelle and Andrew returning to in-person learning in the fall, James will be starting Kindergarten. Mrs.Hong reenrolls James for our July 1st reopening. She shares that she is worried that James will not have the kindergarten readiness that his older sibling had due to the center closing. She shares that James has missed his Pre-k friends and does not like "playing school" at home. Mrs.Hong says James sometimes lashes out and shows frustration when she and her husband would try to teach him at home over the past year. The Pre-K teachers assured Mrs.Hong that they would make the best of their month and a half time period with James and do all they can to prepare him for kindergarten.

Within the first week back at the ELC, Mrs.Hong expressed she saw an immediate change in James behavior at home. He seems to be more joy filled and excited to share about his day with his teachers and friends in the Pre-K! James is even starting to learn to write his name!

The day before kindergarten starts, the Pre-K classroom celebrates the 5 Pre-K students that will be transitioning to kindergarten from the ELC. James and his friends have a portfolio of photos, work samples and developmental assessments from infancy to 5 years old that was gifted to them from their teachers. The Hong family treats the entire staff with breakfast and the most heartfelt card made by Isabelle, Andrew and James. Inside it reads: "Thanks to all of you for being part of our family for the past 11 years! We love you!" Mrs.Hong shares with the Director as she leaves the center, "Enrolling my children in the ELC has been one of the BEST parenting decisions I've ever made." With bittersweet tears Mrs.Hong waved good bye and promises to visit and continue to send pictures of the children.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Program: Stepping Stones

Organization: United Community Ministries

Contract Analyst: Vannessa Calderon

Phone #: 703-324-3289

Program Description: Provide three-day emergency supply of food, supplemental nutritious foods, including fresh produce to individuals and households.

Program Outcome: Clients have improved access to emergency basic needs assistance.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$277,281/GF - \$0 **Total:** \$277,281

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 3,200

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 3,200

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 1,854

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 1,854

Program Activities This Quarter:

Stepping Stones program continued to provide full compliments of all contracted service activities – rental, food, dental/prescription assistance and case management service. In addition to contracted service activities, the program continued to provide utility payment assistance, monthly diaper distribution and household supplies to the participants. Stepping Stones restarted the annual backpack distribution to school aged children grade K-12 after it was paused in 2020 due to the pandemic. Apart from Stepping Stones funded rental assistance, the program continued to provide rental assistance to County residents facing financial hardship through the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFSP) Phase 38 grant. Food delivery to homebound client continued unabated during this reporting period. The most significant service activity was in the number of medical/dental assistance to clients during this quarter.

How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:

The Stepping Stones program relies on the collaborative support of community-wide partners, including individuals, in its service delivery. During this reporting period, Stepping Stones collaborated with the following local partners:

The Fairfax Coordinated Services Planning system for service outreach and service coordination to the community. Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services organized and coordinated food delivery to the program through Stuff The Bus food drive. The program continued to collaborate with faith groups, Capital Area Food Bank, Whole Foods, Wegmans and Amazon to provide food assistance to clients. Kiwanis Club continued to deliver unsold fresh produce to the pantry on a weekly basis from the Sherwood Hall Lane Library Farmer's Market. Our partnership with the DC Diaper Bank continued unabated during this reporting period. Northern Virginia Dental Clinic provided basic dental care to program participants in need of dental work.

Program Achievements:

The achievements made in the last quarter were maintained during this reporting period.

- Many fresh produce food options were added to the distribution menu making it possible for the clients to access a more balanced and nutritious food.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

- We achieved a great milestone in medical/dental assistance service activity by reaching and surpassing the target outcome with a 100% success.
- In addition to the program's rental assistance, Stepping Stones served 12 households comprised of 31 individuals from across the County through EFSP Phase 38 rental assistance. These households were not included in the program outcome count because the households were not registered in the Stepping Stones program.
- Through the generous monetary donation from Messiah Lutheran Church, Stepping Stones was able to distribute high quality backpacks to 600 kids grades K-12 in readiness for the 2021/2022 school year. Each child received a \$25 gift card to purchase school supplies for the backpacks.
- Stepping Stones partnership with the DC Diaper Bank resulted in the distribution of 43,026 diapers to 427 babies.
- We reached another milestone during this quarter with the elimination of the Covid-19 client manual tracking sheet by ensuring that all new clients are entered in the Apricot client database.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

The trend we saw towards the end of the last fiscal year, which was a greater demand for rental/mortgage payment assistance, continued in this quarter. At the beginning of this quarter, there was more emphasis on utilizing the County Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds to meet the housing needs of the client requesting assistance instead of using agency funds. As a result of this, rental assistance was paused. A strong case was made to resume rental assistance irrespective of the on-going ERA funding assistance to ensure that community members who do not meet the eligibility threshold for ERA, would still be able to receive assistance utilizing agency funds while meeting Stepping Stones contractual agreement with CCFP. Another challenge the program encountered this period was filling a vacant Stepping Stones Counselor position because it has been difficult to find qualified English - Spanish bilingual speakers. Due to the number of Spanish speaking clients accessing Stepping Stones services, it is very imperative that the two Counselors positions are filled with candidates who are fluent in both English and Spanish. The program is still working to establish a more efficient and effective way of gathering and tracking the CSBG annual demographic report data elements.

Changes in Client Population:

No significant changes in client population. However, the program served more clients who identified as Hispanic Latino than those who identified as Not Hispanic Latino. This is a trend from previous grant cycle.

Staff Turnover:

There is no significant staff turnover during this reporting period. The program is still screening candidates for an additional Counselor position and currently interviewing.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

1st Quarter Narrative Report

Client Story:

*Darnell Jackson, a 40-year-old female single parent was referred to United Community by CSP for rental assistance in September 2021. She is a mother of four young children ages 16, 9, 6 and 4. In addition to her 4 children, she is the custodial parent of her deceased sister's 4 children ages 17, 13, 7 and 3. Her sister passed away in July 2021. Her sister's husband died a few years ago making the children orphans. Nevertheless, Darnell stepped in to take care for her nephews and nieces in addition to the burden of taking care of her 4 children.

Darnell is unemployed due to disability. She has a monthly net household income of \$3,147, which is a combination of SSDI, Social Security Survival Income and child support. The reason for her crisis was that she was forced to move out of her rental unit because her landlord wanted to sell the property. She did not have any other alternative than to find a new place where she signed a 6 month short-term lease while waiting for her HCV. She needs \$1,350 in addition to her \$317 from her savings to be able to pay her September rent of \$1,667.38. Stepping Stones contributed \$850 and Share Inc. contributed \$500. Through this power of mustering community resources, Darnell was able to secure her temporary housing pending the approval of her HCV.

With CSP advocacy to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Darnell was placed first on the HCV waitlist due to her unique family situation. In addition to the CSP advocacy, Stepping Stones Counselor reached out to her local Church on behalf of Darnell for additional financial support as she waits for the HCV. Darnell is registered in the Stepping Stones weekly food pantry and case management service. In the interim, Stepping Stones would be able to provide utility assistance as needed. It is expected that once Darnell's HCV is approved and she moves into her housing unit, the family would achieve some level of stability.

**Client's real name was not used in this story in order to protect her identity.*