

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. This quarter, case managers have been working in the office 5 days a week to meet the needs of the clients. Case management meetings have been provided face-to-face, in both the office and the home setting while practicing social distancing. For clients who have been on quarantine or tested positive for COVID-19, case management meetings have been provided via phone as needed. Case managers have worked with clients to help them get their basic needs met, connecting children to tutors, helping with housing recertification packets and other applications, etc.

#### **Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:**

This quarter we have continued to partner with Women Giving Back and the Clothes Closet in Herndon for clothes for our clients. For clients in need of rental assistance and/or utility assistance we continue to work with our partners at Herndon-Reston FISH, Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP), and local churches. We also continue to partner with the DC Diaper Bank for diapers, pull-ups, baby hygiene items, adult hygiene items, etc. For our clients that are in need of furniture or household items we have worked closely with Gracing Spaces for these needed items as well as Passion 4 Community. We have continued to partner with the TinCup Fund to fill in the gaps for our families that need gift cards, laptops, and other household items as well.

#### **Program Achievements:**

- Client was able to open up a bank account.
- Client was approved for childcare and able to attend Cornerstones' Job SMART program and begin steps towards her GED.
- Two households were able to participate in Cornerstones Financial Literacy program.
- Household was able to move out of the program into market rate housing without a housing subsidy.

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#### **Program Challenges This Quarter:**

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. During this quarter, in November and December we have seen an increase of clients who have tested positive for COVID-19, this has been a challenge for both clients and staff. But despite this challenge of clients getting sick, we were able to provide clients with food from our food pantry and other community resources as well.

#### **Changes in Client Population:**

This quarter we had 2 move-ins and 2 move-outs.

#### **Staff Turnover:**

None

#### **Client Story:**

June 2021, a mom, a dad and 3 children moved into our housing. The dad was employed part-time however, the wife was unemployed. The wife has a bachelor's degree from her country however, it did not transfer here to the United States. The wife has had some challenges obtaining employment. A few weeks after she came into the program, her case manager referred her to the employment specialist. The client applied for jobs and received some offers however, the job offers did not seem like the best fit for the family. Later, the wife applied for a full-time position as a teaching assistant at her child's school. She was later offered this position in December, and she plans to start this new job by next quarter. The increase of income for this household will assist the family with stability, empowerment and hope to make steps towards self-sufficiency.

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**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:** 66

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 0

**Program Activities This Quarter:**

Herndon Afterschool:

- At the start of October, began youth programming under a hybrid schedule that provides each grade level pod\* with two days of in-person programming and two days of virtual programming, and each pod receiving one Friday per month of in-person STEAM programming. \*The 7th/8th grade pod engages in person programming 5 days per week. This is because middle school participants are able to come to the center site earlier due to their dismissal schedule as well as the close proximity of Herndon Middle School to the center. As space is the driving factor for the hybrid model – this is not an issue for the middle school group. The focus of Fall Session was “Cornerstones Afterschool Shark Tank”. Second to sixth graders focused on creating products that helped normalize everyday tasks for people with disabilities, while middle schoolers focused on creating products to help address the issue of food insecurity. Most of Fall session focused on creatively learning about these various communities and their needs, with product production taking place at the start of Winter session.
- During October and December, hosted family engagement events. October’s event was hosted outdoors at a local park providing the opportunity to engage in family activities and provide essential FCPS (Fairfax County Public Schools) and Cornerstones Afterschool updates. Families also received a meal donated by Chick-fil-a. December’s family engagement launched a new series in which we work with our participant parents/caregivers to better understand the importance of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and how to support their child’s development in key life skill areas. The first of these sessions focused on introducing SEL and the five competency areas. Families also participated in a group game of Pictionary (parents vs. kids) and were given the supplies to create their own Pictionary game at home during the winter break. This was followed by a discussion around limiting screen time and increasing “family time,” helping to build stronger relationships and communication skills.

Reston Afterschool

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- 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. As noted last quarter, Reston Afterschool underwent a transition moving programming to one of Cornerstones' other Community Connected Sites: The Stonegate Apartments. The transition created a staggered schedule of program implementation. This meant that while family conferences usually take place in September, Reston did not host family conferences until October. Staff met with each youth participant's family. This time allowed 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 reviewed the vision and mission of the program and what this means for their family. If families reveal a need for support, this meeting allowed 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 staff offices at the Stonegate Apartment complex.
- During mid-October, we began youth programming under a hybrid schedule that provides each grade level pod\* with two days of in-person programming and two days of virtual programming, and each pod receiving one Friday per month of in-person STEAM programming. \*The 7th/8th grade pod engages in person programming 5 days per week. This is because middle school participants are able to come to the center site earlier due to their dismissal schedule. As space is the driving factor for the hybrid model – this is not an issue for the middle school group.
- For second to sixth grade, the focus of Fall Session was "Cornerstones Afterschool Shark Tank". Second to sixth graders focused on creating products that helped normalize everyday tasks for people with disabilities. Most of Fall session focused on creatively learning about these various communities and their needs, with product production taking place at the start of Winter session. For middle school, Fall Session focused on learning about water coloring culminating in the completion of in individual water color art project.

#### 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 is 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. During the second quarter, NWFCU supplied program participants with needed winter coats.
- Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS): During in-person programming, NCS provides space for the afterschool programming and supports programming efforts in both Herndon and Reston. In addition, NCS provides

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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 – Reston, completed the required family conference.
- In order to maintain safety protocols, Reston Afterschool registration was limited to 50 participants. As of December, we have 26 youth registered for program. As we work to make improvements to the community center and implement targeted recruitment for 6th to 8th grade – we expect this number to increase during the 3rd quarter.
- Reston Afterschool hired a program aide who is very familiar with the community and the families. She currently serves as Neighborhood Ambassador for the community through the Opportunity Neighborhoods initiative and brings with her the experience of substitute teaching within the elementary school structure and the much-needed asset of being bilingual in English and Arabic.
- 100% of the Herndon Afterschool participants families engaged in the family engagement events during the 2nd quarter.
- Herndon Afterschool high school participants have maintained 95% program attendance and reported marked improvement in academic performance.

#### **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: As this is a new site, this is a new client population.

#### **Staff Turnover:**

The program is currently recruiting for one program aides.

#### **Client Story:**

During the 2nd quarter months, Herndon and Reston staff have focused on re-engaging with families in-person and working to assess youth and family need and achievements. During this time, Herndon had noticed an increased need for mental health supports and are working with families and qualified resources to build these supports. Reston staff are getting to know their families and the youth. During this time, staff has already assessed the need for increased support for some youth who are several grade levels behind in reading and writing. This is key as they are 2nd and 3rd graders who are in critical stages of literacy development as they look towards the 4th grade. We look forward to providing some targeted client stories during the 3rd quarter.

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**Program:** Multicultural Center

**Organization:** Northern Virginia Family Service

**Contract Analyst:** Vanessa 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:** 140

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 140

#### **Program Activities this Quarter:**

During this quarter, case management activities included assistance with public benefits applications, COVID testing and vaccination resources, food pantries, rental assistance programs, legal assistance, etc. In terms of direct assistance, donations of food, medicines, diapers, and gifts for children, and gift cards were delivered to the clients' houses or distributed at the office. Clients were also assisted with various online applications and appointment scheduling.

#### **Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:**

The Multicultural Center receives support from a couple local churches. One of them provides direct assistance to our clients in need up to a certain amount. At the beginning of each year, the church lets us know how much money they have assigned to our program and based on this we submit individual requests to help clients throughout the year. Without this help, our clients would not be able to receive the support to cover some of their basic needs.

#### **Program Achievements:**

During this past quarter, the Multicultural Center of NVFS distributed presents (such as toys, games, and activity sets) to 85 low-income children in Fairfax County, as part of the organization's annual "Gifting for Families" program.

#### **Program Challenges This Quarter:**

COVID is still the biggest challenge for our clients. Most recently, clients have reported not feeling well, and suspecting to have COVID, but being unable and/or unwilling to find a testing site. The Omicron variant has also impacted some of the staff, so the program has decided to slow down the return to in-person services. Regardless, clients are being served, based on their preference, mostly in a remote manner, and occasionally in person.

#### **Changes in Client Population:**

During these past couple years, most clients seem to have adapted to remote services and would like to continue with this modality. Benefits disclosed by clients include: no commuting time, no

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transportation expenses, no need for childcare. A few of our clients continue struggling with lack of access to technological equipment and internet to be able to have seamless remote services provided to them.

#### **Staff Turnover:**

None

#### **Client Story:**

Client is a married 45-year-old male who came into services seeking help with legal and community resources for his family. Client was struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic and had lost the income to support his family. Client was referred to a local church and Fairfax County CSP for rent assistance. He was assisted in gathering all the needed documentation needed to apply for such assistance as well as case coordination with the service providers. Client was referred to Food for Others to pick up food and was given gift cards to help cover basic needs. Client was also struggling to find affordable legal immigration support and was referred to Hogar - Immigrant Services. Client was also assisted with backpacks for his 4 kids during back to school as well as with holiday gifts for Christmas.

During our work together, client was able to get his work permit and is now employed full time. Client is also connected with the Vehicle for Change program in NVFS where he is applying to get an affordable car. Client was assisted in gathering all the needed documentation for the program and was also connected with the DMV to get a driving record. Client is currently managing well and will be discharged soon.



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**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:** 32

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 32

#### **Program Activities This Quarter:**

Continued education, encouragement, and link to resources for vaccinations and Booster vaccinations. Continued education on COVID safety recommendations and use of remote access where feasible to mitigate exposure in light of the current transmission surge. Pathways is requiring vaccinations for all direct care service positions which allows us to continue to ensure the provision of the much-needed face-to-face services. This allows us to continue to focus on developing independent living skills needed for healthy and successful independently living, integration within the community within which 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 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:**



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An essential part of skill building services includes 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. This partnership continues to yield housing vouchers for clients to continue to move toward increased self-sufficiency as well as additional resources for clients with special needs like accessibility issues or background check challenges. We partner with Department 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. We are also partnering with Fairfax County's senior services to offer our aging clients appropriate activities and socialization opportunities. 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.

**Program Achievements:**

Two individuals who had been waiting for available, properly funded assisted living beds to become available were successfully admitted to ALFs. With the support of the individuals' treatment teams, two individuals graduated from the program due to their demonstrated ability to attend to their daily needs independently and due to having established a personal support network to utilize in times of need and to ensure ongoing community engagement. One client was able to secure "seasonal" employment and, due to the current labor market and her performance, was offered extended employment with that organization.

**Program Challenges this Quarter:**

One CCFP client has consistently declined to take medications or participate in mental health treatment and, as a result, has been hospitalized six times in the past two years for aggression or inability to care for self. He requires a higher level of care and 24/7 supervision to restabilize but, to date has been refusing this service. He was evicted in August 2021, hospitalized and re-stabilized on medications. Alternative housing was secured for him in October 2021, but he quickly began refusing medications and treatment. He has since been briefly incarcerated for probation violations related to his refusal to attend appointments with his probation officer. He is now facing eviction from the second placement related to acts of aggression and property destruction. None of the interventions provided by the CCFP staff, his CSB treatment team or his hospitalizations have been effective at modifying his behaviors.

The Omicron transmission rates have again resulted in closings or return to remote access for individual's day programming/scheduled activities. Delayed timing of access to COVID testing this past month has resulted in increased quarantine duration and increased isolation.

**Changes in Client Population:**

None

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#### **Staff Turnover:**

None

#### **Client Story:**

CCFP served a 55-year-old male diagnosed with a mental health and substance use disorder. He has an extensive history of unstable housing, chronic substance use, unmanaged mental health conditions, homelessness, and unstable relationships. His substance use and unstable behaviors resulted in many evictions, legal issues and estrangement from family. He began engaging in community-based supports through CCFP in June 2020. Although he got off to a rocky start, alienated his housemates and was a frequent no-show for scheduled sessions, the constant use of accepting, non-judgmental, trauma-informed, recovery-driven supports began to have an impact. He began to share honestly about his experiences and his sense of failure and a perceived “wasted” life. Ultimately, he was able to acknowledge the role substances played in his behaviors and able to acknowledge that verbal aggression and being a “tough guy” was his way of hiding his vulnerabilities. With that, he was able to recognize the need for change. Although he declined a formal treatment program, he began using self-help groups to address his alcohol use and he accepted assistance with medication management to improve his psychiatric stability. He embraced AA and began attempting to make amends to family and to his housemates. He also embraced “giving back” and voluntarily aided housemates that were struggling or less able. When substance free and psychiatrically stable, he demonstrated strong problem-solving abilities, good judgement and very capable of meeting his daily needs independently. He proved himself to be a responsible tenant and neighbor. He was supported in pursuing his primary goal of having his own housing and was ultimately able to secure a housing voucher. His criminal background presented some significant challenges to finding a desirable apartment, which tested his ability to use his new skills in managing frustrations and communicating in a productive manner to get his needs met. He was, ultimately, able to secure an apartment in his desired location. He has established a couple of strong relationships through his AA participation, just celebrated 1.5 years sober and has re-established contact with family. CCFP services continued to support him in transitioning to his new neighborhood, setting up his new apartment, learning bus routes and transportation services, transferring his mental health services to his new community, and finding a new physician as his current doctor is retiring. He is on target for a planned discharge from services in January as he no longer needs this support.

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**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:** 206

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 0

#### Program/Service Activities This Quarter:

- During the second quarter, the Culmore Youth Outreach Program staff continued to work in person or via phone calls to provide services, wellness checks, and resources to teens. We continue to comply with CDC protocols by limiting the number of youths to 10 teens every 4 hours, so more teens can participate in the program. In addition, staff sanitized the center before, during, and after hours of operation and staff, volunteers, teens, and any visitor required to sanitize their hands and take their temperature upon entering.
- Thanks to the funds received by Fairfax County for the gang prevention program, the teenagers started Martial Arts classes, of the 10 children participating in the classes, 6 managed to obtain a white belt. During the classes, the adolescents have learned techniques of anger management, improve behavior, be patient, life goals, etc. Also, staff continue educating teens in gang prevention through conferences and inviting speakers to present to the youth.
- The CYOP program hosted two college interns from George Mason University. One of the interns supported teens with tutoring in subjects such as Math, English, and Science. The other intern is finishing a master's degree in Counseling, this intern supported teens doing mental health groups.
- The Youth Council continued participating in educational groups and community services. During this second quarter the members were awarded a Youth Led Anti Stigma Mini Grant. The council has worked to raise awareness of the vaping campaign, and by February 3rd the Youth Council members will be taught the curriculum Catch My Breath. These classes are related to vaping awareness.
- Youth Council group sessions included: teens sharing perspectives of changes what they to see in their community, leadership opportunities, election information and community members who support youth advisories. 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.
- Among the topics discussed during this period included: self-esteem and confidence , peer pressure resilience, things teens worry about , building healthy relationships, anger

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management, vaping awareness, juvenile system, Halloween safety tips, gang prevention, gardening, family values, bullying prevention, academic and school achievements, improving health literacy, COVID-19 Pandemic-new information and updates, public speaking, social media awareness, motivation, why recycling is important in our world, Veteran's day history, defining diversity, Election Day, personal hygiene, AIDS awareness and more.

- The Culmore Resource Center, in collaboration with the Department of Health, has organized clinics to provide the vaccine for Covid19. Some of the teens got sick with Covid19 and have had to stop participating in the activities offered at the center until they get better. The staff helped parents and guardians register the teens for the vaccine.
- During Thanksgiving the teens received turkeys with food donations. For the Holidays, the teens received gifts, gift cards and more.

#### **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 intern provided in person group mental health workshop and career presentation.
- Food for Others to provided groceries to the teen center families.
- INOVA Partnership for Healthier Youth helped teens apply for health insurance.
- Health Department provided vaccines for the teens.
- George Mason students donated Old Navy gift cards for the holidays to the teens.

#### **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 of our teens have gotten sick with COVID-19, and they have had to stop participating in the activities offered at the center until they get better.

#### **Changes in Client Population:**

None

#### **Staff Turnover:**

None

#### **Client Story:**

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Maria is a young teenager who came from Guatemala to live here in the United States. She doesn't speak Spanish very well, and she is learning English as well. She has mentioned to her mother that it's getting difficult for her to learn at school. She tried to drop out of school, but a staff for the Culmore Resource Center referred Maria to the Teen Center. The staff at the Teen Center has encouraged Maria to continue with the school. Staff has made a plan for ESL classes so that Maria can learn English and Spanish at the same time. The learning transition has taken time, but Maria is putting all her effort. Staff has connected Maria with INOVA to get her health insurance. Also, Maria has been connected with other teens who speak her dialect and who support her by motivating her to continue with school. Maria enjoys coming to the Teen Center, connecting with her friends, and participating in all of the center's activities.

Food Donations to the families.

During this period of time the COVID-19 pandemic has increased and some of our families have been affected. For this reason, families have continued to be provided with food donations. Also, during the holidays the youth received turkeys and bags of food. Also, during Christmas the teens received gifts, gifts cards and bags of food. Many of teen's families are going through a serious economic situation. Families are grateful to the donors and staff who made it possible for their children to have a happy holiday.

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**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:** 9

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 9

#### **Program Activities This Quarter:**

Case management, individual therapy, and housing were provided to seven adults and their two children 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 been able thus far to continue to provide program services with little disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients are receiving as much of the supports, services, and tangible goods that we can provide, with some changes in procedures and protocols to ensure safety and social distancing. This is a critical achievement as things are only going to become more challenging in the upcoming months for clients who have lost their physical access to school as well as many losing their employment. Second Story has been providing additional rental payments for youth who lost their employment to prevent them from becoming homeless during the pandemic.

#### **Program Challenges this Quarter:**

None

#### **Changes in Client Population:**

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

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**Staff Turnover:**

None

**Client Story:**

“George” has been a client in Second Story for Homeless Youth for over a year. He was referred to the program after his school social worker realized he was living entirely on his own while attempting to support himself financially and finish high school. George had left his home due to significant abuse from numerous members of his family. Despite these challenges, George maintained impeccable attendance at school. His struggle to work enough hours to support himself led to issues with focusing in class due to being overtired from working the night before. George was glad to learn about SSHY and to work with his case manager to find a safe place to live. Since entering the program, George has made significant strides towards independence. He finished this past school year with honors. He was promoted at work and, although COVID-19 brought many challenges, he was able to continue working and still manage his classwork. With Second Story's rental support, George has saved over \$7,000 and aims to increase that even more by the end of the year. George is on track to graduate next year and plans to attend a local college where he can pursue a major that will help those around him. Second Story staff continues to be impressed with George's resilience and hard-working attitude!



## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Services provided include linking the young women to community resources, help with educational goals, OB preparedness, financial literacy, a savings plan, life skills training, and medical and mental health care.

**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 six adults and their seven 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 budgeting, resume writing and interviewing, financial literacy, and nutrition, among other topics.

#### **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, 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.

#### **Program Challenges this Quarter:**

None

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM**

**Fiscal Year 2022**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

#### **Changes in Client Population:**

None

#### **Staff Turnover:**

Alicia Leonard is the new case manager for the program; Amy Mahoney transitioned to another Second Story program.

#### **Client Story:**

"Ashley" graduated from the program during this quarter. She and her son moved into an apartment that is completely their own, but it took a lot for Ashley to get to where she is now. She struggled before she entered the program with verbal and physical abuse from her family and had few people who supported her. Ashley thrived at Second Story for Young Mothers, obtaining a certificate in the healthcare field and getting employment at a doctor's office. She worked closely with staff on her financial management by reducing her debt, increasing her credit score, and saving close to \$10,000! Ashley has shown she is a thoughtful and caring young mother and worked closely with her son on many parenting skills such as learning positive discipline techniques, creating a schedule, and providing a loving environment for him to learn and grow. Thanks to emergency funding, Second Story was able to help Ashley with the things that her family needed to continue on her path to self-sufficiency upon leaving the program.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

**Program:** Early Learning Center  
**Contract Analyst:** Vannessa 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:** 37

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 37

#### **Program/Service Activities This Quarter:**

During the reporting period, the Early Learning Center (ELC) ended the year with 45 children enrolled! We were successful in rehiring some ELC teachers and hired 5 new teachers!

The center has been engaged in multiple special events and activities this quarter:

- “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party”
- “National Dessert Day”
- “Make-Believe Masquerade Parade”
- “Silly Sock Day”
- “Silly Holiday Sweater Day”
- “Pajama Day”

#### **How Local Partners are used to enhance our Program:**

All children enrolled that are 3-5 years old received vision, dental and hearing screenings during the reporting period. We partnered with Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington for our vision screenings. The dental screenings were conducted by Home Smiles Oral Health Programs. Lastly our hearing screenings were provided by The George Washington Hearing and Speech Center. Children that were identified for follow ups; families were provide referrals. All health screenings are delivered as no cost to families.

#### **Program Achievements:**

The ELC successfully reopened on July 1st, 2021. Our enrollment is steady and slowing increasing. During the reporting period we have successfully maintained 45 students enrolled. We currently have 13 staff employed at the ELC.

#### **Program Challenges this Quarter:**

We are still faced with the challenge of filling vacant teacher positions. Although our enrollment has been steady and slowly increasing, with Covid cases continuing to rise, I suspect it will make it extremely challenging to increase our enrollment to full capacity of 96.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

#### **Changes in Client Population:**

None

#### **Staff Turnover:**

We are currently recruiting to fill all vacant positions.

#### **Client Story:**

Kasey is an Early Preschool 2-year-old who enrolled in the Early Learning Center in July 2021. Kasey's family learned about the ELC through United Communities Family Achievement Program also known as the FAP program. The family works closely with a FAP Coach to help them reach their goals of self-sufficiency. Kasey's mom wants to take English classes so she can enroll in GED courses. Their family needed childcare for Kasey and her little brother Josue so they could manage work and classes.

Within the first 30 days of enrollment Kasey showed some areas of need in her developmental assessment conducted by her teachers. Ms. Smith, Kasey's teacher shared with the Director that Kasey is not using the expected language and words that the average 2-year-old should be using. In fact, she would only gesture for what she wanted and needed to Ms. Smith. The assessment was shared with mom in Spanish, her home language. Kasey's mom shared that she has been worried that Kasey has a speech delay. The Assistant Director provided Kasey's mom the contact information for the Infant Toddler Specialist Network. The ITSN helps families with support and resource for infant and toddler developmental delays. Kasey's mom scheduled an appointment immediately to have Kasey evaluated by the ITSN speech pathologist.

After being evaluated by ITSN, Kasey was diagnosed with speech delay. The ITSN set up for Kasey to receive speech therapy at the ELC at no cost to the family. Kasey did not show immediate progress with the therapist. She would remain silent during the therapist's 30 minute visits for the first 2 months. In the fall is when the therapist and the Early Preschool teachers started to see progress from Kasey. One day during "Circle Time" Ms. Smith was singing her morning songs and Kasey shouted out "HAPPY!". Ms. Smith stood in amazement and clapped. She shared this with Kasey's family, speech therapist and ELC administrators! She was so excited to finally hear Kasey speak! From there, Kasey added a new word to her vocabulary weekly!

Kasey has progressed drastically with her speech and language development. She is still not speaking in full sentences but she is definitely speaking!

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** 2,403

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 2,403

#### **Program Activities This Quarter:**

Stepping Stones program service activities during this quarter under review include rental assistance, medical/dental and prescription assistance, case management services and food assistance. Additionally, the program continued to provide other allied service activities – utilities assistance, monthly diaper distribution, household and cleaning supplies and holiday gift cards to children ages 0 - 18. Food delivery to homebound client continued unabated during this reporting period.

#### **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 and utilized partner resources in the following categories: financial assistance, service coordination, food, utilities, holiday gift room, dental services, financial counseling services and diaper distribution.

Through the support of individuals and groups, the program raised money to ensure adequate provision of direct assistance services in the form of food purchase, rental, utilities, and medical/dental assistance to the clients. Dominion Energy strong partnership remained our main source of energy bill assistance to the clients. The Fairfax Coordinated Services Planning system continues to serve as a major referral and service linkage source. The program's weekly food assistance was enhanced through the support of Capital Area Food Bank, Whole Foods, Wegmans, Amazon, Kiwanis Club, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, St Louis Catholic Church, other faith groups and the Boys Scout troops. Stepping Stones collaborative partnership with Northern Virginia Dental Clinic guaranteed provision of basic dental care to program participants in need of dental work. With the help of individuals and groups, Stepping Stones provided holiday gift cards to children in the program. The Belle Haven Women's Club, Good Shepherd Catholic and St Louis Catholic Churches were the major supporters of the Holiday Gift Room program. Our partnership with the DC Diaper Bank continued unabated during this reporting period. Britepaths provided financial counseling services to some of our case management clients.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM**

**Fiscal Year 2022**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

#### **Program Achievements:**

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

- We were able to resolve the budgetary issues that delayed our rental assistance at the beginning of this reporting period. The program is on target to meet our projected outcome for this service activity.
- Through our partnership with Britepaths, 10 case management clients who were referred for financial counseling services, completed the one-on-one financial review. Some of them signed up for a longer-term financial coaching with the goal of improving their financial management skills.
- The program continued to maintain increased quantity and quality food distribution to members of our client community.
- Through our strong partnership with Kiwanis Club, many fresh produce rescued from the Sherwood Hall Farmer's Market were added to our food distribution menu. This was in addition to fresh produce donations from Amazon, Wegmans, and Whole Foods.
- Northern Virginia Dental Clinic our major partner in the provision of dental assistance increased the number of dental appointments available to our clients. This effort eliminated our long dental waitlist to the point that clients in need of dental services are put on the waitlist upon request. Clients no longer have to wait for months before scheduling them to see a dentist.
- Stepping Stones in conjunction with the United Community Marketing and Communications department launched a very successful gift card donation campaign. The original target was to raise \$21,000 to provide 700 children with \$30 gift card each. At the end of the campaign, we raised more than \$40,000, which enabled us to serve 899 children.
- Stepping Stones partnership with the DC Diaper Bank resulted in the distribution of 32,800 diapers to 328 babies.
- The program hired and filled up the vacant Basic Need Counselor position with a candidate who is fluent in both English and Spanish languages.

#### **Program Challenges this Quarter:**

We are still seeing a huge demand for rental/mortgage assistance request from clients, which is indicative of the financial hardship people are still experiencing due to the pandemic. Due to some internal budgetary issues, our rental assistance to clients was delayed at the beginning of this reporting period. However, it did resume during this quarter but it took some time and strong advocacy to get it started eventually.

With the increase in the number of dental appointments we received from Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, the program was able to eliminate the long waitlist and schedule more people for dental treatment. A record number of 24 clients did not show up for their appointments after Stepping Stones have paid the non-refundable consultation fees for each clients. Three clients cited their inability to make the appointments because they tested positive for Covid-19.

With the increase in the new Omicron Covid-19 variant and its high infection rate, many people are testing positive and have to quarantine leading to increase request for home food delivery.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

It has not been easy to recruit professional volunteers due the pandemic. This problem has made it difficult for us to meet our projected professional volunteer target.

**Changes in Client Population:**

There is no significant changes in client population. However, the program served almost the same number of clients who identified as Hispanic Latino and those who identified as Not Hispanic Latino. The program served three TANF clients which two more than the previous quarter.

**Staff Turnover:**

There is no staff turnover during this quarter. However, the program hired and bilingual Basic Needs Counselor thereby filling the vacant position.

**Client Story:**

Ms. Jane, a single mother of two, came to United Community in October 2021 as a first-time client seeking emergency assistance. She is employed as a hotel housekeeper and makes \$13.50 per hour. She does not receive any monetary support from her children's father. The children are ages 16 and age 4. Jane's 16-year daughter Linda helps with rent whenever she works her part time job as cashier in a retail store. Linda did not work for more than three weeks because came down with Covid-19.

Jane was seeking help to pay her rent of \$1,650, as she had been unable to work for the previous 3 weeks due to a dental problem. She had lost more than 3 weeks of wages, as her employer does not provide sick leave.

Her Stepping Stones counselor assisted Ms. Jane to apply for SNAP benefits and enrolled her in the Food Pantry program. She also registered Jane in the November Northern Virginia Dental Clinic for her dental treatment. United Community was able to provide half of the family's October rent in the amount of \$850 along with other agencies that contributed the other portion - SHARE, Inc. \$200; ECHO \$350, and Old Presbyterian Meeting House \$250.

Ms. Jane also attended the October 2021 Britepaths virtual Free Financial Counseling Clinic to meet one-on-one with a volunteer financial planner to better plan her household budget and avoid debts. She plans to continue to learn and practice budgeting and saving tips.

Through rental assistance, Ms. Jane and her family were prevented from falling into further crisis that would have resulted in homelessness. They are now on the path to better budgeting and financial stability.