

**Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board  
Memorandum**

**To:** CAAB Members  
**From:** Michelle Jefferson, Chair  
**Date:** August 31, 2022  
**Subject:** CAAB Meeting – September 6, 2022

**The next CAAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.**

**CAAB Member Information Sharing**

As a reminder, Member Sharing was established for CAAB members to report the “word on the street” - issues that affect the low-income community about which the CAAB should be aware; ten (10) minutes are allocated to this agenda item. Time will also be set aside at the end of the meeting for more general announcements.

**Thank You**

CAAB members will have an opportunity to thank John Ruthinoski and Kevin Filbey for their support to the CAAB throughout the years.

**Program Report: CSBG 4th Quarter Report**

Staff will present the CSBG FY 22 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report. Included in this meeting packet are:

- Financial report for Federal CSBG and TANF
- Narrative Reports
- Outcome Reports

**Membership and Elections**

Shari Zamarra will update the CAAB on actions being taken to fill vacancies.

**Attachments**

- September 6 Agenda
- August 2nd Meeting Notes
- FY22 Quarter 4 Program Reports

**Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board**  
**Via ZOOM**  
**September 6, 2022**  
**7:30 – 9:30 PM**

**AGENDA**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>Info/Action</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
7:30 PM	Call to Order		Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Approval of Minutes	Action	Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Information Sharing	Info	CAAB Members
	Thank You, John & Kevin!	Info	Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter CSBG Program Reports	Info	CAAB Staff
	Membership and Elections	Info	Shari Zamarra
9:30 PM	Adjourn	Action	CAAB Members

The next CAAB meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of low-income families and individuals by empowering residents to achieve self-sufficiency and reach their full potential.

To achieve this mission, the CAAB employs advocacy, provides education, and offers funding for effective community-based programs.

**Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)**  
**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 2, 2022, 7:30pm**  
**Meeting held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic**  
**By ZOOM video/audio platform**

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Chair Michelle Jefferson, who proceeded with doing the member roll call.

**Members in attendance with locations:** Nermin AbdelWahab, Fairfax, VA; Matthew Bell, Fairfax, VA; Alicia Doe, Lorton, VA; Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Mason District, VA; Hawa Hassan, Fairfax, VA; Kevin Hickerson, Centreville, VA; Caroline Hockenberry, Vienna, VA; Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz, Herndon, VA; Michelle Jefferson, Fairfax, VA; Hari Kurup, Falls Church, VA; Maria Isabel Leiva Alfonso, Falls Church, VA; Michael Mahrer, Falls Church, VA; Michele Menapace, Fairfax, VA; Phil Rosenthal, Fairfax Station, VA; Heather Thomas, Centreville, VA; Alice Yam, Herdon, VA; Shari Zamarra, Fairfax, VA

**Members in attendance who joined after roll call:** Ken McMillon, Marcia McDevitt, Ben Zuhl

**Absent:** Morgan Jameson, Isaac Orea-Montero, Whitney Richardson

**Guests:** Mary Ann Floto, Katie Wilson

The motion that all members present were able to be heard was made by Michelle Jefferson, seconded by Michele Menapace and passed with no objections. The motion to allow CAAB business be done via an electronic meeting due to the COVID-19 emergency was made by Michele Jefferson, seconded by Ken McMillon and was carried without objection.

**Minutes – July 5, 2022**

The motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Phil Rosenthal, seconded by Michele Menapace. It was requested that it be clarified in the minutes that the documentary, “Hiding in Plain Sight”, is a documentary about youth mental health.

**Bailey’s Crossroads/Culmore Place-Based Initiative (PBI)**

Katie Wilson, Program Manager, shared details about the Bailey's Crossroads/Culmore Place-Based Initiative (PBI). This is a new project led by George Mason University in partnership with Kaiser Permanente which aims to bring together a coalition of organizations providing social services to the residents of the Bailey's Crossroads/Culmore community. The PBI Coalition, comprised of nonprofits, churches, and local government, hopes to make a greater impact in improving the quality of lives of low-income residents through increased collaboration and collectively sharing data and resources. (Presentation slides are available at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/community-action-advisory-board/meetings>)

CAAB members made suggestions about possible resources and partners in the community (e.g. Second Story and Opportunity Neighborhoods, Boys and Girls Clubs, Catholics Charities, ComputerCore).

**CAAB Member Information Sharing**

- Michelle Jefferson shared that Supervisor Lusk will join the October CAAB meeting.
- There was a discussion about the lack of affordable childcare and its impact on keeping women from working in Fairfax County. Lack of affordable childcare is an issue that the CAAB may want to focus on.
- Nermin AbdelWahab will locate and share Fairfax County’s Regional study on fair housing issues. There was an interest in having the group come to the CAAB to present on the study’s findings.

- Ken McMillon gave a summary about the recent Fairfax NAACP meeting where the group discussed the impact extreme heat is having on individuals experiencing homelessness. Ken will share the link to the recording when it becomes available.
- Michele Menapace shared that county buildings have been designated as cooling centers – employees have been instructed to allow individuals in to cool off. Concerns about the policy not being followed should be directed to Deputy County Executive Chris Leonard.
- National Voter Registration Day is September 20<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 p.m. at county libraries.

### **All-virtual Meetings & Remote Participation Policies**

The CAAB approved the All-virtual Meeting and Remote Participation Policies. These policies will not go into effect until in-person meetings have resumed. The All-virtual Meeting policy will allow the CAAB to meet up to 3 times in an all-virtual format, provided that the public is made aware of the meeting platform and is given details as to how to participate virtually. The Remote Participation policy details the circumstances in which members may participate remotely, provided that there is a quorum physically present in the meeting location.

### **Program Progress Report Template**

To help programs in providing more focused information on their narrative program reports, the CAAB Executive Committee met recently to develop a guidance document. This guidance document includes questions that providers can use as they develop their quarterly reports. The document will be provided to programs ahead of the FY23 first quarter report deadline.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

### Community Services Block Grants Worksheet - 4th Qtr FY 2022

	Federal CSBG	TANF CSBG	TOTAL CSBG
<b>Housing (35%)</b>			
Cornerstones - Affordable Housing	\$ 18,067.66		\$ 18,067.66
Pathway Homes - Permanent Supportive Housing	\$ 31,298.74		\$ 31,298.74
Second Story - Homeless Youth		\$ 26,502.21	\$ 26,502.21
Second Story - Second Story for Young Mothers		\$ 16,103.53	\$ 16,103.53
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 49,366.40	\$ 42,605.74	\$ 91,972.14
<b>Health &amp; Social/Behavioral Development (25%)</b>			
United Community Ministries - Stepping Stones	\$ 61,142.91		\$ 61,142.91
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 61,142.91	\$ -	\$ 61,142.91
<b>Support Services (25%)</b>			
Northern Virginia Family Service - Multicultural Cent	\$ 52,016.78		\$ 52,016.78
United Community Ministries - Early Learning Center	\$ 12,033.07	\$ 16,172.35	\$ 28,205.42
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 64,049.85	\$ 16,172.35	\$ 80,222.20
<b>Education &amp; Cognitive Development (15%)</b>			
Cornerstones - Kids and Parents Engage		\$ 34,660.28	\$ 34,660.28
Second Story - Culmore Youth Outreach Program	\$ 17,182.31		\$ 17,182.31
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 17,182.31	\$ 34,660.28	\$ 51,842.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 191,741.47</b>	<b>\$ 93,438.37</b>	<b>\$ 285,179.84</b>

**Community Services Block Grants Worksheet - FY 2022 YTD**

	Federal CSBG	TANF CSBG	TOTAL CSBG
<b>Housing (35%)</b>			
Cornerstones - Affordable Housing	\$ 73,822.00	\$ -	\$ 73,822.00
Pathway Homes - Permanent Supportive Housing	\$ 97,601.45	\$ -	\$ 97,601.45
Second Story - Homeless Youth	\$ -	\$ 106,008.84	\$ 106,008.84
Second Story - Second Story for Young Mothers	\$ -	\$ 64,414.00	\$ 64,414.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 171,423.45	\$ 170,422.84	\$ 341,846.29
<b>Health &amp; Social/Behavioral Development (25%)</b>			\$ -
United Community Ministries - Stepping Stones	\$ 186,510.37	\$ 87,697.55	\$ 274,207.92
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 186,510.37	\$ 87,697.55	\$ 274,207.92
<b>Support Services (25%)</b>			\$ -
Northern Virginia Family Service - Multicultural C	\$ 191,655.99	\$ -	\$ 191,655.99
United Community Ministries - Early Learning Ce	\$ 12,033.07	\$ 67,248.61	\$ 79,281.68
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 203,689.06	\$ 67,248.61	\$ 270,937.67
<b>Education &amp; Cognitive Development (15%)</b>			\$ -
Cornerstones - Kids and Parents Engage	\$ -	\$ 145,056.00	\$ 145,056.00
Second Story - Culmore Youth Outreach Program	\$ 68,711.00	\$ -	\$ 68,711.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ 68,711.00	\$ 145,056.00	\$ 213,767.00
<b>Total</b>	\$ 630,333.88	\$ 470,425.00	\$ 1,100,758.88

\$ -

CSBG FY 2022 1st Quarter

**Cornerstones - Affordable Housing Plus Project**

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4thQ		
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target %		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome
1. Provide supportive services to ensure clients do not return to homelessness	CSBG	228	217	95%	Participants will maintain permanent housing. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	137	137	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	228	217	85%		137	137	100%

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</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:** 95% of individuals and/or families are successfully housed.

**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 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, financial counseling and budgeting, information, and referrals.

#### **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.

#### **Program Achievements:**

- Client got a job paying \$17/hour.
- Client's daughter graduated from high school and applied to Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC).
- Client received certification in cosmetology.
- Client received her associates degree from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC).
- Four clients obtained their citizenship.

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

Clients testing positive for COVID-19 continues to be a challenge as well clients developing other illnesses as well. However, case managers continue to serve these clients in need via virtual/phone case management, dropping off food, COVID-19 home tests, masks, and other necessities. This quarter high utility bills and non-payment/late rent is still a challenge. Some households have accumulated utility bills of \$1,200.00+ and some have received disconnect notices as well. Some households have past due rent and have accrued late fees. The late fees for

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

the rent were reinstated this quarter. Case managers have worked with clients to get rental and financial assistance for the rent and/or utilities.

**Changes in Client Population:**

This quarter there was one move-in, and four households moved out.

**Staff Turnover:**

None

**Client Story:**

In 2017, a family of 4 moved into the program, the family consisted of a mom, dad, and their two daughters. The dad was ill with a cancer diagnosis. While in the program the family's case managers provided encouragement to support to the family and provide the family with information, referrals, and community resources to help provide stability for the family. In 2021, the dad was able to get a job in the field of engineering earning \$100,000.00/yr. In June the family was able to move out of our program into market rate housing. The family has been able to achieve self-sufficiency due to the hope, empowerment, and stability that Cornerstones has provided.

## Cornerstones - Kids & Parents Engage

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q		
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome
1. Afterschool Out-of-School-Time programming (homework help and enrichment programming)	CSBG	95	71	75%	Improve the academic performance of children and youth. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	67	43	64%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	95	71	75%		67	0	0%
2. Parent Engagement -Family meetings and family engagement workshops.	CSBG	65	49	75%	Parents will understand how to help children achieve academic success <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	65	60	92%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	65	49	75%		65	60	92%

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 80% of 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:** 95

**Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes:** 76

**Actual Number of Clients Served YTD:** 67

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 43

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

- During the 4th quarter of the program year, Herndon and Reston programs continued the Write Brain curriculum. During the remainder of the Spring program session the young people group authored books. These books were presented to their families during family engagement nights that were hosted at both program sites. In Herndon, their author night presentations, included art installations that highlighted the stories they created.
- In the Fall, both sites will host presentation ceremonies at which time they will donate their group authored books to their school libraries.
- In June, Herndon Afterschool hosted a family engagement event to celebrate the year and provide participants the opportunity to present their group authored books and artwork. Families and their children were highlighted for their personal, professional, and academic accomplishments throughout the year. They were also presented with a special gift designed to remind them of their resilience and grit, as well as the support they can find from staff and family. They were encouraged to attach the gift to their backpack so they would always have the reminder with them.
- In May, Reston Afterschool hosted two family engagement events to provide participants the opportunity to share their group authored work with their parents. During this time participants presented their stories followed by a family game time and dinner. Families responded well and asked for more family game and craft activity nights throughout the school year. There is a plan to institute monthly Family Fun Nights during the 3rd or 4th Friday of each month.
- During the Spring Session, Reston Afterschool Middle School participants completed their social justice project. While engaging in facilitated lessons and activities, participants learned about Peace Movements and self-designed a project in which they would make "peace shoes". This involved creating art tennis shoes that creatively express the importance and impact of peace movements. They worked together to research and select the social justice organizations to whom they would like to donate the shoes.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

#### **How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:**

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 opportunities for program staff to engage in youth development trainings and access various resources to enhance program efforts.

#### **Program Achievements:**

Program participants successfully completed their Write Brain group authored books. Almost 80% of program participants achieved the outcome of improving their academic performance.

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

Due to trying to maintain COVID protocols we are still unable to operate our programs at full participant capacity. We are planning to open registration for our summer program and bring participant numbers back to capacity for the 22/23 school year. In late March, Herndon Afterschool had to say goodbye our longstanding Program Coordinator. Finding a new hire for this position as proven to be a big challenge. This has resulted in the Director of Community of Youth Programs having to step into daily direct service until a qualified replacement can be found.

#### **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 Herndon Youth Program Coordinator resigned from their position in March. We are currently recruiting for this position as well as one program aide.

#### **Client Story:**

*LAST QUARTER:* One of our High School students was referred to our program because a negative/disruptive attitude and declining grades. During this quarter, the young person's mom reached out to thank us as she has seen a complete shift in her child's attitude. She reported that the young person demonstrates affection and is making good choices. In addition, the student has been accepted to 3 colleges and successfully pursued two scholarship opportunities. They have also served as a Shark Tank "mentor" helping the elementary students prepare for their presentations; as well as a PEARLS "mentor" working alongside the Director of Community Youth Programs to facilitate an all-girls group for 4th to 8th graders.

*UPDATE:* The student mentioned above graduated from Herndon High School with honors and has accepted an invitation to attend George Mason University on scholarship. In addition, she has been accepted into the University's nursing program. The student is currently working with Cornerstones as an intern for the summer. Excited about the experiences of their older daughter, the family has enrolled their elementary school aged daughter into Cornerstones Summer Excite! Program as well as the upcoming program year for Herndon Afterschool.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 194

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 194

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

During this quarter, case management activities included clothing referral, legal assistance, rental assistance programs, food pantries, referring clients to ESL classes and summer camp programs for kids. Clients were assisted with gift cards, and they were able to pick up food donations from the office.

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

The Multicultural Center collaborates with legal aid organizations to support client's cases. Often clients are referred to and from organizations such as Tahirih Justice Center, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Ayuda, Legal Aid Justice Center, and Just Neighbors, among others. Clients who present with a history of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other crime related trauma are often referred to these partners for legal consultation. When needed, we also reach out to client's lawyers and help advocate for those with language differences to have proper interpretation services. We also collaborate with lawyers in setting up appointments to decrease missed appointments due to lack of or miscommunication.

#### **Program Achievements:**

We have had a number of clients who finished their ESL classes and have found a new and better job as a result. Also, several clients have received their work permit to be able to find employment.

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

Due to the increase in food cost and gas prices clients who were able to come to the office for services have opted out to remote services instead to save money.

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

None

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

**Staff Turnover:**

None

**Client Story:**

Client is 54-year-old female from Honduras who came for services after she was no longer able to work due to health issues and could not access any benefits. Thanks to her case manager at NVFS, the client received the knee surgery she needed for free. Also, a combination of county and faith-based organization resources have helped support the client during the time she has been out of work and recovering from her surgery. The client hopes to be able to start working a few hours a week soon, while she continues to gain her full strength.

## Pathway Homes - Permanent Supportive Housing

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q		
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target %		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome
1. Provide services to adults w/mental illnesses and/or disabilities to support moving into permanent housing	CSBG	33	30	92%	Participants will secure & maintain safe & stable housing. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	37	36	97%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	33	30	92%		37	36	97%

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 92% of adults will 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:** 37

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 36

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

Continued education on monitoring local COVID positivity rates and following safety recommendations. Continued 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:**

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. This partnership continues to yield housing vouchers for clients to continue to move toward increased self-sufficiency as well as additional

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

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:**

Established program goals were achieved. Individuals were able to re-establish medical and behavioral health resources/connections and demonstrate significant re-stabilization as demonstrated by resolving housing issues and preserving their housing, re-establishing community engagement activities (religious affiliations, schooling, employment, and community support groups) and avoiding hospitalizations.

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

Two individuals served over this past two-year period were not able to respond favorably to the interventions provided and were unable to restabilize. As a result, both continued to decline engagement in needed mental health treatment and medications and both experienced repeated hospitalizations and incarcerations related to disruptive behaviors within their home and within their community. Neither of these two individuals were able to restabilize within the community and ultimately needed to be referred for a higher level of care.

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

None

#### **Staff Turnover:**

None

#### **Client Story:**

One of the greatest stories of this past two years is of a 42-year-old male, diagnosed with bipolar disorder and alcohol abuse, who had been successfully managing his symptoms, his apartment, a part-time job, and classes at INOVA. During the pandemic, he struggled with remote access to service providers, was unable to get needed prescriptions due to missing repeated appointments, decompensated psychiatrically, relapsed, and used alcohol to manage his depressive symptoms, and ultimately entered a manic episode whereby his disruptive behaviors in his apartment complex threatened his housing due to complaints from the neighbors and resulted in the loss of his job. This CCFP funding enabled him to receive in-home supportive services 3-4 times per week initially. With these supports he was accompanied to, and reconnected with, his mental health service provider and reconnected with AA where he eventually obtained a new sponsor.

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

At the same time, staff engaged/advocated regularly with the landlord who agreed to not move forward with the eviction provided his behaviors continued to stabilize and no further complaints were filed by the neighbors. With adherence to medications and appointments, his psychiatric symptoms abated, and services were tapered down to twice per week. While he was unable to return to his previous job, he did secure one day per week employment at a local retail store. He performed well enough over time that his hours were increased to 20 hours per week. He ended up being able to re-establish his financial assistance with the community college and is in class again with the goal of becoming a peer counselor. In mutual agreement with his treatment team, he determined he no longer needed in-home supports to manage his life and voluntarily discharged from services. Due to his demonstrated determination and resilience, he has been encouraged to apply to Pathways for a Peer Counselor position upon completion of the Peer Recovery program.

## Second Story – Culmore Youth Outreach Program

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q		
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome
1. Provide homework help, tutoring and computer access & assistance to 4th-6th graders	CSBG	200	160	80%	Youth served will improve their academic performance. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	263	247	94%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	200	160	80%		263	247	94%
2. Provide community service learnopportunities, counseling support & safe space.	CSBG	200	180	90%	Youth exhibit stable or increased mental health	263	263	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	200	180	90%		263	263	100%
3. . Provide job skills training to youth including leadership skill building & resume development.	CSBG	6	6	100%	Youth will demonstarte improved job skills	6	6	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	6	6	100%		6	6	100%

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 80% of youth will demonstrate 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:** 263

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 247

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

During this quarter, CYOP staff was able to fully resume in-person programming after being hybrid partially during the last quarter. Staff was able to outreach and promote the re-opening of in person services around the Culmore neighborhoods as well as communicate to students and their parents about the services offered through text messages and phone calls. In June staff converted the summer programming with extended hours, more field trips, academic review, continued helping youth with referral services, and researching for summer employment and internships.

Staff was able to reestablish and form new partnerships throughout the quarter to engage students in learning, gain new experiences and get meet partners to provide resources. Staff welcomed the FCPS Social Justice Book Club to have weekly meetings at our center and support increasing literacy skills, staff hosted a Meet and Greet event with Auto Elite Customs company to have an amazing car show and for teens to learn about the auto industry careers while receiving advice from successful professionals. Legal Aid Justice Center of Northern Virginia also formed a partnership where staff will host open discussions with the teens to inform them of their rights in different areas and scenarios while providing mentorship and referral services for their families on a biweekly basis. Toward the end of the quarter, teens resumed the martial arts classes with Mikido where the students were able to get great exercise, learn about self-defense, and practice discipline and respect. Staff from the office of the Healthy Minds of Fairfax came to the Teen Center and provided a focus group to the teens and talked about mental health awareness, bullying, and questions about how Fairfax County can help change communities and fix issues surrounding their neighborhoods. The Vienna Rotary Club was also gracious in continuing their partnership by providing a donation to the Teen Center, where the funds were used to update our security systems and cameras to keep our youth and staff safe. Staff also networked with Virtual Career Academy, and HMF Youth Advisory Council to collaborate on summer mental health programming through Healthy Minds, Fairfax County Police Department- The Teen Police Academy, and more youth activities for the upcoming summer months.

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

Staff continued to support the youth during the school year and summer months with their academics. Fourth quarter grade report cards were collected and analyzed for the teens to consult about their areas of improvement and strengths. Academic review sessions were held throughout every week with an emphasis on Language Arts, Math, Science, and ESL tutoring as newly registered teens have just arrived from different Central American countries. The staff made wellness calls daily and provided needed resources related to finances, employment, food referrals, health insurance, and free legal services. Staff are also continuing with fun field trips such as to local parks, museums National monuments, pools, and more through the support of our donors. In the program, we have recreational activities like our baking club, cooking club, and arts and crafts for the youth to self-express. Staff also hold pool tournaments, bingo, board game tournaments, and raffles for the youth to participate.

The Culmore Teen Center has had an increase of local volunteers who offer different types of assistance in the program. Some either through food donations so the children can have more variety of hot meals after school as well as providing professional hours and academic support. Through the volunteers, there has been more one on one attention to students and their need for homework support and reading abilities. Some volunteers have also been able to provide mentorship and talk about their experiences in attaining higher education and hosting workshops. During this quarter the intern has been supporting our health literacy program where we use evidence-based information so teens can be empowered to make healthy habits. This program is in partnership with the Fairfax County Health Department of the Stronger2 initiative to help give health related resources and reliable information to underserved communities. The Center staff have also finished training for the “Hype program” through Partner’s in Prevention fund to implement within the program in the Fall. This is to inform teens about taking care of their sexual health and making positive decisions.

Youth workers supported in translating resources and information to parents and teens in person and by phone. They created weekly food bags and hygiene packages for their peers. The youth workers took lead in our math, geography & vocabulary practice groups, and the baking club while working on office files and practicing using different Microsoft programs for data entry. As part of being employed through Second Story, they also mentored and supported new youth within the program, especially newly arrivals. As the quarter ended and some were leaving the program, the students worked with staff to make career plans after their youth worker employment by revamping their resumes and practicing interviewing skills

As many of the youth families face food insecurity, Second Story staff provided food distribution to youth four times a month on Thursdays. With the funding of the Food Access Grant from Fairfax County, the staff was able to supplement a regular food distribution with more fresh vegetables and fruits. It also included KFC donations, canned goods, rice, beans, oil, cereals, and more. Also included in the bags were hygiene packages with personal items, feminine hygiene products, hand sanitizers, and masks.

Our Youth Council returned to being fully in person again during our Monday meetings. They collaborated with youth in other communities within the Baileys Crossroad area to do community service, establish the Youth Council Handbook and learn about different issues

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

facing their communities and empower them to advocate for changes. The council led the Culmore Clean Up activity, organized the Bailey Community Garden, assisted in the Culmore Emergency town hall, and did a listening session where they voiced their concerns and opinions to different County departments and local community leaders.

Staff worked on contacting the senior list of 18 youth to retrieve information about their after-high school goals, plans, and hopes for their future. All seniors in the Culmore Teen Center program have successfully graduated from high school. Staff also shared information with 18 seniors on opportunities and numerous services and resources designed to get connected to the Nova community, George Mason University, job opportunities within the community, and college preparation. Staff supported seniors in the program by continuing wellness checks and providing information on scholarships, employment, and internship opportunity. This year, Second Story has its very own scholarship for seniors and those who recently graduated from the program known as the Irene Pierce Scholarship. Staff assisted students in writing competitive essays, gathering important documents, creating a variety of letters of recommendation, and answering questions for college applications and other scholarships.

#### **How Local Partners are Used to Enhance our Program:**

- Kentucky Fried Chicken, Chick-fil-A, and Food for Others are used to supply food for the Teens
- BRAWS delivers feminine hygiene products to young female participants.
- Rotary Club of Vienna provided food donations, and financial donations to enhance the center security system.
- Coastal Truck to provide prepared meals to the teens.
- Western Fairfax Christian Ministries for food donations.
- Food for Others to provide groceries to the teen center families.
- INOVA. Partnership for Healthier Youth. Helping teens applied for health insurance.
- Rotary Club of Vienna with monetary donations and opportunities to provide community service
- Center of Employment to provide training workshops and information sessions
- Bailey's Community Center to collaborate with events
- Auto Custom Elite to build partnerships in the auto industry
- Healthy Minds Fairfax to lead discussions on mental health
- Bailey's Lower Elementary school to offer opportunities for community service
- Fairfax County Public Library- Woodrow Wilson Library in collaborating with the mobile book club at our center
- Legal Aid Justice Center in hosting workshops, mentorships, and legal resources to our youth
- Fairfax County Police Department in providing opportunities for the youth to participate in academies and programs in the summer
- Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services in providing training and education materials to host the "Hype" program in the partners in prevention programming

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

- Fairfax County Health Department Stronger2 initiative to offer training and educational materials to provide to the teens

#### **Program Achievements:**

- 18 seniors graduated from high school
- The center has increased the number of interns and volunteers offering a variety of services for the youth.
- Have re-established old and reinforced new partnerships with different departments, businesses local organizations to supplement our programming.
- Staff hosted an equity COVID vaccine clinic for the teens and their families at the Culmore Resource Center.
- Staff hosted a Professional Day in June for the teens to get resources on employment and higher education.

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

One of the biggest challenges during this quarter was the rising cases of COVID-19 variants which caused the programs to be short-staffed at times.

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

None

#### **Staff Turnover:**

None

#### **Client Story:**

*Jessica*

Staff worked with Jessica on math support, ways to improve grades, and how to get comfortable with reaching out to teachers. Jessica often comes to the program to work as a youth worker and with volunteers weekly because she struggles with math. During the 1st quarter, Jessica received a D grade and wanted to challenge herself to receive a B or A by the end of the 4th quarter. Jessica also started to stay after school during the school year to work with teachers and even received extra tutoring support at school. Jessica is also a youth worker and sometimes struggles with maintaining positive decisions making so the coordinator matched her with an Intern to help with her self-confidence and self-esteem which she worked with her for several weeks. Staff and Jessica created a "Grade Improvement Plan" as well as completed a "Goal Tracking sheet" which included short- and long-term academic goals for the 4th quarter. Jessica has been doing a great job getting work turned in, passing the quiz, and turning in work on time. After working with CYOP staff/volunteers and teachers at school Jessica was able to improve her grade for the 4th quarter, she completed her project which was a huge percentage of her grade, classwork/homework, and even was able to get extra work to make up lower grades. Ending the school year Jessica was happy she was able to connect more with her teacher, she built more confidence in herself and was even open to helping other teens who struggle with Math at the teen center.

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

After staff and the client reviewed grades online, she was on the right track to receiving her improved grade of a B for her final grade in math.

*Jimmy*

Jimmy is a compassionate helpful student, who at times faced challenges as other students did not understand his special needs. He would at times face conflict with his peers as communication was difficult for him in certain social situations. As staff noticed this, we took the opportunity to advocate for him and educate other teen center youth about people with different special needs. This helped his peers understand more of where he was coming from, but we also provided Jimmy with guidance on how to positively manage his emotions. To further empower him to feel part of the community, he has taken on volunteer leadership roles in our outreach community events and workshops. He has grown in confidence; his self-esteem has increased and has shown improvements in his relationships with his peers while supporting his community.

## Second Story - Homeless Youth Program

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q		
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target %		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome
1. Provide homeless HS students assistance finding safe affordable housing	CSBG	16	14	90%	Participants will be sucessfully housed.	14	14	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	16	15	90%		14	14	100%
2. Provide case management to homeless HS students	CSBG	16	14	90%	Participants will graduate from HS or receive a GED. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	14	11	79%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	16	15	90%		14	11	79%
3. Provide case management to homeless HS students	CSBG	16	14	90%	Students will have improved financial management skills. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	14	11	79%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	16	15	90%		14	11	79%

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 90% of individuals and/or families 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:** 14

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 14

**Program Activities This Quarter:**

Case management, individual therapy, and housing were provided to ten 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 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:**

None

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

**Staff Turnover:**

None

**Client Story:**

“Wesley” came to the US on their own, fleeing persecution in their home county that was based on their gender identity. Finally feeling safe in the US, Wesley began working and enrolled in school. Maintaining school attendance was difficult due to having limited support without family or friends nearby, and Wesley had to make sure to earn enough money to pay rent each month. When this became too difficult to sustain, Wesley was referred to Second Story for Homeless Youth, and was able to find stable housing with financial support. Wesley worked hard and eventually was promoted to a management position at their work. While working full time, Wesley managed to keep their grades up to honor roll status with the support of Second Story, and they have been able to save money and learned how to budget from their case manager. Wesley saved over \$10,000 while being in the program and is looking forward to graduating high school and starting a stable new life!

## Second Story – Assisting Young Mothers

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q		
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome
1. Provide stable housing, food, clothing & case management services	CSBG	20	16	80%	Young women will be successfully housed.	13	13	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	20	16	80%		13	13	100%
2. Provide parenting, life skills, financial, employment education.	CSBG	10	8	80%	Young mothers served will increase their life and parenting skills. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	6	6	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	10	8	80%		6	6	100%
3. Provide mental health counseling	CSBG	10	7	70%	Young women served will show improved behavioral health.	6	5	83%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	10	7	70%		6	5	83%

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

**Program:** Second Story for Young Mothers

**Contract Analyst:** Vannessa Calderon

**Organization:** Second Story

**Phone #:** 703-324-3269

**Program Description:** Provide young women 18 to 22 years old who are homeless single mothers, and their children will receive safe stable housing, food, and clothing. services provided include linking the young women to community resources, help with educational goals, job preparedness, financial literacy, a savings plan, life skills training, and medical and mental health care.

**Program Outcome:** 80% of adults 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:** 13

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 13

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

Case management, individual therapy, life skills groups, and parenting skills groups were provided to four adults and their five 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, practical life skills, nutrition, cleaning, anger management, mental health education, dating violence, healthy sexuality, communication, safety, and resume building/interview skills.

#### **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, and Generation Hope 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. INOVA Fairfax, Medicaid and/or FAMIS, and Community Services Board help with health and mental and behavioral health care, and Healthy Families conduct assessments on all new mothers and provide referrals and resources as needed. Office for Children also helps young mothers obtain child care assistance so they can work. These groups and more contribute to making the program a safe, educational, and supportive experience for the young mothers and children who live there.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

#### **Program Achievements:**

This quarter, the program welcomed two young mothers and their two children into the program. The young mothers engaged in a series of Psychoeducational groups through Fairfax County's HYPE program. HYPE provides the mothers with an array of education, such as dating violence, healthy sexuality and sexual violence, values, and communication, just to name a few. Group participation has been positive, as the mothers share their thoughts and experiences. SSYM has welcomed back more volunteers this quarter to help with childcare, tutoring, assisting young mothers as they clean and organize, and developing caring adult relationships. This spring was also time for celebration! One of the toddlers rang in her birthday at Chuck E Cheese!

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

As concerns about the pandemic have decreased, rising food and necessities prices have increased during the last quarter. The formula shortage hit the program hard as 3 of our 5 children required formula, and two required sensitive baby formula. Staff reached out to donors and volunteers who were able to supply the young mothers with a sufficient supply while allaying client fears of running out completely. Fears of recession also loom large as the young mothers are struggling to make ends meet while managing stress and anxiety reactions. Staff continue to respond to each young mother's needs and to help each youth with budgeting and financial planning. Program therapists are also reaching out more to make sure young mothers are working through their mental health issues and getting more support as needed.

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

The program saw the addition of two young women and their two children.

#### **Staff Turnover:**

None

#### **Client Story:**

In the fall of 2021, a domestic incident took place between "Tamekia", her mother, and stepfather, which resulted in the police being called to the home. Subsequently, "Tamekia" was placed on probation and, CPS became involved with her. After the incident, "Tamekia" was provided with Second Story for Young Mothers (SSYM) contact information by a community worker. "Tamekia" did not follow up with the SSYM recommendation at that time and continued to struggle in the home. "Tamekia" described having a poor relationship with her stepfather and does not speak to him. She reported having a tumultuous relationship with her mother and described her as one who "blows up out of nowhere". "Tamekia" highlighted her childhood and recent experience at home as a life filled with domestic violence. Even though "Tamekia" reported having a difficult relationship with her mother, she named her mother, older brother and biological father as providing some supports for her. Domestic violence between her biological parents was played out in the home while "Tamekia" was growing up. Therapy was introduced to "Tamekia" a few times during childhood, but "Tamekia" reported not being engaged. "Tamekia's" family dynamics changed over time, as her parents separated, and her stepfather joined the household. "Tamekia" also became a mother and began to navigate motherhood, while trying to keep up with supporting herself and daughter. "Tamekia" stated that she lost a few employment opportunities due to not having childcare. In the Spring of 2022, "Tamekia"

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

**Fiscal Year 2022**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

inquired about services with SSYM, and was admitted to the program. “Tamekia” stated she is looking for support from SSYM around her mental health, support with gaining independent living skills, becoming financially responsible, being the best mother to her daughter, and one day obtaining her own apartment. “Tamekia” appears to want to change the course of her life and give her daughter the opportunity to grow in a healthy environment.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

**Program:** Early Learning Center

**Organization:** United Community Ministries

**Contract Analyst:** Vannessa Calderon

**Phone #:** 703-324-3289

**Program Description:** Provides 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:** 70% of children will 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:** 21

**Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes:** 16

**Actual Number of Clients Served YTD:** 38

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 38

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

During the reporting period, the Early Learning Center has been engaged in multiple special events and activities:

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Sunglasses Day
- Teddy Bear Tuesday
- Purple Day
- Best Friend Day
- Pink Day
- Popsicle Party

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

During the reporting period the Alexandria Book Bee donated over 100 new and gently used children's books. Families of enrolled children showered the teachers with sweet treats, beverages, and all kinds of delicious food for teacher appreciation week!

#### **Program Achievements:**

During the reporting period the ELC completed CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) observations for all classrooms. CLASS is the leading quality improvement system for teaching, helps you focus, measure, and improve classroom interactions — a key factor proven to drive children's academic and life-long success. CLASS not only defines teaching quality through the lens of interactions, but it also provides the ability to measure and improve the interactions that matter most for student outcomes. It's a journey of continuous improvement that is data-driven and focused on what matters most for student outcomes, interactions.

The implementation of CLASS will:

- Focus on high-quality interactions and create a shared understanding of quality in your program

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

- Measure the quality of interactions to create a system that enables data-driven improvement
- Improve teaching quality through tailored and individualized professional development.

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

The Early Learning Center enrollment has increased and encountered regular inquiries from families. The Center staff continue to review resumes and conduct interviews for perspective teachers. We look forward to hiring more teachers and receiving more children to the center!

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

None

#### **Staff Turnover:**

We are currently recruiting to fill all vacant positions and in the process of hiring one Lead Teacher.

#### **Client Story:**

Evan is a 2-year-old that enrolled at the ELC in July 2021. Evan's parents shared that Evan has been home due to the pandemic and has never been in childcare. They shared when they try to leave Evan in small playgroups with cousins, he has severe separation anxiety and will cry. The parents hope that putting Evan in the Early Learning Center will help him adjust to social interactions with other children and teachers and help with his anxiety. On Evan's first day of school, he cried and attempted to run out the classroom. His dad stood at the classroom door and tried to console him. Evan's teacher Ms. Huma assured Evan's dad that this is to be expected and would improve as Evan gets to know his new teachers and friends. Dad agreed and left the classroom. The first week was tough for the Evan and his parents. Evan continued to cry at drop off and was not eating his meals and snack while in school. Ms. Huma scheduled a parent-teacher conference with the family to create a transition plan for Evan. The family shared with Ms. Huma that Evan loves fruit and does not eat chicken unless its cut into small bite size pieces. Ms. Huma assured the family she could make those accommodations. Ms. Huma recommended that the family read books to Evan about going to school and how fun it can be. Ms. Huma gave the family a bag of books that have helped other children and families in the past. One of the books Ms. Huma would read to Evan when he was really missing Mom and Dad is called "The Kissing Hand". The story is about a little racoon that is so sad when his Mommy is not around. So, his mommy gives him a magic kiss in his hand for him to hold all day. The family left the conference feeling a bit more at ease and excited to read the books with Evan. The following week at drop off, Evan walked in the classroom with no tears and said, "Good morning, friends". Ms. Huma looked at Evan's dad with surprise. Dad smiled, kneeled down at Evan, kissed the palm of his hand, and waved good bye to Evan. Evan ran to Ms. Huma and hugged her legs. Dad smiled and said thank you to Ms. Huma.

## UCM - Stepping Stones

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q		
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome
1. Provide case management, counseling and referrals to participants	CSBG	48	26	55%	Clients will have access to resources that increase stability. <b>(CSBG Outcome)</b>	801	549	69%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	48	26	55%		801	549	69%
2. Provide financial assistance to eligible participants in the form of rental assistance	CSBG	65	65	100%	Clients will have access to resources that increase stability	379	379	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	65	65	100%		379	379	100%
3. Provide prescription Assistance to eligible participants	CSBG	30	30	100%	Clients will have stable or improved physical health	505	505	100%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		0	0	0%
	Total	30	30	100%		505	505	100%
4. Provide 3 day supply of Emergency Food	CSBG	3,200	3,200	100%	Clients will have access to resources that increase stability	3534	3444	97%
	CCFP	0	0	0%		30	30	0%
	Total	3,200	3,200	100%		3564	3474	97%

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</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 food, including fresh produce to individuals who come to United Community food pantry.

**Program Outcome:** 100% of persons will 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:** 3,553

**Number of Clients Achieving Outcome:** 3,463

#### **Program/Service 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, food delivery to homebound clients continued without disruption 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, 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. Working with Dominion Energy through the Energy Share program, the program ensured that clients received financial assistance to pay their energy bills. In collaboration with CSP, County residents in need of financial assistance were referred to Stepping Stones. Our food service partners: Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), Whole Foods, Wegmans, Amazon, Kiwanis Club, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, St Louis Catholic Church, other faith groups continued to enhance our weekly food distribution. CAFB resumed their monthly fresh produce distribution which was suspended due to the pandemic. This fresh produce has boosted our overall food distribution. Stepping Stones continues to collaborate with Northern Virginia Dental Clinic in providing basic dental care to program participants in need of dental work. 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**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report**

#### **Program Achievements:**

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

- All our CFFP contracted service activities were provided to the clients during this reporting period.
- Major partners to the program remained engaged throughout this quarter.
- One of the case management clients enrolled in vocational training completed her training in phlebotomy. Two days after her training she got a job which moved her from zero income to \$19 per hour. Another one who is training in early childhood education will be completing her training in July. Two additional clients have identified their preferred vocational training in home inspection and Certified Nursing Assistance respectively. The goal is to provide them with skills that will improve their self-sufficiency.
- Through our partnership with Britepaths, 12 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
- In addition to fulfilling our CCFP contracted service agreement during this quarter, Stepping Stones in partnership with the DC Diaper Bank and Dominion Energy distributed 39,875 diapers to babies ages 0-3. Children over the age of 3 with special needs also received. Households in need utility bill assistance received financial aid from the program.
- Stepping Stones successfully ended FY23 well by meeting and surpassing our projected service outcomes.
- The program hired a bilingual - English/Spanish staff to replace the vacant position.

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

Funding will continue to be an issue as long as demand for assistance remains high. The program was able to serve many more clients in FY22 than we projected because United Community sourced funds from different avenues. As we look to focus more on skills acquisition as a component of our case management, more funding will be needed to cover tuition for short term vocational training that may not be covered through PELL grant or FAFSA. Hence funding continues to be a challenge. The program has still not been able to recruit more professional volunteers thereby making it difficult for us to meet our projected professional volunteer target.

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

The program did not have significant changes during this quarter. However, a trend that continues is in the number of clients seeking rental assistance. Demand for rental assistance is more than budgeted funds. With the number of requests, Stepping Stones could go through its entire rental assistance budget in two – three months. The program usually pauses rental assistance referrals from CSP whenever the monthly rent budget is maxed out. What this is telling us is that people are still in need of assistance maintaining their housing. Housing stability has been an issue in the County due to its high rent market coupled with the short supply of affordable housing stock, but the pandemic worsened the problem. Since we started a limited short term vocational tuition assistance with some of our case management clients, there is a gradual request from clients seeking assistance. Another trend the program noticed from the last

## COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2022

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Narrative Report

quarter to this quarter under review shows that there seems to be a decrease in the number of clients identified as Hispanic or Latino seeking service. While at the same time, there is a gradual rise in the number of clients who identified as Not Hispanic or Latino.

#### **Staff Turnover:**

A new bilingual Counselor was hired to fill the vacancy created by the sudden resignation of the former bilingual Counselor.

#### **Client Story:**

Jane was referred to Stepping Stones in June by CSP. She lives with her partner, and they have two children ages 11 months and 15 years old. Her problem started after she returned to work from maternity leave in October 2021. Jane indicated that her workplace was infested with bedbugs, and she had brought the bedbugs to her home. She reported the infestation to her employer. The employer reportedly told Ms. Jane that an inspection was done at her workplace and found no case of bedbug infestation. As she had an infestation at home with her baby bassinet and household furniture infested, to protect her baby and her family she quit her job because the employer did not work exterminate and clean the workspace. She had extermination treatment in her home.

Unfortunately for Ms. Jane, her husband lost his job right around the time she quit her own job. With loss of income, the family struggled to pay their rent as they owe rent balance of \$1,940 for the months of May and June. However, both started a new job in June but there were still playing catch up with rent and other household expenses. Ms. Jane reached out to Coordinated Services Planning for assistance, after CSP assessment, she was referred to Stepping Stones and Britepaths for rental assistance.

Stepping Stones and Britepaths contributed \$1,850 while Ms. Jane contributed \$90 to cover two months' rent balance. With these coordinated services planning approach, client and her family averted homelessness. With both parents stably employed, they increased their chances of stabilizing their housing.