



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board

Memorandum

To: CAAB Members
From: Michelle Jefferson, Chair
Date: August 21, 2023

Subject: CAAB Meeting – September 5, 2023

The next CAAB meeting will be held **in-person** on Tuesday September 5, 2023, at 7:30pm in rooms 9 & 10 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Presentation: Valerie L’Herrou of the Virginia Poverty Law Center

Valerie L’Herrou of the Virginia Poverty Law Center is presenting on the issue of low compensation for court appointed attorneys on child custody cases. Ms. L’Herrou will outline the problem and provide plans for a pilot program in Fairfax County to help the situation.

CSBG 4th Quarter Report

Staff will present the CSBG FY23 4th Quarter report. Included in this meeting packet are:

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

Upcoming Meetings

The October 3rd meeting will be held at Food for Others. This will give CAAB members an opportunity to meet the new Executive Director and tour the new Food for Others market. The CAAB Bylaws indicate that the CAAB does not meet in November – a meeting on November 8th has been proposed. CAAB members will have an opportunity to vote on whether to hold a virtual November meeting via survey after the September meeting.

Membership and Election Committee Report

An update on the actions taken to fill vacancies will be given.

Freedom of Information Act Updates

Susan Al-Suqi will provide FOIA updates based on the recent Gloss v. Wheeler case.

CAAB Member 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.

Attachments:

September 2023 Meeting Agenda

August 2023 Meeting Minutes

FY23 CSBG 4th Quarter Report

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



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Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board
Fairfax County Government Center
Rooms 9 & 10

September 5, 2023
7:30 PM

AGENDA

TIME	ISSUE	INFO/ACTION	PRESENTER
7:30 PM	Call to Order		Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Approval of Minutes	Action	Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Presentation: Virginia Poverty Law Center	Info	Valerie L’Herrou
	4 th Quarter CSBG Program Progress Report	Action	Staff
	Upcoming Meetings		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October in person at Food for Others – food drive Meet in November? 	Info/Action	Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Membership and Elections Update	Info	Shari Zamarra, Membership & Elections Committee Chair
	Freedom of Information Act Updates	Info	Susan Al-Suqi
	Member Sharing	Info	CAAB Members
9:30 PM	Adjourn		

Next CAAB Meeting
Tuesday, October 3
7:30 p.m.
Food for Others
2938 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031

The Community Action Advisory Board's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of people experiencing poverty by influencing decision makers, providing funding, and taking actions to address the root causes and conditions of poverty and injustice.



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Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 7:30pm Meeting held electronically via Zoom video/audio platform

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Michelle Jefferson, who proceeded with doing the member roll call.

Members in Attendance: Michelle Jefferson, Fairfax County, VA; Heather Thomas, Centreville, VA; Caroline Hockenberry, Vienna, VA; Marcia McDevitt, Reston, VA; Michael Mahrer, Falls Church, VA; Michele Menapace, Southeast Fairfax, VA; Ben Zuhl, Falls Church, VA; Maria Leiva Alfonso, Falls Church, VA; Phil Rosenthal, Fairfax Station, VA; Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz, Herndon, VA; Ken McMillon, Falls Church, VA; Shari Zamarra, Fairfax, VA; April Hall; Alice Yam, Herndon, VA

Absent: Morgan Jameson, Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Alex Rodriguez, Nermin AbdelWahab, Sandra Barksdale, Kevin Hickerson, Hari Kurup, Matthew Bell, Alicia Doe, Mary Ann Floto, Hawa Hassan, Ann Macpherson, Whitney Richardson

Guest(s)/Staff: Karla Bruce and Carla Brown, One Fairfax; Molly Cullen and Florencia Khomasi, Tahirih Justice Center

Minutes – June 6, 2023

The motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Ken McMillon, seconded by Ben Zuhl, and was carried without objection.

One Fairfax Overview

Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer, presented on the One Fairfax policy, a racial and social equity resolution and policy committing to the county and FCPS to intentionally consider equity when making policies, planning, and delivering programs and services.

Tahirih Justice Center Program Presentation

Molly Cullen and Florencia Khomasi presented on the Tahirih Justice Center program and its mission to protect immigrant survivors fleeing gender-based violence using a three-pronged approach: Training and Education, Policy Advocacy, and Direct Services (e.g., social services and legal services). The Tahirih program offers a variety of in-house services: safety planning, comprehensive case management, needs assessments, service planning, system navigation and advocacy. The program provides community referrals to their clients as needed (e.g., emergency shelter and housing, employment services, crisis intervention).

CAAB Member Information Sharing

- Chair Michelle Jefferson indicated that Shari Zamarra will be the new Affordable Housing Advisory Council (AHAC) representative, with Heather Thomas serving as an alternate.



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- Michael Mahrer shared that the English Empowerment Center's next semester starts in September with registration beginning the week of August 7th. Last year the Center served 1,977 adults. If anyone needs help with learning English, please visit Englishempowercenter.org to register.
- Michele "Cookie" Hymer Blitz shared that the county had its first heat emergency of the summer. A new program was introduced to provide relief and county residents can sign up to receive alerts on their phones. Fairfax County uses heat index of 105 degrees to declare a heat emergency. Cooling centers include libraries, recreation centers, and shelters around the county.
- Ben Zuhl shared that Valerie L'Herrou from the Virginia Poverty Law Center and Senator Favola are introducing a bill to help families with foster care custody cases. . children have better outcomes when they are with their family. In custody cases a court-appointed lawyer is paid \$120 per case. .
- Shari Zamarra shared that CAAB members should get involved in their local land use committee. She mentioned that in Braddock district there is opposition for a shelter for six women with Bethany house. She also shared that Virginians Organize for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) had a session on July 9th with the governor on youth behavioral violence; the group is hopeful for better access to therapy.
- Heather Thomas shared that the City of Fairfax has formed a homeless taskforce which includes community members and three non-profits; there may be potential for future collaboration with CAAB.

Introduction of New CAAB Support Staff

Susan Al-Suqi was introduced as the new Community Action Program Manager. She will provide the day to day support to the CAAB and will work ensure that the Community Action Program is compliant with all state and federal requirements.

Membership and Elections

Shari Zamarra shared that there are three vacant slots in the representative sector (including the Headstart slot). There is a possibility of 2 individuals sharing the HeadStart slot. Ms. AbdelWahab has been named as the representative for the Fairfax Bar Association. The Membership and Elections Committee will reach to CAAB members who have missed more than 3 consecutive meetings to determine continued level of interest in participating in the CAAB.

Adjournment

Ken McMillion motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ben Zuhl. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.



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Financial Report

Community Services Block Grants Worksheet - FY 2023 YTD			
	Federal CSBG	TANF CSBG	TOTAL CSBG
Housing (40%)			
New Hope Housing	\$ 81,747.61	\$ -	\$ 81,747.61
United Community	\$ 191,777.64	\$ 199,605.29	\$ 391,382.93
Subtotal	\$ 273,525.25	\$ 199,605.29	\$ 473,130.54
Health & Social/Behavioral Development (25%)			
Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington	\$ 32,798.00	\$ -	\$ 32,798.00
Food for Others	\$ 303,802.32	\$ -	\$ 303,802.32
Second Story	\$ -	\$ 57,675.00	\$ 57,675.00
Subtotal	\$ 336,600.32	\$ 57,675.00	\$ 394,275.32
Support Services (20%)			
Tahirih Justice Center	\$ 44,554.99	\$ -	\$ 44,554.99
Shelter House	\$ -	\$ 124,101.11	\$ 124,101.11
Subtotal	\$ 44,554.99	\$ 124,101.11	\$ 168,656.10
Education & Cognitive Development (15%)			
Cornerstones	\$ -	\$ 84,332.89	\$ 84,332.89
Second Story	\$ -	\$ 63,596.00	\$ 63,596.00
Subtotal	\$ -	\$ 147,928.89	\$ 147,928.89
Total	\$ 654,680.56	\$ 529,310.29	\$ 1,183,990.85



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COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDED PROGRAM Fiscal Year 2023 4th Quarter Narrative Report

Cornerstones - Kids & Parents Engage

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome		
Afterschool Out-of-School-Time programming (homework help and enrichment programming)	CSBG	46	35	76%	Improve the academic performance of children and youth. (CSBG Outcome)	61	61	100%	133%	133%
	Total	46	35	76%		61	61	100%	133%	133%

Program: Kids and Parents Engage (KAPE)
Contract Analyst: Devin Thornton

Organization: Cornerstones
Phone #: 703-324-7208

Program Description: KAPE seeks to improve the academic performance of targeted children and youth through afterschool out-of-school time (OST) programming. Services include homework help and enrichment programming.

Program Outcome: 75% of youth have improved academic performance.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$70,776

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 46

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 35

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 46

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 61

Program Activities this Quarter:

During the 4th Quarter, Cornerstones Afterschool provided daily academic support sessions and project-based learning (PBL) discovery zone activities. The program was able to host elementary youth for a Kennedy Center presentation of Jacqueline Woodson’s book “Each Kindness.” The art-filled presentation consisted of music, movement, audience participation (which saw one of our participants to take to the stage), and a live reading by Woodson herself. Prior to the performance, we held a workshop that used the book to engage program participants in peer group discussion around empathy, kindness, and understanding another’s story. Their discussions were followed by an interactive project in which they identified specific ways to extend kindness and created a visual representation of those intentions. Following the performance, youth engaged in a debrief as well as a writing session where they wrote letters to Woodson expressing the impact of the book and the performance. Cornerstones Afterschool ended the year with a trip to see the movie “Elemental”. As with all our learning, it was not just a trip to see a movie. The young people engaged in pre-movie workshop in which they discussed the science aspect of the four natural elements, how they operate together and in conflict, and how they are affected by the increase in waste in our world. They were able to tie these lessons to the lessons they learned through their Shark Tank experience with upcycling. In addition to the science lessons, the Elemental story was used to focus on the social-emotional learning



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(SEL) skills of empathy, compassion, and relationship building. After the movie, the youth debriefed the movie and how their prework learning showed up in the film.

HERNDON AFTERSCHOOL

Herndon Afterschool 7th Annual Shark Tank was the focus of the Spring Session. This year, the PBL curriculum focused on Upcycling. The young people were charged with creating a product through the process of upcycling. Shark Tank is divided into two parts: part one consists of subject matter learning and part two focuses on product creation and development. During part one, participants researched the concept of upcycling, why it is important, and various products that have already been created through the process of upcycling. Part two is where the excitement begins as the young people work in their production groups to design and develop their product to present to the Shark panel. This year they had to determine which materials they wanted to Upcycle and what they would create. Program participants were encouraged to think outside of the box, be creative and not confine themselves to conventional thinking. Products ranged from a cane made of soda cans to a roadway made of plastic bottles. The presentations were made during the last week of the Spring Session, followed by the annual Shark Tank celebration where first place, second place, and honorable mentions were awarded and all participants were received “Shark Bags” (goodie bags), pizza, and treats for their hard work.

RESTON AFTERSCHOOL

During the Spring Session, Reston Afterschool participated in the MY TOWN LEGO challenge creating their ideal town of Reston. The kids identified the issues that were important to them, conceptualized the town culture they would like their Reston to have, and the policies and practices they would need to have in place to support the identified culture. They concluded with “Town Presentations” where they offered information about their town’s community culture and social issues that were addressed by the town’s culture design.



Program Achievements:

- Cornerstones Afterschool hired a fulltime senior youth program coordinator, Adeng Maluil, to oversee Herndon Afterschool and activity and curriculum development for both Cornerstones Afterschool sites.
- Four program youth finished the year with perfect program attendance, meaning they did not miss one day of program. Thirty-six youth were awarded exceptional attendance awards, meaning they missed 20 or less program days and all missed days were excused



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absences. This is a significant achievement for our parents as it means they understood and accepted the responsibility of letting program staff know their child would be absent and why.

- 43 of 53 program youth were able to achieve the projected outcome of improving academic performance. While this number is smaller than the total number of youth served, we report only the number of youth who were with the program for enough time for program efforts to have an impact. Thus, the number of youth reported in the last quarter were part of program efforts for at least 5 months.
- Middle School youth demonstrated growth in understanding the connection between goal-setting and responsible decision-making. They also demonstrated growth in teamwork and leadership roles.
- Staff were able to consistently meet with and offer additional support for program families.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

As the program coordinator is the most essential of the two positions, at the end of last quarter we restructured the staffing model to eliminate the Aide position. This allowed us to create a Senior Coordinator position and increase the salary. While we were able to hire an amazing program lead, it did come at the loss of an aide resulting in a decrease in the program roster to ensure the continued movement toward program goals and maximize the experience of program participants. Transportation continues to be a challenge. The way it has shown up is limiting kids' ability to attend the program with conflicting parent work schedules. The impact is large enough to be noticeable, but small enough that a consistent transportation source such as a van would help when youth cannot attend because of shifts in parental work schedules. Very rarely does a child have to completely withdraw from the program. The biggest impact is that for some, there is a lack of consistency.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

This quarter, we were able to partner with the local Rotary Club to provide an end of year family activity and summer safety baskets for all our program families.

Changes in Client Population:

We have not had a change in client population. However, we are finding that we are seeing an increase in program applications for children new to the county with very little to no English language skills. The parents continuously express concern for their child's potential for academic success and are seeking not only academic support, but support in improving English language skills.

Staff Turnover:

Our youth program coordinator for Reston Afterschool resigned at the end of the school year and we are currently recruiting for the position. Our biggest recruitment challenge is being able to offer a higher salary for this position.

Client Story:

Success Story - One of the wonderful things about the Cornerstones Afterschool framework is our intentional engagement efforts with our youth and their families. This is enhanced by the fact that we are a Cornerstones program with access to various wrap around services. Our success story in



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progress centers around one of our middle school youths and their family. This youth came to us two years ago as a 7th grader. At this time, they were angry and disengaged. During their first year with us, they began to open up and improve in their school performance. They returned this past year as an 8th grader ready to participate in every aspect of program. The challenge this year was helping the young person understand that getting academic support for the one class in which they were underperforming, was not a weakness. By the end of the year, their academic performance improved, and they ended the year much better than they started. During this time, however, we noticed that there seemed to be some increased stress and physical medical issues. After meeting with the young person's mother, we discovered various burdens they were carrying as a family that were obviously having an impact on the young person's health mentally and physically.

The area causing the most stress is housing. There is a desperate need for the family to find alternative housing that is affordable, safe and keeps them in the same area. However, this is a hard task. After a few conversations with the young person's mom, we were able to start community care services with the Cornerstones Community Care Managers team. Over the course of the last two months, we have been able to set some goals and find various support resources for the family. While there is still a journey ahead, in response to being told that she looked a little lighter and not as burdened, mom replied that she did feel lighter, and it was because she doesn't feel like she is battling this alone. She feels hopeful and really appreciates the help and support. Mom has been meeting the goals she sets with the care manager and has set next steps for both her child and family.



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Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome		
Provide mental health services to low-income adults. Services include mental health assessment, diagnostic psychiatric evals, med management, psychotherapy and collaboration w patient families.	CSBG	39	31	80%	Adults have stable or improved behavioral health (self-reported or professional assessment) (CSBG Outcome)	35	29	83%	90%	74%
	Total	39	31	80%		35	29	83%	90%	74%

Program: Mental Health & Counseling Services

Organization: Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington

Contract Analyst: Devin Thornton

Phone #: 703-324-7208

Program Description: Provide crisis intervention, prevention, and/or in-depth one-on-one counseling services to low-income adults experiencing behavioral issues throughout Fairfax County. Behavioral issues include, but are not limited to, conflicts within dysfunctional families, marital conflict, mood disorders, anxiety disorder, trauma, alcohol, and drug abuse, and/or anger problems.

Program Outcome: 80% of adults have stable or improved behavioral health (Self-Reported or Professionally Assessed).

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$32,798

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 39

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 31

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 35

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 29

Program Activities this Quarter:

Our therapists provided one-on-one counseling to low-income adults; our services included crisis intervention, prevention, psychotherapy, and couples and family counseling. We provided services to two local senior daycare centers for one-on-one or small group therapy sessions.

Program Achievements:

- FCCGW hired three new therapists, an art therapist, and a mental health coordinator, thus a very successful last quarter. Our new mental health coordinator was able to accept all patients on the waiting list due to our new bilingual licensed mental health therapists and a QMHP counselor. The new therapists organized all the new clients without any complications through our web-based practice management software for behavioral health, TheraNest, as well as the thorough management of appointments and feedback of the clients by our new mental health coordinator.
- FCCGW modified and reduced the service fees again for low-income clients in May. All the clients took advantage of this service and were very satisfied. Our agency verified the clients' most recent paystub or tax report to accommodate these new reduced fees. More than 80% of



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our new clients received this benefit. Additionally, we accepted Medicaid for those who did not qualify. Therefore, the achieving outcome for Counseling Services-Adults was 92%.

- FCCGW spent \$3,800 on advertisements and directories to introduce our agency, the importance of mental health, and newly reduced service fees for low-income families.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

FCCGW is still on a fervent search for a new compassionate and experienced bilingual psychiatrist. Meanwhile, we have partnered with Vine Psychiatric Associates, Dr. Bae, to help our clients. We have successfully hired two experienced bilingual licensed mental health professionals and a QMHP counselor, thus achieving over 90% of the projected goal. We also hired an art therapist this month. In addition, FCCGW's Supervisor, Dr. Chun-Shin Taylor (LCPC; LPC; NCC; ACS), agreed to meet clients starting the new quarter. We can now accommodate more clients with difficulties now that we have partnered with Dr. Bae and our Supervisor.

Many clients in our senior program and 60 and above felt overwhelmed by the mental health intake forms via Adobe; thus, they decided not to begin counseling sessions. Furthermore, other clients mentioned that there were too many questions on the intake forms to type and sign. Due to the complications of the mental health intake forms, FCCGW has decided to apply two methods: fill out the intake forms on-site with the help of the mental health coordinator; or, at the first session, with the client's consent, have the client's licensed counselor verbally read each question and check off the answer on client's behalf. We also revised the questions, cutting the intake forms to three pages, not four. We have received positive feedback, and more elders have enrolled due to the rapid intake process.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

From the last quarter, our agency has been working with local senior daycare centers providing mental care, health-related services, and/or activities specifically for seniors. We have been receiving many counseling inquiries from those adult daycare centers. Furthermore, we hosted a mental health seminar on how to overcome obstacles in relationships from April to June, and promoted why mental services are crucial at any age.

Changes in Client Population:

Recently, we are seeing more senior citizens who are experiencing anxiety and depression due to the fear of death, deteriorating health, and isolation from family members. We renewed our contract with a counselor in her 60s who worked part-time, but now she is our half-time counselor. She visits the senior centers on Thursdays.

Staff Turnover:

We have accomplished a huge success in hiring a new mental health coordinator, licensed therapists, a QMHP counselor, and an art therapist this quarter. With such high demand for bilingual psychiatrists, the salary and benefits increased immensely, thus the layover in hiring a new psychiatrist. But helping our clients is more crucial and urgent, so we decided to partner with Dr. Bae from Vine Psychiatric Associates for clients who need psychiatric services.

Client Story:



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A female client in her mid-60s desperately sought counseling due to her daughter's death. Her daughter committed suicide a month ago. The client demonstrated deep remorse, sorrow, breakdown, and depressive symptoms. Our counselor was able to help her vent her repressed emotions and tears. Through the counselor's treatment plan, the mother is learning and practicing varieties of coping skills and mechanisms.



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Food for Others

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
	Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target %	Number Served		# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome			
Provide emergency food assistance to clients w referrals from social workers or social service orgs. The boxes provide clients w staples, such as milk, eggs, and non-perishable items.	CSBG	8010	6889	86%	Clients have increased food security. (CSBG Outcome)	7531	7531	100%	94%	94%
	Total	8010	6889	86%		7531	7531	100%	94%	94%

Program: Emergency Food Assistance

Contract Analyst: Vannessa Calderon

Organization: Food for Others

Phone #: 703-324-3269

Program Description: Food for Others provides emergency food assistance to clients with referrals from social workers or social service organizations. The boxes provide clients with staples, such as milk, eggs, and non-perishable items, so they can prepare nutritionally balanced meals.

Program Outcome: 86% of persons have increased food security.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$298,572

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 8,010

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 6,889

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 7,531

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 7,531

Program Activities this Quarter:

Food for Others continues to work strategically to grow and better serve our neighbors in need. Last quarter, Food for Others continued to see a high demand in our community. Many mornings begin with a line forming outside of our pantry before our doors even open at 9:30AM. We believe the recent reason for an influx in demand is due to the school year ending, mixed with the impact we've already seen from the decrease in SNAP benefits and high costs associated with groceries. With students' home for the summer, families are not receiving supplemental support through school meals/programs. We believe this is causing families to need more food assistance.

During the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, we noticed a trend and increase in the number of families who came for food assistance one-time. Now with the end of the state of emergency, we are seeing more families who are repeat clients and need longer-term assistance.

Program Achievements:

100% of families who came to Food for Others or picked up from a mobile site location with a referral have access to the security net that we provide. Through our Client Satisfaction Survey, we are tracking client's responses to food security-based questions to assess their level of food security both before and after they receive assistance from Food for Others. Preliminary survey



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data continues to show an increase in food security through the food provided by Food for Others.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

The biggest challenge being met this quarter is continuing to serve the increase in demand in our community while also experiencing the over 6% increase in food prices and a decrease in food drive donations. We typically experience an up to 40% decrease in food drive donations throughout the summertime. Staff are constantly monitoring the situation and adjusting where needed to make sure all programs are supported. The food drive activity that takes place throughout the holiday season, starting in September through December, is what helps carry us throughout the slow donation season. As of yearend on June 30th, we had 254,876 lbs. on hand in the warehouse. This amount equates to less than one month of total FFO food distributions.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

Food for Others is very active in our community and collaborates with a variety of organizations focused on bettering our community's well-being. Food for Others continues to run 7 mobile sites in our community that accommodate clients who are being affected by accessibility issues and are unable to pick up their emergency food box from our Merrifield warehouse. As mentioned previously, our mobile market partners are:

- Bailey's Elementary School
- Floris United Methodist Church
- Rolling Valley Elementary School
- St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- Waples Mobile Home Park
- Wesley Housing – Madison Ridge
- Wesley Housing – Strawbridge Square

Changes in Client Population:

Similarly, in the third quarter, we continued to serve high numbers daily ranging from 250 to 300 families. In addition to the continued impact of inflation, we believe that summer break is causing more financial stress on households as students are home all week without supplemental support from school meals/programs.

Staff Turnover:

During the fourth quarter, Food for Others hired an additional bilingual front desk staff member temporarily at the beginning of the quarter to help assist with the increase in clients visiting our marketplace. In June, we experienced turnover with our full time permanent front desk staff member, Karen Peralta, leaving Food for Others. We began the search and outreach for her replacement.

Client Story:

Juana first found out about Food for Others through a friend seeking food assistance. She has continued to come to Food for Others hearing of our programming. She and her husband are both retired and need help due to the high cost of living in the area and the skyrocketing food prices.



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New Hope Housing

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
	CSBG	Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target %		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome		
1. Provide affordable and stable housing which includes supports for residents' physical, behavioral, and cognitive needs to live as independently as possible in a community setting.	CSBG	25	22	88%	Individuals have affordable and stable housing (CSBG Outcome)	21	17	81%	84%	68%
	Total	25	22	88%		21	17	81%	84%	68%
2. Provide case management services which include referrals to health appointments.	CSBG	25	22	88%	Adults will have stable or improved physical health	21	17	81%	84%	68%
	Total	25	22	88%		21	17	81%	84%	68%
3. Provide supportive housing services to enable clients to remain successfully housed	CSBG	25	23	92%	Individuals and/or families are successfully housed	21	17	81%	84%	68%
	Total	25	23	92%		21	17	81%	84%	68%

Program: Stable Long-Term Housing for Chronically Homeless

Organization: New Hope Housing, Inc.

Contract Analyst: Devin Thornton

Phone #: 703-324-7208

Program Description: Provide supportive housing services to enable clients to remain successfully housed.

Program Outcome: 92% of individuals and/or families are successfully housed.

Funded Amount: CSBG \$81,636

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 25

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 23

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 21

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 17

Program Activities this Quarter:

During the quarter, the case management staff (senior and project case managers) continue to meet with clients on a weekly basis to review their individual service plans. There were no significant changes in the provided services from New Hope Housing.

Program Achievements:

During the quarter, most participants remained stably housed which is the biggest program achievement. In the previous quarterly report, two participants behaviors had become very negative. One participant was able to reconnect with their additional service workers. They re-entered substance abuse treatment and have been able to maintain their sobriety.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

None to report this quarter, but a future concern of New Hope Housing is having safe housing that can accommodate an aging population. Many of the units are not conducive to participants if they should develop issues with mobility. Currently, the rental market is very tight with the cost of rent increasing and if we should have to start finding new units due to mobility, this task may become very difficult.



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Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

Within the past quarter, the biggest collaboration was with Food for Others. New Hope Housing and Food for Others have collaborated for years. They provide the needed food support for our participants. They provide food boxes to participants monthly. New Hope Housing provides referrals to the agency and helps distribute the provided food boxes. During the quarter, they allowed New Hope Housing to increase the number of referrals they would accept.

Changes in Client Population:

The continued trend for this population is related to age. As mentioned in a previous quarterly report, the population served has more age-related ailments. This trend isn't specifically impacting the ability to meeting program objectives, but it has increased the housing case managers involvement with participants related to attending medical appointments or learning how to support on more diverse health issues.

Staff Turnover:

There was no staff turnover during the quarter for case management. A new program director was hired, and a new permanent executive director was hired. The previous executive director was an interim for 18 months.

Client Story:

PB entered the housing program after completing a substance treatment program. They had a long history of substance use. When they entered the program, they moved into a unit, with a roommate. This was the first time that PB was in a roommate situation. During the first few months of participation in the program, PB excelled. They developed a positive relationship with their roommate and settled into new routines. PB began addressing more of their mental health concerns and this process had a negative consequence. To deal with newly emerging feelings, PB started using substances again. Their behavior became erratic and abusive and led to termination from the program and eviction from housing. Realizing that their housing was in jeopardy, they sought out substance abuse treatment again. The previous treatment was completed on an out-patient basis. When PB re-entered treatment, they agreed to an in-patient program. This change in treatment program allowed PB to receive more intensive support. PB is back in the housing unit but attends meetings regularly and has a sponsor. They didn't have one at entry. PB has new CSB case worker and is doing better than when first arrived. PB has met with the New Hope Housing employment case manager and has had several interviews.



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Second Story – Culmore Youth Outreach Program

Description of Activities		Annual Goals			Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome		
1. Provide homework assistance, tutoring, supervised recreation and enrichment activities to improve academic performance.	CSBG	250	200	80%	Youth served will improve their academic performance. (CSBG Outcome)	280	267	95%	112%	107%
	Total	250	200	80%		280	267	95%	112%	107%
2. Provide job training to 4 youth including resume development, leadership skill building, and increased knowledge of how to maintain employment.	CSBG	4	4	100%	Youth will complete job skills training.	4	4	100%	100%	100%
	Total	4	4	100%		4	4	100%	100%	100%
3. Provide a safe place for youth during afterschool hours and counseling support, community opportunities, supervised recreation, enrichment activities, homework assistance and employment assistance.	CSBG	250	200	80%	Youth will feel a sense of connectedness to the community as a result of participating in the program.	280	280	100%	112%	112%
	Total	250	200	80%		280	280	100%	112%	112%
4. Provide a safe place for youth during afterschool hours and counseling support, community opportunities, supervised recreation, enrichment activities, homework assistance and employment assistance.	CSBG	250	225	90%	Youth will have a stable or improved behavioral health (self-reported).	280	280	100%	112%	112%
	Total	250	225	90%		280	280	100%	112%	112%

Program: Culmore Youth Outreach Program

Contract Analyst: Vanessa Calderon

Organization: Second Story

Phone #: 703-324-3269

Program Description: Youth participate in activities and receive support that encourages them to improve their academic achievement. This includes homework assistance, tutoring, supervised recreation, and enrichment activities.

Program Outcome: 80% of youth demonstrate improved academic performance.

Funded Amount: CSBG (TANF)- \$63,596

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 250

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 200

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 280

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 267

Program Activities this Quarter:

For academic support, the Teen Center has been able to support students within middle and high school grades via group review workshops and one-on-one tutoring for homework help. Staff use a variety of activities to keep students engage in their learning whether it be through their school technology, interactive games, group work, or being paired with a tutor to receive personalized support. Those who were struggling academically were provided coaching sessions to avoid repeating the grade or to improve their overall grade point average in the last few months of school. As many students do not have the academic assistance they need at home, many use the Center as the sole resource to receive after school help. The program ensures the ESL tutoring sessions whether they are in a group or individual setting, are interactive and align with what



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they are working on in school. Staff continue to collect and monitor students' progress throughout the quarter and make action plans for those who need extra support.

This quarter our Health Literacy program focused heavily on opioid abuse prevention as the epidemic is on the rise among youth in our community. The youth have been able to participate in group activities, watch videos from credible sources, and have informational sessions about the dangers of engaging in opioid use. We were able to partner with Creative Cauldron, a local theater arts program, to facilitate a session regarding peer pressure via theater games and improvisation. It was a new way for students to learn how to be proactive in drug-related situations and react in a positive and safe way. This quarter also included sessions with the INOVA Juniper Program to promote healthy relationships, STI awareness and educate on safe sex while being inclusive to LGBTQ youth.

Our senior class was connected to job offerings, internships, and scholarships to help them achieve their goals of higher education after high school. They took a campus tour of George Mason University in partnership with UnDocumason, a multicultural student organization that strives to advocate for higher education accessibility regardless of documentation status. Many students resonated with those from the organization and were able to get information regarding different scholarship programs, FAFSA and college life. Staff were also able to connect and collaborate with Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation to help apply for their scholarship fund for local Fairfax County high schools. Staff supported in writing letters of recommendation, essay writing, resume building and more. The Foundation also came to our Teen Center to have an informational session regarding how to make their applications more competitive. At the end of the quarter, the Center held its end of the year celebration for the Senior graduating class. Twenty-three Seniors checked in on their post high school plans, received coaching sessions, gift cards, gift bags, played in raffle prizes, arts and crafts, games and food to celebrate their achievements along with their other peers in the Center.

For our Youth Workers program, many of the local youth applied for the two new open positions that will begin in late July. Along with the Youth Council that meets weekly to plan and do advocacy for their community, they work with staff to be leaders in the Bailey's Crossroads community. Youth assisted in many of our outreach events that included the Culmore Cleanup Day, Mason Police District Open House event, health fairs and with our monthly food distribution with the Afghan refugee community. They also revitalized our community garden and dedicated time each week to upkeep the garden in the Teen Center.

To support employment training, staff hosted mentoring sessions with George Mason University's Career and Educational Counseling department. They provided guidance on different career paths and options while speaking one on one with youth. We also connected with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program to offer employment training opportunities to seniors and for recent graduates who are interested in finding a pathway to employment. Staff were able to provide resume building workshops, interview guidance and letters of recommendations as youth were applying for jobs and apprenticeships for the summertime. The Teen Center connected with United Bank to have a financial literacy class for the youth and did engaging activities about budgeting, understanding different bank accounts, and ways to save for college.



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For recreation, the Teen Center offered clubs based on students' interest such as baking, art, and cooking club. Staff also provided arts and crafts activities to educate on healthier ways to self-express and encourage creativity. The Center coordinated weekly mental health park trips where they chose a local park in Fairfax County and went on nature walks, practiced meditation, played sports, and learned about team building skills. With the support of Second Story's partners, students were able to attend a live theater show in Capital One Hall, attend Creative Cauldron's theatre workshop and Lorton Community Center's "Bridging Mind Art Gallery" among other field trips.

Program Achievements:

- Six students from the Culmore Teen Center were selected as winners from a County-wide scholarship to receive a \$2,500 each from NWFCU Foundation. These seniors worked hard with staff and volunteers to complete and submit the application by the deadline.
- One of our students in the Youth Council was selected to join Legal Justice Aid as a paid intern where he will learn firsthand about advocacy, meet with local and federal government bodies, and learn about the justice system. He has worked diligently with staff on his interviewing skills, resume building, and as President of the Youth Council, has been a leader amongst his peers.
- There are 30 graduating seniors in the 22-23 school year at the Culmore Teen Center. 19 youth are planning to enroll in a 2-year or 4-year college, three are planning to join a technical school or employment training program, and eight plan to go straight into the workforce.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

Challenges this quarter included:

To address the parents concerns about community safety, we are working with the Bailey's Opportunity Neighborhoods program - community townhalls are conducted with police and community members once a month. To address parent concerns about Opioid use, we are offering support in our after-school programs through prevention efforts - educating youth on the issues through drug, alcohol, and vaping prevention workshops. And we're doing the REVIVE program to educate community members and teenagers about Opioids.

We are working closely with Neighborhood and Community Services and other Fairfax County agencies to address community concerns. They have provided support for our prevention initiatives, have assisted in increasing security at the Resource Centers and are close partners in our prevention efforts. Our CEO, Judith Dittman, participates in quarterly meetings with NCS staff and nonprofit leaders to ensure they have information on areas of concern.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

- DPR Construction- Staff connected with the recruiter of an Upcoming Summer 2023 Internship work program for high school students.
- Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation- Met with staff and offered an upcoming \$2,500 scholarship opportunity for seniors where six of the Teen Center youths were recipients.
- Food for Others- Supplied groceries for the teens and their families
- Western Fairfax Christian Ministries- Supplied food for the teens and their families.



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- Fairfax County Health Department- Stronger2 Initiative to offer health literacy training and classes for the community and youth programs.
- BRAWS- Delivered feminine hygiene products to young female participants.
- George Mason University, Career Counseling and Education Department- Connected with volunteers and interns to implement career focused workshops.
- INOVA Partnership for Healthier Youth- Helped teens apply for health insurance and receive medical care.
- PBI Kaiser Permanente- networking opportunity for monthly activity and sharing calendar information.
- WIOA- The workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act offered workforce development to recent graduates and seniors seeking employment for the summer.
- Sumac Foundation- Provided tickets to the Teen Center for youth to enjoy theater shows in Capital One Hall.
- MCCP- Helped teens apply for health insurance and receive medical care.
- Neighborhood Health- Helped teens apply for health insurance and receive medical care, Covid19 vaccines.
- Legal Aid Justice Center- Hosted workshops, mentorships, and legal resources for our youth.
- United Bank- Provided financial literacy class to youth.
- Legal Aid Justice Center Northern VA – Youth Justice Program Organizer supported youth council and provided resources for DARS program and presented employment opportunity within their organization.
- Creative Cauldron- hosted field trips where students learned about theatre arts and careers. They collaborated over health literacy workshops and presented employment opportunities for the youth over the summer.
- Healthy Minds Fairfax Youth Advisory Board (HMF-YAC)- Youth attended events within Fairfax County community centers.
- INOVA Juniper Program- provided health literacy classes regarding transmitted diseases and provided informational resources.

Changes in Client Population:

Most of the current client population we serve continues to be extremely low-income, underserved youth who are first-generation or have newly immigrated from Latin American countries. They speak English, Spanish, other indigenous languages, or a mixture. Some of the youth as well are identified as unaccompanied minors or are living with relatives who are their guardians. CYOP has continued to make efforts this quarter via outreach events to connect with youth in the Afghan refugee community who recently arrived in the Bailey's Crossroads area.

Staff Turnover:

One staff has transitioned from part time counselor to full time, and another staff member was added into the Community Based Services team to be a part time counselor as well.

Client Story:

Nick worked with the Culmore Teen Center Youth Workers program for 7 months. During his time as a Youth Worker, he worked with staff in supporting the daily operations of the Teen Center along with receiving employment training and mentorship. He was also able to be a guide to his fellow peers and supported in homework and ESL tutoring. Nick's family was going



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through strenuous financial hardships and when he confided in staff, we were able to provide weekly bags of food and connect them to the Culmore Family Resource Center. There, they can apply for rental assistance, social services, and accessible health care. He was feeling stressed and overwhelmed with his life at home while working on his college applications and scholarships. He was able to work one-on-one with staff and volunteers to support him in his applications and staff invited him to the many Senior Nights throughout the year. After the Youth Worker's program, staff were able to help him find a part time job after school to support his family, while still providing food assistance and encouraging him to stay focused on his goal of going to college. After filling out all the applications and maintaining excellent grades throughout high school, staff was very proud to hear that he will be attending the College of William & Mary in the Fall of 2023 with a full ride scholarship, which also includes room and board. He was also one of the six Teen Center recipients awarded the \$2,500 scholarship from the NWFCU Foundation, which he will use toward books and living expenses. Nick is a role model to his peers and is a prime example of what hard work, dedication and advocating for oneself means.



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Second Story – Assisting Young Mothers

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome		
1. Provide life and financial skills education, assistance with education and employment, and parenting training.	CSBG	14	11	80%	Young mothers will demonstrate improved family functioning.	22	22	100%	157%	157%
	Total	14	11	80%		22	22	100%	157%	157%
2. Provide safe housing, food and clothing. Provide services linking 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.	CSBG	14	11	80%	Children and youth will have access to safety net or community resources that promote stability. (CSBG Outcome)	22	22	100%	157%	157%
	Total	14	11	80%		22	22	100%	157%	157%
3. Provide mental health counseling	CSBG	14	9	70%	Young women served will show improved behavioral health.	22	22	100%	157%	157%
	Total	14	9	70%		22	22	100%	157%	157%

Program: Second Story for Young Mothers
Contract Analyst: Vanessa Calderon

Organization: Second Story
Phone #: 703-324-3269

Program Description: Young women 18 to 22 years old (transition-age youth) who are homeless single mothers and/or who are homeless and pregnant will receive mental health counseling.

Program Outcome: 70% of children and youth have stable or improved behavioral health (Professionally Assessed).

Funded Amount: CSBG (TANF) - \$57,675

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 14

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 11

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 22

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 22

Program Activities this Quarter:

Safe housing, food, clothing, case management, individual therapy, and life skills and parenting skills groups were provided to 6 adults and their 7 children this quarter. In addition, all children four months and older were assessed to determine if they had any developmental delays using Ages and Stages Assessment Tool. Groups focused on love languages, how to say no, health and nutrition, routines for children, mommy self-care, yoga and mindfulness, the car buying process, fire drill and emergency preparedness, age-appropriate discipline, parenting and anger, resume writing, and stigma. The mothers also continued to receive assistance with their educational and employment goals, obtaining full time employment, on-going childcare, and medical and mental health care. All these activities had the goal of promoting stability, improving behavioral health, and increasing family functioning.



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Program Achievements:

This quarter, the program continued to focus on connecting the young mothers to training, internship, or apprenticeship programs to help increase their incomes. The program was able to help one enroll in a computer skills program, and two started working with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Additionally, two of the young women continued classes with Northern Virginia Community College with help from FAFSA and local scholarship programs, including one funded through Second Story, which helped with paying for textbooks and gas cards to help with transportation costs. 100% of clients received safe housing, food, and clothing as well as connection with community resources, help with educational goals, job preparedness, financial literacy, a savings plan, life skills training and medical and mental health care. All clients were also given the opportunity to connect with a mentoring program called “Project Belong” which some of them have taken advantage of and are being matched with life-long mentors.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

SSYM continues to work individually with each client to get them the services they need. Following on the challenges of last quarter, we have continued to work towards finding ways to bridge the gaps in child-care and Office for Children (OFC) getting set up to pay for child-care so that the young women can take advantage of training programs, college, and/or internships. The board of directors set up a fund from a generous donor to pay for transportation for youth in training programs and we have been able to expand that fund to also cover child-care costs until other benefits can be set up. This has proven very helpful in letting them start jobs/training programs before OFC funds can kick in.

We have also faced challenges with trying to help clients receive services that they desperately need but take a long time to get through the processing system. One of the young mothers has been struggling to take care of her child with severe Autism, while taking care of her now 6-month-old daughter, attend school, keep up with program requirements, and her own mental health needs. We have been able to increase our staff and volunteer efforts to help her with childcare and are trying to coordinate services for her, including Community Services Board (CSB), Department of Family Services (DFS), REACH, Autism support services, Child Find and Healthy Families. We recently faced a near crisis as the child damaged light fixtures and plumbing, and we were able to get handyman help and DFS Protection and Preservation Services in place to step in. We are still working with this young mother to take advantage of other services to help her take care of her children.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

Second Story for Young Mothers continues to be thankful for our many volunteers and local partners whose support we could not do without; Healthy Youth Prevention Education (HYPE) started an 8-week series in May on intimate partner violence and sexual assault prevention, which was very well received. We continue to appreciate our partnerships with Women Giving Back helping with clothing for the women and their children, Braws helping with monthly sanitary products, Food for Others helping with basic food necessities, and Cake for Kids helping make birthday celebrations very special. Our new partner agency Project Belong has been working to connect lifelong supportive mentors with our young women with their Don't Go



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Alone program which many of the young women have been connected to and are starting to meet with their mentors which will help foster permanent connections.

Other regular partnerships were also utilized this quarter and include CSB and Developmental Disabilities (DD) services, Child Protective Services (CPS) and DFS, WIC, OFC, TANF, Healthy Families, and Medicaid services.

After a local program READ stopped sending books to the children monthly, staff are looking into Dolly Parton's book mailing service to see if we can continue the much-appreciated help in increasing the time mothers spend in reading to their children.

Changes in Client Population:

This quarter has seen an increase in applications as economic hardships continue to impact young families. Many of the new inquiries have come from young mothers from out of state, which is new. The young women continue to be hesitant to move away from support systems and question the requirements and rules of the program. We have undertaken a comprehensive look at the Young Mother's program and how we can become more responsive to the current needs of young women and their children. We have recently introduced a new handbook which will be published during the next quarter, and we anticipate sharing an increased emphasis on a more trauma-informed and harm-reduction approach. We continue to strive to meet the evolving needs of the young women and hope that these updates will help the young women accept our services.

Staff Turnover:

None

Client Story:

"Laurel" entered SSYM due to unstable housing and a landlord who had a history of unscrupulous practices. She had previously rented a room, however, she did not like the living conditions for her unborn child. Thus, Laurel stated she desired to bring home her baby in a safe and stable environment. Laurel was 9 months pregnant upon her entrance into SSYM. Laurel was raised in Northern Virginia, and her family is still located in the area, so she has some support from them, as well as from her boyfriend. Laurel states while her family is supportive, they cannot help her financially, and her mother resides in a Transitional Living Program with her three younger children. Laurel was born to a teen mother 19 years ago and moved around a bit, which includes a stay in a domestic violence shelter with her mother. Laurel reports that she has never had a steady father figure in her life. Laurel confirmed that there was no drug abuse in her home while growing up. Laurel entered SSYM holding two jobs: a full-time job and a part-time job at the mall. Laurel also studied at Northern Virginia Community College, but put her education on hold due to her pregnancy. Laurel's education is financially supported through a grant from a domestic violence shelter. Laurel plans to return to school in the fall while working full time to support her child. Laurel describes her personality as determined. She is determined to execute and obtain the one dream she has held on to since the age of 5, to become a nurse. Laurel speaks with a smile whenever she discusses her desire to become a nurse. Laurel came to SSYM with some independent living skills and has demonstrated them since she has entered SSYM. Laurel appears to have her goals set in place for her and her child, and SSYM will support her in achieving them.



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Shelter House - Artemis House

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
	Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target %			Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome		
1. Provide emergency shelter, assistance safety planning, case management, house planning and location assistance, financial assistance and referrals to community resources	CSBG	110	83	75%	Children and youth have access to safety net (community) resources that promote stability. (CSBG Outcome)	198	198	100%	180%	180%
	Total	110	83	75%		198	198	100%	180%	180%

Program: Artemis House
Contract Analyst: Devin Thornton

Organization: Shelter House
Phone #: 703-324-7208

Program Description: Provide emergency shelter, assistance safety planning, comprehensive case management services, housing planning and location assistance, financial assistance, and referrals to community resources to victims of domestic violence with children.

Program Outcome: 75% of children and youth have access to safety net (community) resources that promote stability.

Funded Amount: CSBG (TANF) - \$138,856

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 110

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 83

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 198

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 198

Program Activities this Quarter:

We have hired more staff this quarter, which has allowed us to streamline provision of basic need services such as hygiene items and emergency support to clients upon entry. Because of more staff, we have also been able to disseminate information to clients about community resources more consistently. Increased funding for direct services has contributed to the success of families in the program.

Program Achievements:

Seventeen CSBG families exited this quarter and 71% of them exited to a positive outcome.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

Our senior trauma counselor left this quarter which has led to an increased need in connecting clients with outside mental health resources which often have long wait lists, lengthy processes to begin services, and lack of awareness of specific barriers that clients in emergency shelter experience. Also, the transition to summer vacation for public school students created a slight disruption in routine.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

We have been working closely with local detox centers, CSP, and CSB to provide robust mental health support for our families.



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Changes in Client Population:

The lack of affordable housing in Fairfax County creates significant barriers in getting families housed. High income and credit requirements are common reasons for landlords to deny housing applications from our families. High demand for units also allows landlords to choose tenants that don't require third-party assistance. We have also noticed more clients with histories of chronic substance abuse and serious mental health issues.

Staff Turnover:

Low staff retention has restricted the program's success, especially in relation to the vacant senior trauma counseling position.

Client Story:

A young mother of two entered shelter due to a domestic violence situation with her partner; she is also a survivor of multiple instances of previous domestic violence. Within three months, our programs team assisted her with securing childcare for her two children, supported her in locating employment, ensured she was connected to appropriate benefits programs, and helped her apply to and interview for a placement in Second Story's Young Mother's program. After about 80 days in shelter, the client will successfully transition from emergency shelter into this program that will enable her to heal, develop both personally, emotionally, and professionally, and establish self-sufficiency.



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TAHIRIH Justice Center

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
	Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target %	Number Served		# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome			
1. Provide low-income immigrants with free, holistic legal representation and assistance	CSBG	184	92	50%	Clients will have decreased levels of risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.	120	96	80%	65%	52%
	Total	184	92	50%		120	96	80%	65%	52%

Program: Protecting Vulnerable Immigrant Survivors of Violence

Organization: The Tahirih Justice Center

Contract Analyst: Vannessa Calderon

Phone #: 703-324-3289

Program Description: Provide low-income immigrants with free, holistic legal representation and assistance to include immigration legal petitions (e.g., asylum, green card adjustments, work permit, VAWA, U, T, and SIJS visas and their derivatives) and family law matters such as protective orders, child custody, visitation, spousal support, divorce petitions and their modifications/enforcement.

Program Outcome: 50% of persons have decreased levels of risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$44,555

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 184

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 92

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 120

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 96

Program Activities this Quarter:

In the fourth quarter of our CSBG funded program, grant-funded staff continued to provide interdisciplinary legal services to support the safety and stability of immigrant survivors of violence. Legal staff provided legal representation to immigrants pursuing legal status through asylum, VAWA protections, and U and T visas. Attorneys also provided access to family legal services, via in-house provision or through referrals to our network of peers. As we continue to accept new client intakes, our program's reach continues to grow among low-income immigrant survivors of violence in Fairfax County.

Program Achievements:

In the fourth quarter of our CSBG program, we continued to make progress towards our program outcomes.

- We provided legal services to 86 clients in 36 households, including applications for VAWA Self-Petition, U Visa applications, Employment Authorizations, Asylum applications, Battered Spouse Waivers, and Adjustments of Status.

We also celebrate meaningful legal successes this quarter.

- Two clients received approval for their I-765 applications (Employment Authorization), which will enable them to work legally and support themselves and their families.



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Employment Authorization is critical for immigrant survivors, particularly low-income immigrant survivors. These legal successes open pathways for our clients to secure employment and provide for themselves and their families.

- One client received approval for their I-360 VAWA self-petition, which enables her to access stable immigration status free from her abusive spouse.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

As we have previously shared, immigration court backlogs continue to grow, leaving immigrant survivors with delayed court dates and long durations of waiting. Virginia currently has the longest wait time of any state in the U.S., with immigrants in our area waiting 1,104 days for their cases to be heard. 667 cases are pending in Arlington and Sterling Immigration Courts.

As immigrant survivors face institutional delays through no fault of their own, we are finding their social services needs increasing as community and public resources grow thin. We are seeing clients struggle to secure rental and income assistance of COVID-responsive assistance programs have ended. Even previously available private resources for housing support have grown more as we collectively return to a “new normal”, even as members of our community continue to face health concerns and financial insecurities.

We also find that recent immigration policies implemented by the current federal administration will cause harm to immigrants seeking justice and safety. As organizations strategize to respond to human rights violations and abuses, the effects of federal changes will be felt locally.

Moreover, we have learned that Tahirih is among just a few organizations in Northern Virginia that continue to provide brief advice and counsel and is taking on new cases. As a result, we are receiving a significant number of referrals from peer organizations throughout the area. We receive an average of 14 calls a day from service seekers and received 15 direct referrals just in the past month. As our region has recently experienced an increase in immigrants from Arizona and Texas in the last eight months, we face capacity constraints as a sector, and our legal system is facing additional burdens as immigrants find themselves in different jurisdictions where their legal cases do not reside. If the cases are not moved, immigrants could face deportation orders entered in abstentia (nor present) which deprives them of the opportunity for their case to even be heard at all.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

Tahirih is leading the Legal/Law Enforcement Human Trafficking Response Working Group under the current iteration of the Fairfax County Human Trafficking Taskforce, consisting of legal providers and law enforcement. Our group continues to meet on a quarterly basis, and we are pleased to be making meaningful progress as a collective. Most recently, local law enforcement shared that a new set of Domestic Violence officers have been assigned to the precinct with considerable experience in responding to domestic violence incidents. This is helping legal advocates to develop trust-based relationships with law enforcement. Looking towards the next few months, we are excited to begin planning trainings and deeper collaborations as a collective. This collaborative, along with our other community partnerships, is critical in raising awareness and community capacity to appropriately respond to immigrant victims of gender-based violence who face barriers when seeking safety after harm.



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Changes in Client Population:

In this quarter, 75% of clients supported by our CSBG-funded program are Hispanic/Latinx (a very slight increase from Q3), 8% Asian, and 14% Black and not Hispanic (both slight decreases from Q3). Seventy-eight percent are Limited English Proficient, which has been relatively stable throughout our award term. Eighty-nine percent of households are female-led, and a third of households include children. At the same time, 14% of immigrants served are elderly (just a slight decrease from Q3).

Notably, as in earlier quarters, nearly all clients served are extremely low income and many have need of financial support for immigration filing fees. USCIS is self-funded (it operates mostly on fees paid by applicants), and its fees are prohibitory for low-income survivors of violence, contributing to the inaccessibility of our legal system and creating barriers that disproportionately impact immigrant survivors in vulnerable circumstances, particularly immigrants experiencing poverty. For example, becoming a permanent resident in the U.S. can cost a survivor nearly \$2,000. Our low-income clients often find themselves unable to continue with their applications because of the financial barriers posed by filing fees or are forced to make difficult choices between necessities and the continuation of their cases. We have been grateful to receive funding for legal fees through several government and foundation partners and try to support our clients as much as we can to ensure that cost does derail a survivors' path to justice and security. The steep cost of applications reinforces systems that use high costs as a filter for who can access justice. As such, high fees create and furthers the gap between privileged demographics and historically marginalized groups, such as low-income, Limited English-Proficient (LEP) immigrant survivors.

Staff Turnover:

In this quarter, we experienced staff turnover as Staff Attorney Claire Kelleher-Smith departed from Tahirih. We are actively recruiting; candidates are moving through our interview process now.

Client Story:

Francine is an immigrant survivor of sexual assault and fled political persecution in her home country. She faced unlawful detention in her home country, and sexual violence at the hands of the state. With legal representation from the Tahirih Justice Center, in this reporting quarter, ten years after her arrival in the U.S., Francine won asylum, and then secured a green card. After an arduous journey, she is finally stable and safe. Her safety is a tribute to her late husband, who was persecuted and killed for his beliefs.



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UCM - Stepping Stones

Description of Activities	Annual Goals				Description of Outcome	TOTAL Through 4th Q			Annual Program Service Target	Annual Program Outcome Target
		Service Target	Outcome Target	Outcome Target		Number Served	# Achieved Outcome	% Achieve Outcome		
1. Provide case management, counseling and referrals to participants	CSBG	120	66	55%	Clients will have access to resources that promote stability. (CSBG Outcome)	120	120	100%	100%	100%
	Total	120	66	55%		120	120	100%	100%	100%
2. Provide financial assistance to eligible participants in the form of rental assistance	CSBG	250	250	100%	Clients will have increased housing stability.	397	397	100%	159%	159%
	Total	250	250	100%		397	397	100%	159%	159%
3. Provide financial assistance to eligible participants in the form of utility assistance	CSBG	250	250	100%	Clients will have improved access to emergency basic needs assistance	539	539	100%	216%	216%
	Total	250	250	100%		539	539	100%	216%	216%
4. Provide financial assistance to eligible participants for medical or dental care and prescription assistance	CSBG	75	75	100%	Clients will have access to safety net resources that promote stability	155	155	100%	207%	207%
	Total	75	75	100%		155	155	100%	207%	207%

Program: Stepping Stones
Contract Analyst: Vanessa Calderon

Organization: United Community
Phone #: 703-324-3289

Program Description: Provide financial assistance to eligible participants in the form of rental assistance that prevents eviction and hopelessness so that person have increased housing stability.

Program Outcome: 100% of persons have increased housing stability.

Funded Amount: CSBG - \$391,867

Number of Clients Projected to be served for the year: 250

Number of Clients Projected to Achieve Outcomes: 250

Actual Number of Clients Served YTD: 397

Number of Clients Achieving Outcome: 397

Program Activities this Quarter:

Stepping Stones provided rental and utility assistance to clients that prevented them from being evicted or service disconnection. These services improved the clients’ overall housing stability. Clients with no health insurance or those whose insurance did not include dental were referred to Northern Virginia Dental Clinic. Prescription assistance was provided to clients with high copays and to clients with no health insurance. Stepping Stones case management provided support and wrap around services that improved the clients’ self-sufficiency. Stepping Stones services were expanded and strengthened through our collaborative partnership with other organizations.

Program Achievements:

Stepping Stones made significant progress in all service activities during this period. The program met and surpassed all projected outcomes in all service activities. The Stepping Stones team worked diligently to ensure that program participants achieved the desired outcomes. During this quarter under review, one case management client completed and passed her



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Licensed Practical Nurse LPN course work. This client is currently studying for the LPN board exam. Another client completed and passed her phlebotomy course work. She is studying for the board exam. Another significant case management achievement was a client whose criminal record was expunged by the Virginia state and court record division.

One client whose application for Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI) was denied several times because she did not work enough quarters into the system due to illness, was finally approved after she obtained US citizenship. This participant no longer relies on Stepping Stones to meet her basic needs as she has become self-sufficient.

Program Challenges this Quarter:

Stepping Stones did not meet case management projected enrollment number for households. However, it met and surpassed the percentage number of individuals and households achieving projected outcomes. Our case management team identified many clients whom we thought would benefit from intensive wrap around case management support services. After initial informational service meetings, some of them did not come back to enroll into case management services.

The program will continue to identify and reach out to clients who might benefit from case management services by utilizing monthly demographic data reports. To expand the pool of possible case management clients, an information flyer will be posted in the clients' reception area.

Describe how local partners are used to enhance your program:

During this quarter, the program continued to partner with the same organizations reported last quarter in gathering resources that helped clients to meet program outcomes. Rental assistance and other basic needs referrals were coordinated by the County CSP; Dominion Virginia EnergyShare program provided \$19,400 allotment to the program that supplemented Stepping Stones utility assistance funds, Northern Virginia Dental Clinic (NVDC) provided dental service to program clients, and financial counseling services were provided by Britepaths. Two new partners were added to our partnership organizations. The services of these two new partners provided resources that benefited and improved the lives of Stepping Stones clients. Ayuda, an immigration services agency that serves the greater Washington DC area provided financial assistance that covered a client's one month rent. A new partnership with Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS) enhanced our services. A DFS staff comes to Stepping Stones twice a month to enroll new clients into mainstream benefits like SNAP, Medicaid, Childcare subsidy, and a state energy assistance program. Clients already enrolled in these benefits who are due for renewal, had the opportunity to do so. The partnership has been very successful.

Changes in Client Population:

There was no significant change in the client population from what was reported in the last quarter.

Staff Turnover:

There is currently no staff turnover issue. All staff positions are filled.



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Client Story:

Shawnee, a married mother of three children ages 20, 14, and 11 has been United Community's food pantry client for over a decade. During one of her pantry visits, Stepping Stones Case Manager saw her on the food line crying uncontrollably. The Case Manager approached her, inquired about her, and consoled her. She obtained Shawnee's contact information and told her that she will follow up with her. The Case Manager called to obtain more information about Shawnee's circumstance. During their conversation, Shawnee revealed that she had been sober from alcohol for ten months and free of drugs for fifteen years. She expressed her desire to improve her life for her children but felt stuck and unmotivated because of her criminal record. A case management meeting was scheduled for Shawnee to come and meet with the case management team.

During their meeting, Shawnee expressed the need to become self-sufficient and not depend on anyone, but she needed someone to help her organize her thoughts. With the help of the case manager, Shawnee mapped out a service plan that consisted of her goals and action steps. Shawnee expressed she wanted to finish her bachelor's degree, find a better-paying job, maintain her sobriety, become a homeowner, and expunge her criminal record. Getting her record expunged was her top priority to improve her mental health and overall well-being. Hence, the case manager and Shawnee began the expungement process immediately. They visited the Fairfax County Courthouse multiple times and made several calls to ensure they followed the legal steps. Collaboratively with the financial support of United Community, the assistance of the case manager, and Shawnee's determination, her criminal record was expunged within six months.

Shawnee became ecstatic when she received the letter from the Court stating that all police and court records were expunged. She passionately described to her case manager that she is relieved that she no longer must explain her past to potential employers or landlords. Shawnee stated, "In job interviews, I would tell them I may look like a criminal on paper, but I am really not. I just did something dumb in the past." Now that she has overcome that major hurdle and feels less anxious, she has increased her career mobility options, she is well on her way to becoming self-sufficient and breaking the cycle of poverty. She has completed the Fairfax First-time Homebuyer's Program and is actively working with a realtor to find her new home. Additionally, she has maintained her sobriety by attending AA meetings regularly and is in the final year of her bachelor's degree program.

Shawnee's life has been transformed thanks to the invaluable assistance United Community has provided her with, from rent to food and case management. As a result, she has been able to improve her self-esteem and outlook on life. Her unwavering determination to create a better future for her and her loved ones is a true reflection of her strength, resilience, and character.

Shawnee's story is testament to the efficacy of United Community's case management service which was made possible by our CSBG and CCFP grants.