



AGENDA
CUYAHOGA COUNTY HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING
COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
1:00 PM

Committee Members:

Yvonne M. Conwell, Chair – District 7
Martin J. Sweeney, Vice Chair – District 3
Cheryl L. Stephens – District 10
Meredith M. Turner – District 9
Dale Miller – District 2

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 14, 2023 MEETING [See Page 3]**
- 5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - a) R2023-0165: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$150,000, to the West Side Catholic Center for the Resource Center and Housing Initiative from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective. [See Page 5]
 - b) R2023-0168: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$100,000, to the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation d.b.a. May Dugan Center for the purpose of expanding and upgrading the May Dugan Center facility from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective. [See Page 14]

- c) R2023-0170: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$75,000, to Front Steps Housing and Services for the Electronic Health Record to Support Housing Stability and Behavioral Health Services to Prevent Homelessness Program from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective. [See Page 24]
- d) R2023-0171: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$50,000, to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for the Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid Project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective. [See Page 41]
- e) R2023-0174: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to the Community of Hope for the HOPE Program from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective. [See Page 58]

6. PRESENTATION

- a) Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute Community Outreach & Patient Navigation Program – Kimberly Sanders, Director

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

**Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Please see the Clerk to obtain a complimentary parking pass.*

***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & AGING COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR

1:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Conwell called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Conwell asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Committee members Conwell, Turner and Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee members Sweeney and Stephens were absent from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 17, 2023 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Turner and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2023 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2023-0163: A Resolution authorizing a revenue generating agreement with Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities in the amount not-to-exceed \$501,362.93 for reimbursement of staffing services for the DD Medicaid Waiver Program for the period 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023; authorizing the County Executive to execute the Agreement No. 3381 and all other documents consistent with this Resolution; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Marcos Cortes, Administrator of the Division of Contracts Administration and Performance, Department of Health and Human Services, Christy Nichols, Deputy Administrator, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, and Amber Gibbs, Superintendent & Chief Executive Officer of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2023-0163. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Mr. Cortes, Ms. Nichols and Ms. Gibbs pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2023-0163 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Chairwoman Conwell announced that she has started the process of meeting with all of the Health and Human Services Directors, and invited her colleagues to sit in on those meetings. Ms. Conwell stated that (1) meeting has been completed and there are (7) meetings remaining through the end of July.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Conwell adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m., without objection.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2023-0165

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$150,000, to the West Side Catholic Center for the Resource Center and Housing Initiative from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$150,000 to the West Side Catholic Center for the Resource Center and Housing Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the West Side Catholic Center estimates approximately 8,000 people who qualify as low to moderate income will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the West Side Catholic Center estimates approximately six permanent and temporary jobs will be created or retained through this project; and

WHEREAS, the West Side Catholic Center estimates the total cost of the project is \$2,511,227; and

WHEREAS, the West Side Catholic Center indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$40,000 from the George Gund Foundation;
- B. \$25,000 from the Community West Foundation;
- C. \$18,025 from the Ridgecliff Foundation;
- D. \$15,000 from the Higley Fund;
- E. \$7,500 from the Reinberger Foundation;
- F. \$7,000 from the Congregation of St. Joseph;
- G. \$5,000 from Sisters of Charity;
- H. \$600,000 from Individual Donors;
- I. \$150,000 from Ohio Capital Funds; and

WHEREAS, the West Side Catholic Center requested \$200,000 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$150,000 to the West Side Catholic Center to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$150,000 to the West Side Catholic Center from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Resource Center and Housing Initiative.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

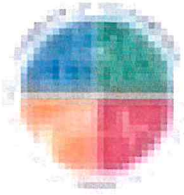
SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

First Reading/Referred to Committee: June 20, 2023
Committee(s) Assigned: Health, Human Services & Aging Committee

Journal _____
_____, 20____



**Cuyahoga County
Council**

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): West Side Catholic Center	
Address of Requesting Entity: 3135 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Same	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Same	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: John Litten	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: Same	
Email: jlitten@wsccenter.org	Phone: (216) 631-4741 ext. 102
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 34-1244687	Date: 6/14/2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

West Side Catholic Center (WSCC) is requesting funding to support continued and much needed hunger relief and housing efforts through our Resource Center and Housing Initiative.

The Resource Center meets the basic needs of clients through meals, clothing, communal activities, expressive arts programs, and simple case management, but the most frequently utilized service is meals. In 2021, the Resource Center provided 38,300 meals. Not included in these totals are 5,174 people served by the food pantries offered through WSCC's Resource Center. The food distributed at these pantries provided an additional 46,566 meals. The number of people served through the pantries was up 40% in 2021 compared to 2020, in a trend we see continuing in 2022. From January through April of 2022, the Resource Center provided 11,291 meals to 1,429 unique individuals. The need is great, but so are the costs as inflation for Wholesale Food Costs rose to 17.29% in May 2022. Put in context, this year WSCC is able to purchase 6,000 fewer meals for the same amount spent on food last year. ARPA funding would allow us to offset these increased expenses and continuing serving those in need. In the Resource Center, our objective is to always be able to meet the needs of those who come to us. Specifically, WSCC anticipates serving over 40,000 meals and providing an average of at least 150 instances of service per day in the Resource Center in 2022.

WSCC also operates both Moriah House, an emergency family shelter, and Zacchaeus Housing Solutions, a rapid re-housing program for families. A particular struggle in the past year has been the lack of available housing for the homeless families we serve within the County's Continuum of Care. The lack of housing has made it harder for families with housing vouchers to secure housing and leave the shelter. This contributes to a bottleneck of families unable to leave the shelter and reduced numbers of families served by the Zacchaeus Housing Solutions program. WSCC seeks to alleviate this challenge by acquiring housing units to make available to homeless families in the Continuum of Care. Not only will this increase exits to positive housing outcomes, but it will fulfill a long-held vision of WSCC's program staff. There is always a challenge to find available, affordable, and quality housing units for families. WSCC envisions contributing to positive tenant-landlord skill building with families, along with improved access for families to case management by owning units rented to families.

WSCC intends to purchase housing units over the next three years to operate as rapid re-housing units for families. ARPA funding would be used to obtain one unit by the end of 2022. WSCC will complete any repairs or renovations needed to ensure the homes are safe living spaces for families. Once units are ready for tenants, WSCC will make the units available to families seeking housing through the Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care. Ideally, tenants would transition from WSCC's Moriah House emergency family shelter to improve continuity of case management. Once the units are at the point of leasing to tenants, WSCC intends to partner with a property management company to both assist with the day-to-day property management as well as to prepare tenants for typical housing arrangements they will encounter outside of the Continuum of Care. WSCC will hire a lease administrator/tenant advocate who will be responsible for working with the tenant on landlord relations, tenant/landlord law, and fair housing information as well as being the liaison with the property management company.

Project Start Date: 1/1/2022

Project End Date: 12/31/2024

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served: WSCC serves adults and families through our Resource Center and Zacchaeus Housing Solutions programs. Almost half of all WSCC clients are experiencing homeless. All of our clients have experienced trauma, including mental and physical illness, addiction, domestic violence, physical and emotional abuse and neglect, chronic or recent homelessness, lack of education, learning disabilities and/or unemployment. The pandemic has not helped out clients with these serious challenges.

How many people will be served annually: 8,000

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how: All of our clients have incomes below the poverty level. Funding will support the meals for clients through the Resource Center and a housing unit for a family experiencing homelessness. Clients in WSCC's housing programs are by definition homeless and meet HUD's definition of very low-income (at or below 50% of area median income) and many are typically in the extremely low-income category (at or below 30% of area median income).

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects: WSCC understands resources are valuable, and we partner with 50 other agencies to help make sure our efforts have the widest reach and are delivered in the most efficient way. WSCC's meals program works with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to offer pantries in zip codes where there is a need. WSCC's housing programs work within the Cleveland/Cuyahoga Continuum of Care to coordinate services for people experiencing homelessness.

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: This funding will help retain the four current rapid re-housing staff; the Housing Program Manager, two case managers, and one intake specialist. Two permanent jobs, a lease administrator/tenant advocate and additional housing case manager will be created to support families experiencing homelessness in this extra challenging housing environment.

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be: WSCC takes pride in being a trusted community resource and will improve or maintain any housing acquired to be an asset to the neighborhood. WSCC also believe that the greenest building is the one already built, and will make use of existing housing. Additionally, WSCC's Resource Center is transitioning to compostable containers for its meals.

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives: Funding to purchase a housing unit would start WSCC's Housing Initiative to own and provide quality units to be used by families within the Continuum of Care.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project: \$2,511,227

(FY22 Resource Center Budget + 3 year Housing Initiative Budget)

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

George Gund Foundation \$40,000

Community West Foundation \$25,000

Ridgecliff Foundation \$18,025

Higley Fund \$15,000

Reinberger Foundation \$7,500

Congregation of St. Joseph \$7,000

Sisters of Charity \$5,000

Individual Donors \$600,000

Ohio Capital Funds \$150,000 - Other government proposals for the housing initiative are pending.

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars: \$200,000

Funding would help WSCC provide enhanced programming within our existing Resource Center meal program and existing housing programs. \$80,000 for increased Resource Center meal expenses and \$120,000 to acquire and make ready a housing unit for homeless families through the Continuum of Care. These services are wrap around services for our clients.

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

WSCC has diverse sources of funding to support its regular operations. These one-time dollars are specifically to offset the increased costs of food during this period of inflation, as well as the one-time costs associated with acquiring a housing unit to be used for families in rapid re-housing. The on-going project costs are sustained through other established funding sources, and WSCC has budgeting in place to account for ongoing property maintenance.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.


I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name: John Litten, Executive Director

Signature:



Date: 6/17/2022

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2023-0168

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$100,000, to the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation d.b.a. May Dugan Center for the purpose of expanding and upgrading the May Dugan Center facility from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$100,000 to the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation d.b.a. May Dugan Center for the purpose of expanding and upgrading the May Dugan Center facility; and

WHEREAS, the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation estimates approximately 16,000 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation estimates the total cost of the project is \$7,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$100,000 from the Abington Foundation;
- B. \$150,000 from the Bruening Foundation;
- C. \$500,000 from the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation;
- D. \$56,857 from the Greater Cleveland Foodbank;
- E. \$10,000 from the Glidden Foundation;
- F. \$25,000 from the Kelvin & Elanor Smith Foundation;
- G. \$200,000 from the Keybank Foundation;
- H. \$25,000 from the Ingalls Foundation;
- I. \$1,000 from the Murphy Foundation;
- J. \$400,000 from the Cleveland Foundation;
- K. \$100,000 from the Finance Fund;
- L. \$400,000 from the George Gund Foundation;
- M. \$250,000 from the Higley Fund;
- N. \$300,000 from the Mandel Foundation;
- O. \$25,000 from the McGregor Foundation;
- P. \$250,000 from the Reinberger Foundation;
- Q. \$25,000 from the Woodruff Foundation;
- R. \$525,000 from the City of Cleveland;
- S. \$300,000 from Cuyahoga County;
- T. \$348,000 from individual donors;
- U. \$86,000 from corporations; and

WHEREAS, the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation requested \$500,000 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$100,000 to the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000 to the Near Westside Multiservice Corporation d.b.a. May Dugan Center from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the purpose of expanding and upgrading the May Dugan Center facility.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to

submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: June 20, 2023
Committee(s) Assigned: Health, Human Services & Aging Committee

Journal _____
_____, 20____



**Cuyahoga County
Council**

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Near Westside Multiservice Corporation (dba) May Dugan Center	
Address of Requesting Entity: 4115 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: County District 7 – Councilwoman Yvonne Conwell	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Rick Kemm, Executive Director	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:	
Email: rkemm@maydugancenter.org	Phone: (216) 631-5800 ext 102
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 23-706-1949	Date: May 116, 2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and a timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Project Overview*

For over 50 years, May Dugan Center (MDC) has adapted to the changing needs of clients and the challenges they encounter. With the increased demand for MDC services, expanding and upgrading the aging facility is necessary. The capital campaign assures clients and the community to continue to have access to high-quality services. A Steering Committee leads the capital campaign, which has raised \$4,028,473 (57.2%) of its \$7,036,370 goal to date, with additional prospects pending.

May Dugan Center established a three-phase approach to the campaign, 1) building systems, 2) building renovations, and 3) expansion. During the summer of 2021 work began on the exterior of the building, masonry, and roofing, with completion in the summer of 2022. Construction on the interior will begin in the fall of 2022 with completion by the end of 2023. Building system work replaces the major building operating systems that are original to the 1974 build, including HVAC, elevators, exterior walls, electrical, and plumbing. Repair and replacement of these systems will aid in MDC's capacity to serve 15,000+ people annually. This will also lead to cost savings by way of a reduction in operating costs.

The renovation will provide a modern facility designed to support programming for today and into the future. Redesigned counseling rooms will ensure client privacy, comfort, and safety, in a trauma-informed environment. Upgraded IT infrastructure will support safe, uninterrupted virtual services. Renovated administrative offices will lead to greater efficiencies in management and leadership, and refurbished common areas will assure a sense of community.

The expansion will add additional space that will provide a much-needed multi-purpose room on the first floor. Part of the addition will include expanded classroom space to accommodate diverse educational needs as well as allowing MDC to become a testing site for GED, SAT, and ACT. Finally, there are currently three organizations housed in the MDC building, and several other community organizations historically utilized the facility for meeting space. This secures MDC's original undertaking as a "one-stop-shop" of social service organizations providing wrap-around services to the community. The additional rental income, importantly, will contribute to May Dugan Center's revenue stream and sustainability.

MDC established the following goals and objectives for the project:

- Goal 1: Increased cost savings through updated and efficient building systems.
 - Objective: Hire an architect who will design building plans to be LEED-certified.
 - Objective: Reconfigure space to centralize administrative offices for greater efficiency and utilization of shared staff.
- Goal 2: Increase services to people in need by expanding May Dugan Center's physical space.
 - Objective: Triple the size of the food pantry enabling the program to serve 15,000 more meals a year.
 - Objective: Create additional private therapy and group meeting rooms, resulting in additional ERC space, 225 more behavioral health clients served annually, and room for 2 more TRC staff.
- Goal 3: Improve the use of existing offices and common areas to create a safe, welcoming, and therapeutic environment for those in need.

Project Start Date: Summer 2021	Project End Date: December 2023
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IMPACT OF PROJECT:
<p>Who will be served: Cuyahoga County low-income residents in need of Behavioral Health Counseling (Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder), Education & Workforce Development, Maternal Health, Low-Income Seniors, and Food Insecurity.</p>
<p>How many people will be served annually:</p> <p>16,000 +</p>
<p>Will low/moderate-income people be served; if so how: Yes, nearly 100% of the clients we serve through our six core programs live at or below the poverty level.</p>
<p>How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:</p> <p>The May Dugan Center was founded in 1969, shortly after President Johnson declared a “War on Poverty.” For the past 53 years, May Dugan Center has served low-income clients living in Cuyahoga County. We partner with several other non-profit and governmental agencies.</p>
<p>If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each), and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: Jobs will be created during the renovation and expansion and with our expanded programs. We will hire additional case managers, teachers, clinicians, and other staff.</p>
<p>If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be: The new building will be LEED Certified and ADA compliant. Solar panels, new roof, windows, and HVAC system.</p>

If applicable, how does this project catalyze future initiatives: The renovation and expansion of our facility will allow us to expand our programs and services and serve

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project: \$7 million (as of today, we have raised \$4.5 M.

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Foundation and Government Support:

Abington Foundation: \$100,000.
Bruening Foundation: \$150,000.
Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation: \$500,000.
Greater Cleveland Foodbank: \$56,857.
Glidden Foundation: \$10,000.
Kelvin & Eleanor Smith Foundation: \$25,000
Keybank Foundation: \$200,000.
Ingalls Foundation: \$25,000.
Murphy Family Foundation: \$1,000.
The Cleveland Foundation: \$400,000.
The Finance Fund: \$100,000.
The George Gund Foundation: \$400,000.
The Higley Fund: \$250,000.
The Mandel Foundation: \$300,000.
The McGregor Foundation: \$25,000.
The Reinberger Foundation: \$250,000.
The Woodruff Foundation: \$25,000.
The City of Cleveland: \$525,000.
Cuyahoga County: \$300,000.
Individual Donors: \$348,000.
Corporations: \$86,000

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$500,000.

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

Expanded facility for more rental space (rental income), revenue-generating stream through increased billing for our eligible units of service to payor providers. Local foundations and government grants. Individual contributions and special events.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each document's name:

- Exhibit A: May Dugan Center Capital Campaign Brochure
- Exhibit B: May Dugan Center Case for Support
- Exhibit C: May Dugan Center 2021 Annual Report

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2023-0170

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell Co-sponsored by: Councilmember Turner	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$75,000, to Front Steps Housing and Services for the Electronic Health Record to Support Housing Stability and Behavioral Health Services to Prevent Homelessness Program from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$75,000 to Front Steps Housing and Services for the Electronic Health Record to Support Housing Stability and Behavioral Health Services to Prevent Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Front Steps Housing and Services estimates approximately 225 people who qualify as low to moderate income will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Front Steps Housing and Services estimates the total cost of the project is \$254,606; and

WHEREAS, Front Steps Housing and Services indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$29,280 from the Community West Foundation;
- B. \$150,000 from Cuyahoga County Development; and

WHEREAS, Front Steps Housing and Services is estimating the start date of the project will begin immediately and the project will be completed within 90 to 120 days after receipt of funding; and

WHEREAS, Front Steps Housing and Services requested \$75,326 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$75,000 to Front Steps Housing and Services to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$75,000 to Front Steps Housing and Services from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Electronic Health Record to Support Housing Stability and Behavioral Health Services to Prevent Homelessness.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President	Date

County Executive	Date

Clerk of Council	Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: June 20, 2023
Committee(s) Assigned: Health, Human Services & Aging Committee

Additional Sponsorship Requested: June 20, 2023

Journal _____
_____, 20 _____



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Front Steps Housing and Services – Cleveland, Ohio, Non-Profit, Permanent Supportive Housing and Behavioral Health Services	
Address of Requesting Entity: 2554 West 25 th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44113	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: County Council District 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Not applicable	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Not applicable	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Mitch Wasserman, Grants Officer	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: Not applicable	
Email: mwasserman@frontstepsservices.org	Phone: 216/262-3978
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 34-1424555	Date: June 17, 2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Electronic Health Record to Support Housing Stability and Behavioral Health Services to Prevent Homelessness

Front Steps Housing and Services (Front Steps) has served individuals experiencing homelessness for over 35 years. During this time, we have supported clients who have weathered tragedies and challenges they have encountered that have culminated in their homelessness. But the trauma and carnage left in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating to those we serve; as well as those living in the community under the looming threat of losing their homes and overwhelmed by the psycho-social and socio-economic impact of the coronavirus.

As a permanent supportive housing provider and a member of the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services Continuum of Care, we offer affordable housing along with wrap-around services and a Community Behavioral Health Center certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. We have expanded our reach to offer programs and services to individuals and families living in Cuyahoga that are surviving under harsh economic conditions with mental illness and/or addictions and at-risk of losing their homes and families. We have also responded to the Cuyahoga County Department of Development in its quest to provide housing stability services for individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity due to income loss caused by conditions arising from implications of the virus.

We now offer the community a series of behavioral health services including: Biopsychosocial Assessments, Community Based Case Management, Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, Employment and Educational Linkage, Substance Use Disorder Case Management, Art and Music Therapy (Mental Health and Substance Use), Behavioral Health Counseling (Mental Health and Substance Use), Peer Recovery Support (Mental Health and Substance Use), Intensive Outpatient Services (Substance Use Disorders), and Non-Intensive Outpatient Services (Substance Use Disorders).

We have also introduced housing stability services including:

- Intake: Gather necessary documentation and information to open case. This includes completing necessary paperwork and consents for services.
 - Housing Stability Assessment: Housing Stability Support Worker will complete a Housing Stability Assessment: This assessment will assist with tailoring a plan to meet the individual needs of the family.
 - The Community-Based Case Manager will screen for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. If present, the individual will be referred to for Mental Health and Substance use treatment.
 - Develop a Housing Stability Plan: This is an individualized plan based on the needs of the individual
 - Linkage to Rental Assistance: Referred for rental assistance through the Cleveland Housing Network
 - Fair housing : Referrals to Fair Housing landlord tenant resources
 - Referral to legal services: Referred for assistance with eviction proceedings, assistance with landlord tenant issues and other areas that may impact housing stability
- Case management related to housing stability: Includes linkage to resources for food, Medicaid, utilities assistance, childcare, employment supports, housing related services for survivors of domestic abuse or human trafficking, and specialized services for individuals with disabilities or seniors that supports their ability to access or maintain housing.
- Retention: Community-Based Case Manager after rental assistance and necessary supports have been obtained. The Community-Based Case Manager will follow up a minimum of one time per month for 3 months to assess and address any barriers to maintaining their housing.

Continued on Attachment A

Project Start Date: August 1, 2022 or upon receipt of funding

Project End Date:
November 30, 2022 or 90 to 120 days after receipt of funding

IMPACT OF PROJECT:
<p>Who will be served:</p> <p>Front Steps will serve formerly chronically individuals with severe mental illness and/or addictions living in permanent supportive housing. Additionally, we have extended our behavioral health and housing stability services to include families and individuals living in the community whose socio-economic circumstances have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those served have household incomes less than 80% of the area median income and households with one or more members that have been unemployed for at least 90 days.</p>
<p>How many people will be served annually:</p> <p>Front Steps Housing and Services expects to serve 225 family members and individuals. This includes those living in permanent supportive housing who have been chronically homeless with mental illness and/or addictions (75); and community-based families and individuals at-risk of becoming homeless due to socio-economic conditions resulting from COVID-19 and mental illness and/or addictions (150).</p>
<p>Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:</p> <p>100% of those served will be low/moderate income people with incomes less than 80% of the area median income (AMI) and households with one or more members that have been unemployed for at least 90 days.</p>
<p>How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:</p> <p>The project fits well with the goals of the Cuyahoga County Officer of Homeless Services, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, and the Cuyahoga County Department of Development in their efforts to address mental illness and addictions, reduce the number of families and individuals experiencing homelessness, and prevent people experiencing housing insecurity in the community from becoming homeless.</p>
<p>If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:</p> <p>This project serves as catalyst for future initiatives inasmuch as we will be able to continue to grow and enhance our community-based services for those experiencing mental illness and addictions and on the verge of becoming homeless. We envision this program as the catalyst to reach clients with health and wellness programming, workforce readiness education, and mental health/addiction services.</p>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

The total budget for the Housing Instability Project is \$254,606

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Community West Foundation - \$29,280
Cuyahoga County Office of Development - \$150,000

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

Front Steps is hereby requesting \$75,326 from County Council American Resource Act Dollars for the acquisition, installation, and implementation of the new Electronic Health Record.

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

There is no need for additional funds going forward as the acquisition, installation, and implementation of the new Electronic Health Record is a one-time expense. Monthly licensing fees will be covered by client service fees.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:


I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:
Sherri Brandon, MSSA, MNO, CDCA
Chief Executive Officer

Signature: 	Date: June 17, 2022
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Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

1. Attachment A – Continuation of Project Description
2. Front Steps Housing and Services – 2021 Report Card

Front Steps Housing and Services
Attachment A
Continuation of Project Description

In the light of the expansion and diversification of services, the current electronic health record (EHR) does not have the capacity nor the range of applications to accommodate the need to collect information and generate necessary reports. We are coming to Councilwoman Conwell to request \$75,326 from the County Council American Resource Act funds for the implementation of a new EHR to enable us to continue to respond to the growing number of families and individuals in the community who are experiencing housing insecurity and are at-risk of becoming homeless due to socio-economic hardship (lost income and joblessness) resulting from COVID-19 and mental illness and/or addictions.

The new EHR will enable Front Steps to improve:

- Scheduling – Improve productivity and operate more efficiently at the front desk and in the field
- Communications between field staff and the home office
- Improve efficiency and efficacy of documentation so that more time is spent providing services
- The rate of successful claims submissions for insurance and Medicaid eligible clients
- Ability to provide services virtually which reduces barriers and increases billing opportunities
- Collect and report information in formats required by third party stakeholders
- Remote access to the database to conduct onsite information entry from the field

Front Steps has completed the research on the Electronic Health Record of choice and is prepared to proceed with the acquisition, installation, and implementation of the new Electronic Health Record once the funding has been received. The project will be completed within 90 to 120 days.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Front Steps Housing and Services

2021 Annual Report Card



ST. JOSEPH'S COMMONS
2554 West 25th Street • Cleveland, OH 44113 • p 216.781.2250 • f 216.781.2252
www.frontstepsservices.org
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Our Mission

Front Steps Housing and Services' (Front Steps') mission is to provide permanent supportive housing and community-based wraparound life skills and behavioral health services to transform the lives of individuals and families and empower them to break the cycle and threat of homelessness. Front Steps works with St. Joseph's Commons formerly chronically homeless residents and members of the community on the verge of becoming homeless to effectively engage them in a process that helps them attend to their physical and emotional needs, restores their self-awareness and confidence, and develops the vital skills to become independent, self-sufficient, and fulfilled.

Our Principles and Beliefs

- Respect for the rights of all individuals to have access to safe, affordable housing no matter what their backgrounds or life circumstances.
- Support the realization of human potential to make positive choices, productive life changes, and valuable contributions to the community.
- Social justice and anti-racism.

Our Values

- A deep awareness of the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of all people.
- The community's diversity and treating all individuals with compassion and respect.
- Advocating for individual opportunity and systemic change in our society.

Diversity and Inclusion

Front Steps is committed to developing and maintaining a diverse organization that reflects, is responsive to, and embraces the diversity of the individuals we serve, respecting and valuing all people. Front Steps is dedicated to serving as an inclusive, equitable and accessible organization where every client, volunteer, staff, and board member can realize their potential and where their contributions are valued. Based on these principles, Front Steps is working towards identifying needs, promoting honest discussion regarding issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and driving change by initiating the steps needed to build and sustain an inclusive, open, and welcoming environment. We are establishing strategies that promote the importance and value of an inclusive environment and culture by facilitating an open discussion about disparities.



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Who We Served: Demographics and Conditions

Total Served - 90

Gender of Clients

- Males – 37 (41.1%)
- Females – 50 (55.5%)
- Unknown – 3 (3.3%)

Ages

- Under 5 years – 0 (0.0%)
- 5 – 12 years – 0 (0.0%)
- 13 – 17 years – 0 (0.0%)
- 18 – 24 years – 3 (3.3%)
- 25 – 34 years – 13 (14.4%)
- 35 – 44 years – 20 (22.2%)
- 45 – 54 years – 29 (32.3%)
- 55 – 61 years – 20 (22.2%)
- 62+ years – 5 (5.6%)

Veteran Status

- Veteran – 4 (4.4%)
- Non-Veteran – 86 (95.6%)

Ethnicity

- African American – 57 (63.5%)
- Caucasian – 25 (27.7%)
- Hispanic – 3 (3.3%)
- Native American – 1 (1.1%)
- Multi-Racial – 1 (1.1%)
- Unknown – 3 (3.3%)

Physical and Mental Health Conditions:

- Mental Illness – 77 (85.6%)
- Alcohol Abuse – 7 (7.8%)
- Drug Abuse – 26 (28.9%)
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse – 33 (36.7%)
- Chronic Health Condition – 24 (26.7%)
- HIV/AIDS and Related Diseases – 2 (2.2%)
- Developmental Disability – 4 (4.4%)
- Physical Disability – 24 (26.7%)

Number of Co-Occurring Physical and Mental Health Conditions

- None – 15 (16.7%)
- 1 Condition – 11 (12.2%)
- 2 Conditions – 19 (21.1%)
- 3+ Conditions – 45 (50.0%)

Cash Income (SJC residents)

- No Income – (48.9%)
- Income less than \$1,500/month – 87 (96.7%)
- Income greater than \$1,500/month – 3 (3.3%)

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Residents of St. Joseph’s Commons (SJC) – Front Steps’ permanent supportive housing program – continued to enjoy a warm and welcoming place to live and avail themselves of services that support them in overcoming the conditions that resulted in their homelessness and reconstruct a life that is productive and fulfilling leading to independence and self-sufficiency. Front Steps has made a very intentional effort to reach out to community-based clients with mental illness and addictions who are living in poverty. In 2021, 90 clients – SJC residents (69) and community-based (21) – accessed Front Steps’ programs. Programs accessed by Front Steps’ clients included: Case Management, Intensive Outpatient Program, Employment and Training, Community Support Services, Behavioral Health Counseling, Prevention Services, and Art and Music Therapy. Services included:

<u>Program/Service</u>	<u>Sessions</u>	<u>Encounters</u>
Case Management and Individual Counseling	1,244	1,244
Art Therapy	44	214
Music Therapy	24	95
Intensive Outpatient – Group Sessions	27	50
Intensive Outpatient – Individual Sessions	5	5
Communications and Relationships	1	12
Residents' Council	18	304
Social Hour	10	154
Morning Reflections	9	212
Employment/Job Fair	1	42
Food Donations	20	281
Recovery Group	4	28
Computer Class	5	31
AA Groups	24	544
CA Groups	13	184



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Front Steps' primary goal is to provide the support and services needed to help clients become independent and self-sufficient. Success is gauged by growth and development, as well as the number of participants that gain the skills necessary to live independently in the community. Front Steps continues to aspire to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance clients' potential to make positive life decisions, productive life changes, and valuable contributions to the community.
- Create an environment in which Front Steps recognizes the complete needs of all people. We value the community's diversity and treat all individuals with compassion and respect.
- Advocate for individual opportunity and systemic change in our society.
- Provide the highest quality programming, services, and overall management.

In 2021, Front Steps made significant organizational progress in the following areas:

- Functional Alignment of Front Steps' New Home – After years of planning and working to secure needed funding, we completed construction of our new building in October 2020. Our clients made the move to their new homes by early November in time to celebrate Thanksgiving in the new facility. Named for the order of the nuns who founded Transitional Housing, Inc., St. Joseph's Commons, a 68-unit one-bedroom 60,000 square foot permanent supportive housing complex located at 2554 West 25th Street, was built with funds outside of philanthropy. Today, Front Steps is the service provider to the residents of St. Joseph's Commons, residents of other housing providers, and the general community.
- Responding to the Urgent Needs of the Community During Turbulent Times – The pandemic has had a lasting effect on the lives of people who are homeless living on the streets and in shelters; as well as those with mental illness and/or substance use disorder(s) living in poverty-stricken conditions on the verge of becoming homeless, those living doubled-up, and homeless individuals refusing shelter. Front Steps now has the physical capacity to respond to the needs of individuals who are chronically homeless and have mental illness and/or substance use disorder(s), as well as enhance our reach into the community with our behavioral health and preventive services to support those living at-risk of becoming homeless.
- Accreditation and Certification – Front Steps has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The accreditation applies to the following programs/services: Case Management/Services Coordination: Mental Health (Adults); Community Housing: Mental Health (Adults); Outpatient Treatment: Integrated: AOD/MH (Adults); and Community Employment Services: Employment Supports. The organization has also been certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OMHAS) to operate an outpatient alcohol and drug addiction program and approved to offer the following behavioral/mental health services: Behavioral Health Counseling & Therapy,

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Employment/Vocational. Front Steps has also been approved by OMHAS to serve as a Community Mental Health Services Center.

- The Addition of Music Therapy – Art Therapy and the Arts have proven to be effective outlets for residents to express their innermost feelings constructively and creatively in an individual and social context. The literature indicates that Music Therapy can also address the issues of self-concept, self-efficacy, trauma, and quality of life which is integral to successful recovery from mental illness and the after-effects of homelessness. Front Steps has worked with the Cleveland Music Settlement to design and implement a Music Therapy program for our residents which is funded in part by the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County.
- Implementation of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan – Thanks to funding from the George Gund Foundation and the St. Luke’s Foundation of Cleveland, Front Steps embarked on and completed its 2021-2024 strategic plan. The plan sets forth an ambitious direction for the agency – one that envisions Front Steps as a leader in the permanent supportive housing and behavioral health services as a model for other communities seeking to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty. It offers a detailed roadmap for the ways in which Front Steps will realize its mission and maximize the value of its new facility for individuals who are homeless and the general community seeking case management, prevention and employment/education services, and behavioral health and addiction counseling.





Front Steps wishes to thank the community – individuals and institutions – for its generous support and commitment to our work. With your time, talent, and treasure, we have been able to address the devastating psycho-social and socio-economic traumas perpetrated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Front Steps is exceptionally grateful to the individuals who made their donations to us. We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize our 2021 institutional funding partners:

Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County

Andrews Foundation

CareSource Foundation

The Cleveland Foundation

Community West Foundation

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services

David and Inez Myers Foundation

Dominion Foundation

The Raymond and Rita Foos Family Charitable Foundation

The Sam J. Frankino Foundation

George Gund Foundation

The Giant Eagle Foundation

Higley Fund of The Cleveland Foundation

Huntington Bank

Fred A. Lennon Charitable Trust

NAIOP

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

O'Neill Brothers Foundation

Parker Hannifin Foundation

PNC Bank

Reinberger Foundation

Daniel S. and Kathe Serbin Charitable Trust

Sersig/Brandt Family Fund

SK Wellman

Swagelok

Synthomer Foundation

Michael Talty and Helen Talty Charitable Trust

Thatcher Fund of the Cleveland Foundation

William E Harris Family Fund

Wuliger Family Charitable Funds



County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2023-0171

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$50,000, to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for the Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid Project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
Co-sponsored by: Councilmember Turner	

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$50,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland for the Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid Project; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland estimates approximately 15,000 people who qualify as low to moderate income will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland estimates the total cost of the project is \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes funding from the Legal Services Corporation, Ohio

Access to Justice Foundation, local and state government, and a variety of philanthropic sources; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland requested \$100,000 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$50,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid Project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council,



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

New Clients Call:
888.817.3777 (toll free)
or
216.687.1900

General Business:
888.808.2800 (toll free)
or
216.861.5500

**Cleveland
& Administrative Office**
1223 West Sixth Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

General Business: 216.861.5500
Fax: 216.586.3220


Elyria Office
1530 West River Road North
Suite 301
Elyria, OH 44035

General Business: 440.324.1121
Fax: 440.324.1179


Jefferson Office
121 East Walnut Street
Jefferson, OH 44047

General Business: 440.576.8120
Fax: 440.576.3021

www.lasclev.org

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July 15, 2022

The Honorable Yvonne Conwell
Councilperson for District 7
Cuyahoga County Council
2079 East Ninth Street - 8th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

via USPS and soft copy via email

Dear Councilperson Conwell:

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is proud of our work serving residents of County Council District 7. Since the onset of COVID, demand for our services has significantly increased. In response, we need to make one-time investments in capital improvements to better serve your constituents.

Legal Aid requests \$100,000 from the \$6 million informally allocated to Cuyahoga County District 7 from the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds.

This \$100,000 investment in Legal Aid will be used towards a \$1 million budget of one-time, capital improvement expenses, which are necessary due to the rise in client cases we are handling due to COVID. Essential items in the budget include a new phone system, technology expenses, and building improvements.

We understand County Council is considering a wide range of potential projects, and the \$6 million you can informally allocate must be focused on one-time use expenses (as opposed to ongoing operations). This request from Legal Aid is for one-time expenses, and an investment now will bring near-immediate benefits to the residents of District 7.

Enclosed is a full proposal highlighting the budget for these funds and the importance of Legal Aid for Cuyahoga County residents. As you know, access to legal help related to basic needs is an important component of a just, inclusive, and democratic society. Last year, Legal Aid helped 17,300 people through 6,655 cases – and we reached even more with our education, outreach, and advocacy work.

Thank you for your consideration of this one-time investment in Legal Aid. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 216-861-5273 or Melanie Shakarian, Legal Aid's Director of Development at 216-861-5217.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Cotter, Esq.
Executive Director



**Cuyahoga County
Council**

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.):	
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland	
Address of Requesting Entity:	
1223 West 6th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity:	
Funding request only for Cuyhoga County Council District 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
N/A	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
N/A	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request:	
Melanie A. Shakarian, Esq.	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:	
N/A	
Email:	Phone:
melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org	216.861.5500
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.:	Date:
34-0866026	07/15/2022

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

See attached: pages 1-3

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's "Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid" project will be a one-time capital project to improve Legal Aid's operations, which had to grow due to COVID.

Legal Aid requests \$100,000 from County Council District 7. This \$100,000 will be applied to the following \$1 million capital improvement budget:

- New phone system (\$250,000)
- IT cloud improvements - for increased security, functionality and flexibility (\$50,000)
- New copy machines (\$250,000)
- One-time technology equipment investment (\$100,000)
- One-time build-out and furniture costs for Legal Aid's new location at 323 Lakeside Avenue (\$350,000)

This capital improvement project is important because the needs of Cuyahoga County residents – including residents in Cuyahoga County Council District 7 – grew due to the COVID-19 pandemic..

Project Start Date:
10/01/2022

Project End Date:
09/30/2023

IMPACT OF PROJECT:
<p>Who will be served: See attached: pages 4-5</p>
<p>How many people will be served annually: 15,000 in Cuyahoga County</p>
<p>Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how: See attached: pages 5-6</p>
<p>How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects: See attached: page 6</p>
<p>If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: Unknown. Due to investment in Legal Aid, economic opportunity will be gained for vendors doing capital work and Legal Aid clients. But impact is unknown.</p>
<p>If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be: With these one-time capital improvement investments in Legal Aid, employees can do remote work and be more efficient with travel, lessening carbon emissions. Clients can interact with Legal Aid in new/additional ways, so they don't have to always travel to an office or clinic.</p>
<p>If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives: See attached: pages 7-8</p>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

\$1 million

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

See attached: page 8

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$100,000

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

See attached: page 8

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Colleen Cotter, Executive Director

Signature:



Date:

07/15/2022

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

See attached: full answers to application questions

July 2022 request from The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
“Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid”
for district-level American Rescue Plan Act Funds:
Cuyahoga County Council District 7

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland requests \$100,000 in one-time-use funds to serve the increased needs of residents of Cuyahoga County Council District 7 for the next year (October 2022 – September 2023).

One-time-use funds of \$100,000, informally allocated for County Council District 7, will be applied to Legal Aid’s \$1 million capital budget for one-time capital expenses required to meet increased demand for our services stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

responses to specific County Council application questions:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Request Description (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland’s “Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid” project will be a one-time capital project to improve Legal Aid’s operations, which had to grow due to COVID.

Legal Aid requests \$100,000 from County Council District 7. This \$100,000 will be applied to the following \$1 million capital improvement budget:

- New phone system (\$250,000)
- IT cloud improvements - for increased security, functionality and flexibility (\$50,000)
- New copy machines (\$250,000)
- One-time technology equipment investment (\$100,000)
- One-time build-out and furniture costs for Legal Aid’s new location at 323 Lakeside Avenue (\$350,000)

This capital improvement project is important because the needs of Cuyahoga County residents – including residents in Cuyahoga County Council District 7 – grew due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Legal uses the power of the law to increase safety and health; promote education and economic stability; support safe and stable housing; and ensure government and justice systems are accountable and accessible. By solving fundamental problems for families with low incomes, we remove barriers to opportunity and help people achieve greater stability as the economic impacts of COVID-19 linger.

As the only civil legal aid organization in Northeast Ohio, Legal Aid is uniquely positioned to help people secure justice and pave paths of stability, strength, and hope.

Legal issues hold people, families, and entire communities back from opportunity. The United States justice system was created to uphold fairness and protect the rights of all people. However, far too many problems impacting people’s basic needs – including

July 2022 request from The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
“Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid”
for district-level American Rescue Plan Act Funds:
Cuyahoga County Council District 7

housing, employment, and safety from domestic violence – go unresolved each year because the justice system is out of reach for people with low incomes.

Legal Aid’s \$1 million, one-time capital improvement budget is necessary because:

- the increase in client intake calls due to COVID made it clear that our phone system and call center set-up was antiquated, and a new cloud-based phone system (\$250,000) is needed to meet the needs of Cuyahoga County residents;
- with the increase in client services, IT cloud improvements are necessary (\$50,000) for increased security, functionality and flexibility;
- as client services grow, new copy machines (\$250,000) are needed;
- we need to hire more staff to serve residents of Cuyahoga County, so additional technology equipment (\$100,000) is needed;
- finally, we seek to add space to Legal Aid’s Cleveland office to accommodate staff hired during and after COVID. We need to invest \$350,000 in one-time build-out, furniture, and other costs for this additional space.

Milestones for tracking the project include creating a project plan for each line-item; researching options/expenses; hiring vendors and implementing the project. All of these milestones can occur within a 12-month period.

The \$100,000 investment from Cuyahoga County Council District 7 towards this \$1 million capital improvement budget will grow and sustain Legal Aid’s work for the benefit of all Cuyahoga County resident. Specifically, we will achieve the following goals:

1. **Improve Health and Safety:** Legal issues can impact the health and safety of people, families, and neighborhoods. For example, our attorneys help tenants take legal action against domestic abusers to protect themselves from further harm and assert financial independence. Also, we help tenants enforce their rights in court and compel landlords to remediate lead paint hazards in rental units (which can harm a child’s development).
2. **Promote Education and Economic Stability:** A good education and a quality job can be powerful catalysts for rising out of poverty. Legal Aid removes barriers to these opportunities by solving problems that limit academic achievements and addressing economic issues around assets, debt, employment, public benefits, and other income.
3. **Secure Housing Stability:** Reliable shelter is a fundamental human need – and at Legal Aid, we believe housing is a human right. We help people protect their homes and avoid periods of housing instability.
4. **Ensure the Justice System and Government Entities are Accountable/Accessible:** Everyone deserves equal access to justice. From fighting discriminatory laws that punish people for calling the police “too often” to

July 2022 request from The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
“Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid”
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demanding wheelchair access at a local courthouse, Legal Aid attorneys are always seeking to make the system work better.

The coronavirus pandemic plunged thousands of Northeast Ohioans into poverty and exacerbated problems for those already struggling to make ends meet. Legal Aid rose to the challenge and continues to serve a growing client community during a time of great need.

With this \$100,000 grant allocated via Cuyahoga County District 7 for Legal Aid’s \$1 million one-time capital expenses, Legal Aid will conduct the following activities:

- Legal representation:
Legal Aid provides free, high-quality legal representation to people with low incomes when representation in a civil legal case can solve an issue that is threatening their basic needs. Requests for housing help have risen precipitously during COVID-19, and we added staff in response to these increased needs (since 2019, we grew our staff by 30%). Our clients’ stories powerfully demonstrate the impact of this work. For example: Alexa was 15 when her father Dan passed away (*names changed for privacy*). A year later, she received a letter from Social Security claiming she owed over \$19,000. Unbeknownst to her, Dan had collected workers compensation *and* Social Security Disability Insurance payments for several years – but legally, he was only entitled to one or the other. Social Security was attempting to collect the overpayment from innocent family members he had listed as dependents.
- Community Engagement and Education:
If knowledge is power, legal knowledge is a superpower. Legal Aid attorneys arm people with the information, resources, and confidence they need to solve issues on their own or seek appropriate guidance. For example, we host a monthly Facebook Live program that focuses on various legal topics of interest. Past shows have covered education rights, housing, taxes, and guardianship issues. We have an extensive library of self-help resources and brochures in both English and Spanish; publish informative articles in local papers each month; communicate regularly about program updates, news, and events with our partners; publish regular newsletters for our client community; and regularly update our website with the most current civil legal information.
- Advocacy:
A core part of Legal Aid’s mission is to work towards long-lasting, systemic solutions to the problems of racism, poverty, and inequality. We’ve worked together in the past as partners with Cuyahoga County Council and will continue to: our staff are leaders in numerous advocacy committees at the local, state, and national levels. Over the past year, for example, our education law attorneys advised local school districts about the rights of students during COVID-19 with respect to continual services and internet access. We have also been advocating for student loans to be more easily discharged in bankruptcy cases when filers have extremely low incomes.

July 2022 request from The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
“Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid”
for district-level American Rescue Plan Act Funds:
Cuyahoga County Council District 7

IMPACT OF PROJECT

\$100,000 informally allocated from County Council District 7 will be part of a \$1 million capital improvement project that was created due to the increase in Cuyahoga County residents’ need for Legal Aid through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who will be served:

With this grant, Legal Aid will serve residents of Cuyahoga County District XX who have low incomes. To qualify for Legal Aid representation, a person’s household income must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty limit. This is \$27,900 or less for an individual and \$55,500 or less for a family of four. In Ohio, someone who works a full-time minimum wage job makes \$19,344 per year. Most of Legal Aid’s clients work, but their jobs don’t pay enough. When a crisis occurs, they have no budget to hire an attorney. By providing free legal help where and when people need it, Legal Aid creates important social capital for families with low income.

Our clients come from urban centers and suburbs; they are people of every race, religion, age, and culture. They are mothers, daughters, fathers, sons, grandparents, immigrants, teachers, nurses, truck drivers, entrepreneurs, and caregivers.

Our clients’ own stories best illustrate the population we serve.

For example, Kira (*name changed for privacy*) moved to Cleveland with her three young children shortly after Hurricane Maria hit her homeland of Puerto Rico. Though she speaks limited English, the strong-willed single mother worked hard to build a new, stable life for the family in Northeast Ohio. During the COVID-19 pandemic, making ends meet wasn’t easy, but the family was getting by. Then one day Kira was suddenly faced with the threat of homelessness: a woman who claimed to be her new landlord (with no formal notification of the change) came to her door and served her an eviction notice.

Kira reached out to the Family Support Specialist at her daughter’s Say Yes Cleveland school and was quickly referred to Legal Aid. Kira’s Legal Aid attorney did the critical legal work to help the family remain stable and find new, suitable housing that would keep the children enrolled in their same schools. The attorney arranged for interpreters and translations at every turn (Kira speaks limited English) and helped Kira deal with her increasingly aggressive landlord, who kept changing the locks and pursuing illegal methods to force her out of the property. After successfully getting the eviction dropped in court, the Legal Aid attorney worked with Kira’s new landlord to arrange an early move-in date, so she did not experience a single day without a home.

When the new landlord showed up unannounced and started making demands, “I felt like I didn’t have a voice,” says Kira. “Words cannot express my sincere gratitude to [my attorney]. I would 1,000 times over recommend calling Legal Aid.”

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Another client we helped in 2021, Tom (*name changed for privacy*), was unjustly fired from his job when his employer penalized him for avoiding heavy physical labor while suffering a back injury – even though they had discussed the issue and his employer agreed on accommodations. Tom, a widower raising two boys on his own, had relied on his job's medical insurance to pay for the family's health care. His 12-year-old son is a cancer survivor. Without insurance, Tom couldn't afford the boy's many costly medical tests. Tom's employer also denied him the required two weeks of paid leave when he had COVID because they "couldn't fill his position."

Tom called Legal Aid, and a team of attorneys was working to get him the compensation he legally deserved. The attorneys noted inconsistencies in the employer's excuses for firing Tom and its baseless explanation for not providing him his mandated two-week paid leave and worker's compensation.

Legal Aid's advocacy led to a hearing decision that awarded Tom \$18,718 in combined unemployment compensation and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. This gave Tom financial support as he searched for and found a new job. Tom said his Legal Aid attorneys were "awesome," and felt they genuinely cared about him and his situation. "I was very impressed," he said. "They stood up for me."

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

Yes, only people with low incomes will be served; as mentioned above, Legal Aid serves people who have incomes equal to or less than 200% of federal poverty guidelines. Income information is collected at the point of intake and recorded by Legal Aid staff in our electronic case management system, LegalServer. Legal Aid serves eligible clients by representing them on cases involving family matters, economic issues (including barriers to employment, taxes, and consumer affairs), issues related to accessing healthcare and education, and housing. We also educate community members about their rights and engage in systemic advocacy on behalf of our client community.

Legal Aid is a lifeline for people experiencing some of life's most harrowing challenges. Our 130 full-time staff and roster of more than 3,000 volunteers work with clients every day to achieve their goals and stand up for justice. We are the difference between homelessness and home; danger and safety; poverty and security. From helping a young family stay in their much-loved home, to training doctors on recognizing the non-medical barriers to health, to improving special education access for children across Ohio, Legal Aid is creating positive ripples of impact every day.

Last year, we helped 17,300 people through 6,655 cases – and we reached thousands more through our outreach and education work. In closed cases last year, we:

- Prevented eviction or involuntary move in 93% of relevant cases
- Secured safety in 98% of relevant cases

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- Removed a barrier to education in 97% of relevant cases
- Reduced debt in 88% of relevant cases
- Secured rent assistance in 84% of relevant cases

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

Legal Aid provides a necessary and needed service, and no other organization in Northeast Ohio is solely dedicated to serving the civil legal needs of people with low incomes. Legal Aid complements other programs, organizations, and agencies serving Cuyahoga County residents by offering a unique service that can have a transformative impact on families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Our partnerships with local hospitals, libraries, social service providers, public agencies, community leaders, and neighborhood-based groups elevate the impact of our services and ensure the sustainability of our outcomes. For example: our medical-legal partnerships with four area hospitals (MetroHealth, Cleveland Clinic, St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, and University Hospitals) bring civil legal assistance to the places where people seek medical care. By integrating health care and legal problem solving, attorneys and medical providers target the social determinants of health (factors such as home environment and economic stability that affect up to 80% of a person's health outcomes).

Last year, our medical-legal partnership with MetroHealth helped Salma, a refugee from Iraq whose teenage son Abdul has multiple physical and intellectual disabilities (*names changed for privacy*). Salma speaks limited English and wanted help getting Abdul the supports he needed at school. A dedicated Legal Aid attorney advocated on Salma's behalf at multiple meetings with school administration, until the district agreed to place Abdul in a specialized private school that better met his needs, at no cost to the family. The attorney also helped Salma maintain guardianship over Abdul past age 18 so she can continue making educational and medical decisions in his best interest while he remains in her care.

Legal Aid is the official civil legal service provider for Say Yes Cleveland, a nonprofit that provides scholarships and support services to families with children in Cleveland public schools. There are now more than 60 schools in the program.

We also host neighborhood-based brief advice clinics on weekends and during after-work hours at trusted community locations such as libraries, community centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, veterans' centers, and churches. At our neighborhood brief advice clinics, we leverage our staff with volunteers (*pro bono* law students and attorneys), who provide private consultations to community members in need. When cases warrant extended representation, they may be referred to Legal Aid for full-service representation.

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“Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid”
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If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

One of the key aspects of this project is that it will, by design, catalyze future initiatives and spur collaboration among community stakeholders throughout Cuyahoga County. As mentioned previously, Legal Aid prides itself on our partnerships, and we are deepening and expanding these every day. For example, this spring we launched a new medical-legal partnership with Cleveland Clinic, and by the end of the year, our work with Say Yes Cleveland will touch all schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Legal Aid’s current strategic plan runs through 2022, and Legal Aid’s Board of Directors is now leading a strategic planning process informed by a legal needs assessment completed in 2021. The assessment shed light on new opportunities, challenges, and priorities, and Legal Aid’s new strategic plan will guide our team into our next phase of growth – especially to fight the problems of poverty exacerbated by COVID.

Our revised set of goals will specifically address the impact of systemic racism in our community. This work will have a firm foundation; in recent years, Legal Aid has further centered our actions both internally and externally around the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), and racial justice. An internal committee created a DEI Plan in 2021, and implementation has begun. We recognize that we can only achieve racial justice for our clients by having a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization – one in which all staff, clients, board, volunteers, partners, and neighbors are treated with dignity and respect. Legal Aid stands with our clients as one community in the fight against inequality and systemic racism to build a more just and welcoming society for all.

Legal Aid is also increasing our engagement with community members, following the leadership of Board members who are eligible for Legal Aid’s services. (One third of Legal Aid’s Board members are income-eligible “community representatives”). Our goal is to consistently incorporate the perspectives and needs of our client community into our services and practices. We are proud of our strong reputation and recognize key areas for improvement. For example, in the fall of 2021 we launched a Spanish-language online intake form to bring Legal Aid services to more people 24/7.

Finally, our work with Cleveland’s Right to Counsel (RTC) program has been extremely successful. In 2019, Cleveland passed a landmark RTC law guaranteeing free legal representation to families with children and low incomes in eviction cases. City Council designated Legal Aid as the official RTC legal services provider, and the law took effect in July 2020. In 2021, Legal Aid prevented 93% of evictions through our RTC work, and the program is now inspiring other cities and municipalities in Cuyahoga County to envision their own RTC laws. Legal Aid has been invited to consult with a number of cities regarding their plans and proposals. We are proud to

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"Community Recovery from COVID-19: One-Time Capital Investment for Legal Aid"
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be catalyzing this movement and working together with public officials to extend housing justice.

Financial Information

Other Funding Sources

In addition to this request to Cuyahoga County Council District 7, Legal Aid is submitting similar requests to other Cuyahoga County Council Members. Our goal is to fully fund this one-time capital expense budget with ARPA dollars.

Beyond this, for our other work, Legal Aid has diverse funding from the Legal Services Corporation, Ohio Access to Justice Foundation, local and state government, and a variety of private philanthropic sources. See full details and list in our most recent annual report at: laslev.org/about-us/annual-reports.

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

Legal Aid recognizes these are one-time dollars, and these funds will only be used towards the one-time capital budget of \$1 million, which includes expenses made necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are grateful for your consideration of this grant proposal and Cuyahoga County Council District 7's commitment to catalyzing a robust and equitable COVID response strategy. Together, we can open the door to a more stable and hopeful future for our region's families.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2023-0174

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell Co-sponsored by: Councilmember Turner	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to the Community of Hope for the HOPE Program from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to the Community of Hope for the HOPE Program; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Hope estimates approximately 100 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Hope estimates the total cost of the project is \$666,175; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Hope indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$150,000 from Cuyahoga County

- B. \$12,000 from a Community West Foundation Grant
- C. \$25,000 from a Sisters of Charity Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Hope is estimating the start date of the project will be May 2023 and the project will be completed by December 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Hope requested \$379,400 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$20,000 to the Community of Hope to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 to the Community of Hope from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the HOPE Program.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or



**Cuyahoga County
Council**

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Community of Hope	
Address of Requesting Entity: 2121 Euclid Avenue, C/O CSU, Euclid Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 1836 Euclid Avenue Suite 110, Cleveland OH 44115	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 7	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Denise Eaddy	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: 	
Email: deniseeaddy@hopecle.org	Phone: 216-924-3852
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 82-4611655	Date: 4/4/23

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Purpose of Grant

The HOPE Program is designed to serve the needs of youth emancipated from or affected by the foster care system. Every year in Cuyahoga County, over 140 young adults leave foster care alone, resulting in many complex social, emotional, mental health, and basic need inequities. We work with them daily on various barriers such as housing, mental health, childcare, food, clothing, transportation, legal crisis, and others. We are the liaison between the volunteers and the community for resources to assist young people in navigating life.

One of the key components for our youth in Community of Hope is that they are stably housed, in school, working, or both – striving for self-sufficiency. To support and ensure their success, we have established an emergency fund.

1.HOPE Program - team mentoring program (4-6 community mentors) surround one young adult/young family. They meet weekly and work on the life goals for a minimum of a year. Staff recruits, trains, supports youth and volunteers. Our groups do not have a time limit though. Once youth pick their groups, the goal is to create permanent supportive relationships. Staff links youth to auxiliary resources-mental health, job programs, school tutoring, GED courses, parenting support.

2.CORE Club - peer to peer monthly support group to begin to address the social isolation in youth aging out of foster care or experiencing homelessness. We believe that helping them build healthy relationships with other youth and adults will only amplify the impact of having mentors. Core club is for current communities and pre-contemplating young adults who aren't quite trusting enough to have adults in their lives due to trauma. We serve between 15-30 youth bi-monthly where we engage outside sources to educate, strengthen, and empower our young people. Each meeting is designed around a theme, a meal, discussion, and an affirmation. The purpose is to develop deeper connections between youth who have been impacted by or experienced foster care and homelessness. All are welcome, and parents are encouraged to bring their children to develop social skills.

3.To create and develop organic programs that will help build, establish, and empower our young towards self-sufficiency. Programs like grief-recovery, self-care, art and music therapy, and self-retreats.

4.Emergency funding will be used to provide rental assistance to prevent homelessness and to subsidize apartment rentals. We provide grocery gift cards for grocery crises at the end of the month and coats and clothing gift cards for our young people in need. We also provide bus tickets and gas cards for medical and employment purposes.

Community of Hope is the only organization in Cuyahoga County specifically servicing youth who have aged out of foster care in a holistic group mentoring capacity. Our objective is to ensure that our young people reach their human potential through, love, validation, affirmation, and connection.

Project Start Date:

5/1/2023

Project End Date:

12/31/2025

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served:

Young adults ages 18-30
Volunteers

How many people will be served annually:

100

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

Yes, emergency assistance for rental leasing and deposits, legal, housing, food, clothing, transportation, counseling.

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

To reduce the human potential of youth being homeless, jobless, incarcerated, human-trafficked, and the chance for repeating the generational cycle of foster care.

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:

N/A

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

N/A

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

The potential eradication of homelessness, joblessness, loneliness, and lack of inclusiveness among the marginalized and underprivileged in which we serve.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

Total Program Budget - \$666,175

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Cuyahoga County 2023 Contract - \$150,000

Community West Foundation 2023 Grant - \$12,000

Sisters of Charity 2023 Grant - \$25,000

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

Total Request \$379,400

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

Individual donations

Special event sponsorships

Applying for foundations grants and corporate support.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

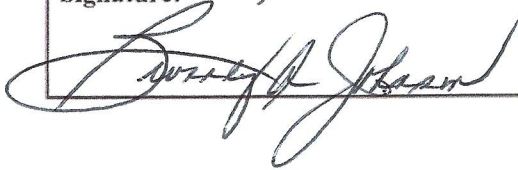
I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

BEVERLY A. JOHNSON

Signature:



Date:

4/4/23

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

2023-2024 Budget Narrative.