

22

SENIOR CITIZENS SUPPORT



PROJECT #151

Walker Senior Neighbors Senior Center



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Walker is committed to being a major partner in the development of this project. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is open to pledging \$10,000 toward one-time costs (e.g., furnishings). The Kent County Senior Millage has pledged \$125,000 for the project, pending final Commission approval.

Partnership

City of Walker, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Identify the need for the proposed project

The growth of the senior population is well known and there is significant evidence to support the idea that seniors who remain active and engaged live longer, healthier lives that require less expensive medical intervention and help them maintain their independence longer. According to the 2019 census estimates, 20% of the population of the City of Walker were aged 60+ and 14% were aged 50-59, making 34% of the Walker population qualified or nearly qualified for this service based on their age. This suggests a continued growing population of older adults in Walker. In addition, we have been operating a senior center in Walker for 12 years prior to the COVID shutdown and we have seen firsthand the community need for these services. Prior to closing the center due to COVID, we had regular daily attendance of 30-75 seniors and believe a new, enhanced building site would serve more seniors and have a positive impact on their physical and mental health.

Brief Description

The project is to reopen and expand the capacity and service offerings at the Walker Senior Neighbors Center (formerly the Walker Firehouse Café, which has been closed since near the start of COVID due to public safety issues) in a new location. The funding will allow us to renovate portions of Walker Fire Station 3 to make it into a new and improved senior center. The center will require new fixtures, furniture, and equipment to accommodate the provision of meals and senior center programming. We serve hot and nutritious meals to seniors every day of operation, so we need to upgrade the kitchen considerably to meet health department requirements. We also need to renovate the floors and walls and add tables and chairs that are safe and functional for seniors and meet the requirements of the program. The goal of this project is to create a modern, inviting senior center that will attract hundreds of seniors to participate in programming regularly, which will enhance their health and sustain their independence as long as possible. The partnership with the City of Walker, which is offering rent-free space for the center helps make the project sustainable for the long term.

Long-Term Benefit

Social determinants of health (SDH) are factors that influence health. This includes housing, nutrition, access to medical care and other services and social connections. As people age, their connections often erode, creating unhealthy isolation, leading to poorer mental and physical health. Senior Centers connect seniors to others and local services that address SDH. Active seniors live longer, healthier lives, decreasing stress on caregivers and systems that provide health and residential care

Intended Beneficiary

Senior Citizens age 60+ who reside in or around Walker and their caregivers

Estimated Cost

\$175,000-\$200,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Walker is committed to being a major partner in the development of this project. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is open to pledging \$10,000 toward one-time costs (e.g., furnishings). The Kent County Senior Millage has pledged \$125,000 for the project, pending final Commission approval.

Partnership

City of Walker, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Management Experience

Senior Neighbors has been serving seniors throughout Kent County since 1972, focusing on our mission of “Enhancing the Lives of Seniors”. We annually serve over 4,500 seniors through our varied programs. Our services include five senior centers (Lowell, Walker, Grand Rapids-Heartside, Grandville, Sparta), the Ridelink transportation program, minor home repairs program, and volunteer opportunities. We have social workers who assist seniors with challenges of aging on low fixed incomes, a refugee program and a housing coordination program, as well as Medicare/Medicaid assistance. We also offer several evidence-based health and wellness programs such as A Matter of Balance classes, which help seniors avoid falls, EnhanceFitness, Tai Chi, and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program.

Federal Funds Experience

The project is to reopen and expand the capacity and service offerings at the Walker Senior Neighbors Center (formerly the Walker Firehouse Café, which has been closed since near the start of COVID due to public safety issues) in a new location. The funding will allow us to renovate portions of Walker Fire Station 3 to make it into a new and improved senior center. The center will require new fixtures, furniture, and equipment to accommodate the provision of meals and senior center programming. We serve hot and nutritious meals to seniors every day of operation, so we need to upgrade the kitchen considerably to meet health department requirements. We also need to renovate the floors and walls and add tables and chairs that are safe and functional for seniors and meet the requirements of the program. The goal of this project is to create a modern, inviting senior center that will attract hundreds of seniors to participate in programming regularly, which will enhance their health and sustain their independence as long as possible. The partnership with the City of Walker, which is offering rent-free space for the center helps make the project sustainable for the long term.

Studies on Impact

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), senior centers are community focal points and one of the most widely used services for older adults. The NCOA states that center participants have higher levels of health, social interaction, and life satisfaction than non-participants. Older adults who participate in senior center programs can learn to manage/delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvement in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being. (www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-senior-centers). Numerous center services offer great benefits to older adults and many are “evidence based,” offering proven benefits such as decreased falls, better disease management, improved health, and increased mobility. Administration for Community Living (ACL) research indicates that 80% of participants say a congregate meal program improved their health, and 54% say their attendance at a senior center supplies 50%+ of their total food for the day. The ACL research also addresses the importance of socialization for older adults. The ACL study indicated that 54% of participants in congregate meal programs say their social opportunities increased because of the program.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letter of Support](#)
2. [Project Summary](#)
3. [Project Update](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$175,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

ARPA Request: \$75,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

The City of Walker is committed to being a major partner in the development of this project. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is open to pledging \$10,000 toward one-time costs (e.g., furnishings). The Kent County Senior Millage has pledged \$125,000 for the project, pending final Commission approval.

Partnership

City of Walker, Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Eligible under public health or non-profit support - pending more information



Sustainability

One time capital expenses



Feasibility

PROJECT #214

Lowell Senior Neighbors Senior Center



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizen Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Identify the need for the proposed project

The growth of the senior population is well known and there is significant evidence to support the idea that seniors who remain active and engaged live longer, healthier lives. They require less expensive medical intervention, and they can better maintain physical and mental health, and their independence longer. According to the 2020 census, the population in the city of Lowell and surrounding areas, including Vergennes Township, Saranac, and Lowell townships, is estimated to be at around 10,259, with 15.71% of those residents being age 65 or older. Because the location of the senior center in Lowell is considered a rural area, it's important to consider that it will benefit seniors in surrounding communities who will travel to Lowell, as is often the case in rural areas. According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA) senior centers "serve as a gateway to the nation's aging network- connecting 1 million older adults to vital community services. The NCOA also states that senior centers are recognized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) as community focal points and are one of the most widely used services among America's older adults. In fact, more than 60% of senior centers are delivery points for OAA funded services, allowing older adults to access multiple services in one place. (<https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-senior-centers>). This is especially true in rural settings where senior centers provide community-based services that may be more lacking. Research shows that rural area patients may tend to travel greater distances, experience longer wait times, and face affordability issues when in need of health services.

(<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/home-and-community-based-services-meeting-the-need>). .

Another study done by the University of Minnesota examined the importance of social cohesion and engagement in rural areas. This study concluded that "ensuring the social wellbeing and quality of life of rural older adults aging in place is paramount to ensuring the vitality of their communities as a whole" (<https://3pea7g1qp8f3t9o0e3z3npx1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/U>). There is research that supports the importance of using community-based services such as senior centers to better assist rural older adults in staying healthy and active. We have been operating a senior center in Lowell for more than 35 years and have seen first-hand the need for the services we provide. Unfortunately, the building we have no longer serves the current needs and requests of the seniors in the community, and we recognize that it will not meet the needs of those who will seek our services in the coming years. The Center, in its current state, has restricted our growth and ability to meet the growing senior population in the community. Without any other senior center options in the area, seniors are forced to find other ways to stay connected in the community or face potential isolation and the negative health benefits that come with it.

Brief Description

This project is to expand the Lowell Senior Neighbors Senior Center. The goal of this project is to create a much larger, modern, inviting senior center that will attract hundreds of seniors to join in the center programming regularly. The programs at this center help address social determinants of health, enhance health and well-being, and helps sustain their independence long term. Our current senior center is a 100+ year old farmhouse, which has a lot of history and character, but is ill suited for a senior center because it is too small. Due to the closed off and inaccessible layout the center is unable to host more than 35 people comfortably. Since COVID, people want more physical distancing when gathering and the current site is suppressing growth. The plan includes moving the current building to another place on the same property and adding another building of roughly 5,000 square feet to serve as the main senior center. We need a significantly bigger center to serve more seniors and help them maintain their physical and mental health. Improving this center will also enhance the work of Gilda's Club, which uses the site to provide free emotional healthcare to children, adults, families, and friends on any kind of cancer journey or those grieving the death of someone in their life due to any cause.

Source of Funding

We do not have funds pledged to support this project yet, but we would seek private and government funding to fill any gaps between the project's actual costs and what the ARPA funding provides.

Partnership

Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Gilda's Club, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000

ARPA Request: \$1,700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes

Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizen Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We do not have funds pledged to support this project yet, but we would seek private and government funding to fill any gaps between the project's actual costs and what the ARPA funding provides.

Partnership

Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Gilda's Club, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Long-Term Benefit

Social determinants of health (SDH) are factors that influence physical/mental health, e.g., housing, nutrition, access to medical care and other services/social connections. Active seniors live longer, healthier lives, decreasing stress on caregivers and systems providing health and residential care. As people age, their connections often erode, creating unhealthy isolation, leading to poorer mental/physical health. Senior centers connect seniors to others and local services that address SDH.

Intended Beneficiary

Senior Citizens age 60+ who reside in or around Lowell and their caregivers

Estimated Cost

\$2,000,000.00

*Source of Funding

We may have an opportunity to partner with The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan for some of the ARPA money they are distributing and would be open to looking at applying for Kent senior millage funding for other costs. In addition, we would be seeking more grant funds and donors to help with this project.

Project Management Experience

Senior Neighbors has been serving seniors throughout Kent County since 1972, focusing on our mission of "Enhancing the Lives of Seniors". We annually serve over 4,500 seniors through our varied programs. Our services include five senior centers (Lowell, Walker, Grand Rapids-Heartside Neighborhood, Grandville, Sparta), the Ridelink transportation program, minor home repairs program, and volunteer opportunities. We have social workers who assist seniors with challenges of aging on low fixed incomes, a refugee program and a housing coordination program, as well as Medicare/Medicaid assistance. We also offer several evidence-based health and wellness programs such as A Matter of Balance classes, which help seniors avoid falls, EnhanceFitness, Tai Chi, and the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program.

Federal Funds Experience

Senior Neighbors has been receiving federal funds annually for many decades, perhaps even for the entire 50 years of its existence. We currently administer Older American Act Funds annually and have three federal AmeriCorps Seniors programs, including the Foster Grandparent Program, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Senior Companion Program. In addition, we have received federal funding for the purchase of vehicles from the Michigan Department of Transportation, which was 80% federal funding. We also receive a CDBG grant. Although we have not reached the \$750,000 threshold for a Single Audit, we are prepared for this eventuality. We have Federal Financial Internal Control and Procedures in place to comply with "Title 2 U.S Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, OMB Uniform Guidance, and the Compliance Supplement".



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$2,000,000
Maximum Cost: \$2,000,000
ARPA Request: \$1,700,000

Submitter Info

Name: Robert Barnes
Organization: Senior Neighbors

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Senior Citizen Support
Project Status: Expanded Project
Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 




Studies on Impact

The NCOA states that center participants have higher levels of health, social interaction, and life satisfaction than non-participants. Older adults who participate in senior center programs can learn to manage/delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvement in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being. (www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-senior-centers). Those who attend centers can also connect to numerous services offering great benefits to older adults, including many that are evidence based. Proven benefits include decreased falls, better disease management, improved health, and increased mobility. Meals and socialization are key components of our program. Administration for Community Living (ACL) research indicates that 80% of participants say a congregate meal program improved their health, and 54% say their attendance at a senior center supplies 50%+ of their total food for the day. The ACL research also addresses the importance of socialization for older adults. The ACL study indicated that 54% of participants in congregate meal programs say their social opportunities increased because of the program, positively impacting their mental health.

Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support](#)
- [2. Concept Package](#)
- [3. Lowell Senior Neighbors Project Outline](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility	 Sustainability	 Feasibility
<i>Eligible under public health or non-profit support - pending more information</i>	<i>Funds are only for facility expansion</i>	

Source of Funding

We do not have funds pledged to support this project yet, but we would seek private and government funding to fill any gaps between the project's actual costs and what the ARPA funding provides.

Partnership

Meals on Wheels of Western Michigan, Gilda's Club, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

PROJECT #94

Residential Treatment Adult Foster Care Provider Network Viability



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

ARPA Request: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc

Identify the need for the proposed project

Our service industry supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the community has been in a staffing crisis for decades, primarily due to low Medicaid reimbursement rates resulting in low wages. The pandemic pushed the crisis into a staffing emergency with our organizations experiencing 20-30% position vacancy rates. These nonprofits' expenses are primarily in staffing, and overtime inflates staffing costs by as much as 30%. These vacancy rates result in enormous, unreimbursed overtime expenses that put providers at risk as these costs become untenable. Providers have received some premium pay to support standard wages but there is no funding for the unsustainable overtime costs resulting from the staffing emergency.

Brief Description

This project would provide direct relief to local nonprofits by covering their overtime costs. ARPA funds would bridge the gap in funding, allowing nonprofits to become and remain viable for the most vulnerable Kent County citizens. This funding would also allow nonprofits to focus more resources on program adaptations and innovations necessary given the staffing crisis. These funds would help ensure the population served receives the best care possible.

Long-Term Benefit

Nonprofits that perform a vital, community safety net service will remain viable. Vulnerable people will continue to receive necessary care and support in the most appropriate setting. Emergency rooms will not be flooded with people needing care because Adult Foster Care homes are closing.

Intended Beneficiary

Kent County non-profit providers of Medicaid covered specialized residential services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. MOKA, Spectrum Community Services and Thresholds Inc. will benefit from having a funding source for the overtime costs that are not funded by any other public or private source. While 3-6% overtime is an expected business cost for operations that are required to provide 24/7 support, our overtime costs are excessive (15-30%) given the severe employee workforce shortage. If this expense were funded, these nonprofits would be able to use precious resources to focus on innovations that might reduce the need for and burden on staff, and on employee retention and recruitment.

Estimated Cost

\$6 - \$7 million for 3 years of overtime

Project Management Experience

MOKA, Spectrum and Thresholds are three of the four largest providers of Medicaid services for people with IDD in Kent County. We have been publicly funded for over 40 years, contracting and collaborating with Community Mental Health (Network180) to meet the needs of people with IDD in a way that makes best and most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. We have been partners with the county for a decades-long, county-wide project dating back to the beginning of deinstitutionalization, managing hundreds of millions of county dollars and successfully caring for tens of thousands of Kent County residents.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$6,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$7,000,000

ARPA Request: \$7,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jacquelyn Johnson

Organization: Thresholds Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, and Thresholds Inc

Federal Funds Experience

All three nonprofits are contracted service providers for Network180, serving a Medicaid population. We also receive Social Security and Medicare funding. We are familiar with billing codes for all services we provide and are able to provide the services according to the guidelines set by the federal government. We have experience billing electronically to the payor and have a compliance system in place to monitor billings for accuracy. Each of our organizations has over 40 years of experience managing federal funds.

Studies on Impact

No, however in “Forging a Path Forward to Strengthen Michigan’s Direct Care Workforce” There is a notation that states “ARPA, which passed in 2021, allowed states to tap into enhanced federal funding to support the direct care workforce. Potential activities include: creating financial incentives to recruit and retain DCWs; supporting training; increasing rates to support increased compensation for DCWs; providing leave benefits; and providing specialized payments, including hazard pay, overtime pay, and shift differential pay.”

<https://www.chcs.org/media/Forging-a-Path-Forward-to-Strengthen-Michigans-Direct-Care-Workforce.pdf>

Supporting Documentation

1. [Making Care Work Pay Report](#)
2. [Workforce Survey Report](#)
3. [America’s Direct Support Workforce Crisis Report](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**  **Sustainability**  **Feasibility**

Eligible under non-profit support

Limited project.

PROJECT #246

Senior Housing targeting LGBT+ people, 55 and older



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium and the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan. We are also in contact with other organizations that are supportive of the idea and are figuring out how they can be a part of the project.

Identify the need for the proposed project

Currently there are more than 39 million people in the U.S. who are 65 years or older. The older adult population will increase from 12.8 percent to an estimated 19 percent in 2030. There are currently estimated to be around 3 million LGBT+ adults over 50. The older adult LGBT+ population is expected to grow to around 7 million by 2030. In the past few years, there has been more focus on older adults in the LGBT+ community in terms of recognizing the struggles they face when looking for safe and affordable housing, aging services, etc. While this community of older adults has been highlighted, there is still minimal data on the population of older adults in the LGBT+ community as well as what services are needed in order to ensure they have the best quality of life as they age. After some research, it was noted that there are no housing options that specifically serve the older adult LGBT+ population in Kent County. Furthermore, safe, stable, and affordable housing was identified as a community need, specifically within the older adult population in the 2019 Kent County Community Health Needs Assessment. The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan attended a meeting with the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan and formed relationships with individuals in the group that are passionate about making sure there is a safe space to live for older adults in the LGBT+ community. The LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan believes that housing for LGBT+ older adults is a needed in West Michigan.

Brief Description

In Chicago, Philadelphia and large cities across the US, recently, LGBT+ housing has been constructed in order to meet the needs of the LGBT+ community. This project would create independent living housing in Kent County for older adults in the LGBT+ community. There would be a mix of low-income and private pay units available. While there is not an identified location for this housing complex we are currently looking and open to building on land that is not yet developed or renovating an existing building into housing units. This housing structure would have different sized units to fit the needs of single individuals as well as those who are partnered or married. This complex would also include common areas and spaces where events can be held to create a larger sense of community. While the housing units will be designated to older adults, the common/event spaces can be utilized by community groups per approval in order to have a safe space for LGBT+ individuals to go for meetings, programs, etc. While this is an independent living complex for older adults, we want this to be more than just a place to live. This project also includes senior programming and case management services for those living in the complex to utilize as navigating services and community resources can be a difficult task to do alone. There are many reports of seniors in the LGBT+ community who have been discriminated against and denied housing based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Long-Term Benefit

Some senior living communities may in fact leave LGBT+ older adults more vulnerable to discrimination and abuse. This housing project will be an asset for the community for decades to come. First, stable housing is a pillar for quality of life that directly relates to the overall health and well-being of an individual. By providing a safe and affirming space to live for those who have been marginalized, this project will allow older adults to live independently and free to be themselves.



Project Cost





Project Cost: \$20,000,000
ARPA Request \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik
Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life
Project Theme: Senior Citizens Support
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 
Sustainability: 
Feasibility: 
Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium and the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan. We are also in contact with other organizations that are supportive of the idea and are figuring out how they can be a part of the project.

Intended Beneficiary

LGBT+ seniors will benefit most from this housing project, yet the space will also benefit family members who have peace of mind that their loved ones have a safe space to live and can be their true authentic self. Furthermore, we would like there to be a communal space that can be reserved for meetings/events that would be safe and affirming for individuals of all ages in the LGBT+ community.

Estimated Cost

LGBT+ seniors will benefit most from this housing project, yet the space will also benefit family members who have peace of mind that their loved ones have a safe space to live and can be their true authentic self. Furthermore, we would like there to be a communal space that can be reserved for meetings/events that would be safe and affirming for individuals of all ages in the LGBT+ community.

Project Management Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) has quite a bit of experience managing and leading county-wide projects. We are the fiduciary of the Kent County Senior Millage and manage funding from the Senior Millage that is awarded to partnering agencies. Furthermore, AAWM manages RideLink, a county-wide transportation program for older adults 60+ that operates using senior millage dollars and is a collective of 5 community organizations that provide the transportation service. AAWM also has ongoing projects and initiatives such as the Kent County Elder Abuse Coalition, Dementia Friends, Caregiver Resource Network and Family Caregiver University that are county and some, region-wide projects that help support older adults and their caregivers/community members.

Federal Funds Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is a fiduciary of Older Americans Act (OAA) funding. AAAs were created in 1974 by the federal Older Americans Act with the mission of creating home and community-based services to maximize the independence and dignity of older adults.

Studies on Impact

There are a number of instances where older adults feel the need to hide their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI) when they enter certain living arrangements. It has been found that hiding one's gender identity and/or sexual orientation due to fear of discrimination, violence, or disapproval, among other reasons have proven short and long-term effects on an individual's health and well-being. LGBT+ seniors have also faced a lifetime of discrimination, specifically in housing and employment, leading to economic insecurity which compounds with health disparities. A LGBT+ Senior Needs Assessment completed in San Diego proved that older adults identifying as LGBT+ prioritized social support, healthcare/quality of life, and housing. Should funding be granted for this proposal, we would be able to address all three prioritizations in one project by creating a safe, affirming space for LGBT+ older adults. Please see below for links to important studies and data.
https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Housing-Health-and-LGBTQIA-Older-Adults-2021-9.20_21.pdf
<https://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/pdfs/senior-needs-report.pdf>
<https://www.sageusa.org/resource-posts/understanding-issues-facing-lgbt-older-adults/>



Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

Affordable housing is eligible

 Sustainability

May have large operation costs but there are multiple partners

 Feasibility

Would require the creation of a new division. Can this be completed by 2026?

Project Cost

Project Cost: \$20,000,000

ARPA Request \$20,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Healthcare Consortium and the LGBTQ Eldering Community of West Michigan. We are also in contact with other organizations that are supportive of the idea and are figuring out how they can be a part of the project.

Supporting Documentation

[1. Overview of Submitted Documents](#)

[2. Letters of Support](#)



PROJECT #307

Senior Housing targeting LGBT+ people, 55 and older

Identify the need for the proposed project

By noting there is no low cost housing specifically serving the dedicated needs of the Elder GLBT population in Grand Rapids.

Brief Description

In Chicago, Philadelphia and large cities across the US, recently, GLBT housing has been constructed in order to meet the needs of that population. There are construction groups who have specific skills in this area. One notes GR has done an excellent job with low income housing at say, Mount Mercy, Ransom, etc., for general population yet has the opportunity to show itself a friendly city by considering funding housing for a vastly underfunded group of citizens. Especially those impacted from 1981 onward by HIV, housing as well employment discrimination and with the SCOTUS taking on settled case law with regard to abortion, no doubt, gay marriage is next. We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to show kindness and forethought in this city housing GLBT people. Given many live at poverty or below levels, indeed, housing is crucial on fixed incomes

Long-Term Benefit

Housing our citizens who have toiled in the arts, education, hospitality as well industries which did not pay living wages

Intended Beneficiary

LGBT seniors.

Estimated Cost

15-25 million dollars

Project Management Experience

There are people who have extensive experience with this who are being communicated with to build a coalition.

Federal Funds Experience

None

Studies on Impact

There are centers throughout the US, in conjunction with SAGE, who have done studies indicating the veracity of this need.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$15,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$25,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Anthony Cherette

Organization: TBD

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Affordable housing is eligible

 **Sustainability**

This project will have large operational costs and currently has no organization supporting it

 **Feasibility**

Unclear who will do the work

PROJECT #61

Care Resources - Expansion of Second Center for the Program of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE)



Identify the need for the proposed project

In Kent County there are over 130,000 seniors with 3 out of 4 adults age 50 + wanting to age at home. Care Resources began in 2006 as a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) located in Kent County currently serving over 300 55+ frail elderly adults. Our goal is to help seniors age at home and live safely in the community with the support of Care Resources - PACE. The PACE model of care includes eleven disciplines providing Comprehensive Care Management, Day Center, Primary Care, Rehab Services, Transportation and other supportive services. Care Resources has seen an increasing need for PACE services. Over the last two years, we have experienced a 33% increase in our census. Our current space at 4150 Kalamazoo SE is coming close to capacity and as part of our overall strategic plan for growth – we are planning on adding an additional PACE site in Eastern Kent County. We would also like the opportunity at the Eastern Kent County center to have the ability to provide Adult Day Care services for non-PACE Kent County residents. In reviewing the ARPA Kent County Grant opportunity specific to Funding Grant 1 - Community Health – we believe this grant funding would allow us to serve additional eligible PACE residents and the ability to provide Adult Day Care Services.

Brief Description

Care Resources is planning to build, purchase or lease and renovate a 12-15,000 square foot building to provide a second location for Care Resources. This center will include – adult day care, primary care clinic, pharmacy, rehabilitation, transportation and supporting services. This center will be able to serve daily 125 - 150 frail elderly PACE residents living in the community. We also have the potential to provide day care services to people not enrolled in the PACE program. We are including in the project fund request for additional vehicles to provide transportation for the new Eastern Kent County site. Our goal is to have this second center operational in 2024. We plan to work with other community resources including Senior Meal Program, local health and hospital systems and Alzheimer’s Association to name a few.

Long-Term Benefit

The Long Term Benefit would be for Care Resources to provide PACE services to more frail elderly adults living in Kent County. This program has ongoing funding from both Medicare and Medicaid which makes it sustainable past the ARPA funding. Care Resources has been in the community since 2006 and has a long history of providing high quality services for the frail elderly.

Intended Beneficiary

The beneficiary of the program are the frail elderly, those 55+ living in the community who meet the State of Michigan Facility Level of Care for nursing home placement. With the support of Care Resources -PACE these people are able to live in their homes and prevent nursing home placement.

Estimated Cost

5000000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tracey McKnight

Organization: Care Resources

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No



Project Management Experience

Care Resources is a \$30M county wide program with over 150 + employees that has been in existence nearly 16 years serving the community. We have been very successful in providing PACE services throughout the county for this time with demonstrated quality outcomes and continued growth.

Federal Funds Experience

Yes - we receive Federal Funds for this program to provide services

Studies on Impact

Yes - research has shown that PACE programs reduce hospitalizations, emergency room visits and nursing home stays. Participants survive longer than similar patients in less comprehensive programs. A study last year by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services noted that the PACE program "stands out from our analysis as a consistently high performer". During and after the Pandemic there are many studies that show impact of the PACE model of care compared to nursing death rate. The rate that PACE enrollees have contracted the COVID virus or died as a result are one-third the rate of nursing home residents according to the National PACE Association Research. There are also many additional studies that can be found in the literature on the impact of the PACE Model of Care.

Supporting Documentation

1. [2021 Community Report](#)
2. [Care Resources Brochure](#)
3. [Future Site Plan](#)
4. [PACE ARPA Overview](#)
5. [Letter of Support #1](#)
6. [Letter of Support #2](#)
7. [Letter of Support #3](#)
8. [Letter of Support #4](#)
9. [Letter of Support #5](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$5,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$5,000,000

ARPA Request: \$3,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Tracey McKnight

Organization: Care Resources

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Potentially eligible under public health. Additional information will be needed if the proposal moves forward in the process.

 **Sustainability**

Private, existing organization that would likely be able to continue.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #72

Direct Care Worker Workforce Development

Identify the need for the proposed project

There is an ongoing crisis of direct care workers in Adult Foster Care and Assisted Living made even worse by the pandemic. There is no current resource for marketing, recruiting, and training a workforce to carry this critical area of need into the future. Most care workers are aging toward retirement and there is not a sufficient pipeline of young, right minded, and well trained replacements. At a time when we need more homes, more beds and more care givers, we are seeing facilities close across the county and the state due to staffing shortages.

Brief Description

Form an organization to market Assisted Living Direct Care as a career path in schools, create training and internship programs, and start building up a work force to care for those in need.

Long-Term Benefit

We face a crisis in the long term care of Mentally Ill, Developmentally Disabled, Physically Handicapped and the elderly. Steps need to be taken to build up a work force, and we can't just throw money at it going forward.

Intended Beneficiary

Building a workforce will prevent future closures, and enable investment in assisted living to start anew. Workforce shortage is the single biggest impact limiting growth in this space, and leading to reduced beds when many more are needed.

Estimated Cost

1500000

Project Management Experience

None, would be seeking guidance from Kent County Health Department, Network 180, MDHHS, etc.

Federal Funds Experience

We are a provider of Medicaid Waiver services as an operator of Adult Foster Care Homes, and would be seeking guidance and assistance from more experienced resources as well.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,500,000

ARPA Request: \$1,500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Corey Husted

Organization: Brightside Living

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

I anticipate launching a new entity in cooperation with others in the industry. Network180, Kent County Health Dept., etc. Also other providers in the county to make this a complete approach.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Proposal lacks details. Could qualify as on-the-job training or job training for unemployed/underemployed

Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

Feasibility

PROJECT #46

Kent County Older Adults Needs Assessment



Identify the need for the proposed project

While there have been needs assessments completed in the past, to identify needs for older adults, a few very important pieces of information have been left out of the surveys. Sexual orientation and gender identity questions have not been asked in previous needs assessments. As time goes on, there is more data coming out about the needs of older adults in the LGBT+ community, yet it is still quite limited. There are currently estimated to be around 3 million LGBT+ adults over 50. The older adult LGBT+ population is expected to grow to around 7 million by 2030. AAAWM values diversity, equity, and inclusion and wants to ensure that we are providing programs and services that fit the needs of the entire older adult population in Kent County as well as the other counties we serve. We also noticed in our demographics of individuals who received services in 2021 were primarily Caucasian. While we have just created a position for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisor at our agency who is creating relationships with diverse groups of individuals and organizations, having a needs assessment to further understand the needs of all of our community members would be of great help.

Brief Description

AAAWM would conduct a needs assessment for older adults in Kent County. We would gather information via surveys sent through the mail as well as community listening sessions where individuals could attend in person and have help completing the survey and talk to a representative from the agency to share their thoughts and needs. Listening sessions would focus on outreach to marginalized communities by partnering with organizations who serve diverse populations to ensure that all voices in the community have equal and adequate representation in the needs assessment. A specific focus of this needs assessment would be on the LGBT+ community by including sexual orientation and gender identity questions in the surveys as there have been no previous needs assessments done for older adults in Kent County that has included this information. This assessment would help AAAWM identify the needs of ALL older adult residents in the county 60+, making sure to be inclusive of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, and disability.

Long-Term Benefit

A needs assessment would allow us to identify the demographic breakdowns of the 60+ population and highlight the needs of ALL older adults in Kent County (BIPOC, Caucasian, and LGBTQ+). AAAWM would then look at our current programs and services we fund and attempt to tweak programs to the needs of the community or look to fill gaps in the community by creating new programs or services. This would also give a voice to older adults in the community who respond to surveys, which builds trust.

Intended Beneficiary

Older adults (60 yrs+) of Kent County

Estimated Cost

150,000-175,000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Hispanic Center of West Michigan



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150,000

Maximum Cost: \$175,000

Submitter Info

Name: Sabrina Minarik

Organization: Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme:

Senior Citizens Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

Hispanic Center of West Michigan

Project Management Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) has quite a bit of experience managing and leading county-wide projects. We are the fiduciary of the Kent County Senior Millage and manage funding from the Senior Millage that is awarded to partnering agencies. Furthermore, AAWM manages RideLink, a county-wide transportation program for older adults 60+ that operates using senior millage dollars and is a collective of 5 community organizations that provide the transportation service. AAWM also has ongoing projects and initiatives such as the Kent County Elder Abuse Coalition, Dementia Friends, Caregiver Resource Network and Family Caregiver University that are county and some, region-wide projects that help support older adults and their caregivers/community members.

Federal Funds Experience

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is a fiduciary of Older Americans Act (OAA) funding. AAAs were created in 1974 by the federal Older Americans Act with the mission of creating home and community-based services to maximize the independence and dignity of older adults.

Studies on Impact

"Using the Social Ecological Model To Inform Community Needs Assessments" is one of many studies to validate the importance of a needs assessment

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

The individuals or communities in the project proposal is unclear or does not align with the US Treasury Guidelines.