

26

YOUTH SUPPORT



PROJECT #32

Community Youth Respite and Trauma Center



Identify the need for the proposed project

By seeing the needs of the youth in our community by the daily interaction with families.

Brief Description

A youth respite and trauma center for ALL of the youth that is forced into situations that they have no control over. So many young people are abused physically and mentally on a daily basis, and they need so much help. They are unable to get the help that they should have, but cannot get it for so many reasons, such as insurance status. With all of the traumatic situations that children are forced to be in, they are suffering and not getting proper treatment. Many of their children have young parents that are unable to follow through with the needs of the children. Every child that is forced into a family crisis, should be mandated to participate in a program to help their mental status. A intervention home/shelter should be developed with staff that can closely monitor, treat and mentored from growth to greatness.

Long-Term Benefit

Our future is our youth. If we do not do something now that can help strengthen the mindset of our youth. Through nurturing, counseling, mentoring and lots of love for those that have been impacted will help them long-term.

Intended Beneficiary

All youth - no age limit

Estimated Cost

100000

Project Management Experience

This is a framework of an idea that we have been wanted to do. But due to COVID, we did not follow through with the plan.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization is a 501C3 that have function with grants sources.

Studies on Impact

I do know that there is a national problem and many others have reviewed this problem. Research has been done by many others.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kathi J Harris

Organization:

The PROACTIVE Project, Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Behavioral health services are eligible

Will need funding past 2026 but it is connected with an organization. Would need information to that effect.

PROJECT #194

Live. Work. Thrive.



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$31,260,601

ARPA Request: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project

Over 450 Kent County homeless youth spent the past two years alone. As the world shut down, they were left out - no stable home, no job, no school, no path forward. At AYA Youth Collective, we provide housing; employment support; drop-in services; access to healthcare; and safe relationships for hundreds of youth in crisis. We listened and responded as requests escalated through the pandemic. While youth routinely report assault, untreated physical/mental health concerns, exploitation and severe social marginalization, the isolation of COVID compounded their vulnerability. Kent County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data from 2020, documents over 8,000 people in Kent County experiencing at least one episode of homelessness, a 33% increase since 2016. Of those, 729 were youth, ages 18-24, and 113 were unaccompanied minors, an increase of 19% and 47% respectively. To reiterate - prior to the pandemic - more youth were relying on homeless services year over year. While the Point in Time (PIT) count is a less dependable measure, the 2021 report still shows 79 youth experiencing homelessness on that single, January night. Currently, there are 225 youth, ages 14 to 24, who are sleeping outside or in emergency shelters. Those youth sleeping in shelters or outside are only part of the equation. The University of Michigan released a study in 2018 showing more than 36,000 children in Michigan public schools are facing homelessness and/or housing insecurity, ranking 6th in the country. Zooming in, the Grand Rapids Public School system (the largest district in Kent County) contains the third-largest homeless student population in the state. Grand Rapids Public Schools educates more homeless students than does Detroit. Last year, AYA met over 400 youth facing housing instability. We know the need because we see youth every day in our housing communities and drop-in center. We know that when they have safe housing, they develop careers. We know that when they have access to mental and physical healthcare, they thrive. But, housing is such a vital first step. Yet, housing on its own is not sufficient to transition youth out of homelessness for the long run, but rather, housing within a supportive environment with community partners and case management results in better community integration, quality of life, and mental health (Yanos, Barrow & Tsemberis, 2004 & Kidd et al., 2015).

AYA provides comprehensive support through strong, secure relationships. For the last ten years, over 90% of the youth who live in an AYA community maintain their own housing when they move out. Unfortunately, the pandemic jeopardized the hard work of so many youth. In addition to the impact on their sense of security, a decreased income forces youth to live paycheck to paycheck, limiting their ability to buy groceries or basic needs items, and pay rent, utilities, or school tuition. Nearly every function of drop-in and supportive housing became COVID-related relief. We delivered basic needs items to our homes, including cleaning supplies, food, hygiene items, and other items youth requested. We have provided rental assistance for current youth and alumni and supported them in applying for unemployment and other assistance. Furthermore, as we've passed two full years of living through the COVID-19 pandemic, national and local data clearly show that at-risk and homeless youth are disproportionately affected. There is a well-documented and significant increased risk of "human trafficking, exploitation, victimization, untreated physical and mental health care needs, chemical or alcohol dependency, criminal justice involvement and death among this population" (Bardine, 2013). The negative impacts of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences on brain development, immune system functioning, learning difficulties, and physical health issues is well documented in the literature. According to Child Psychology & Human Development (2012), "histories of abuse, unstable and often dangerous living situations, limited financial and emotional resources, engagement in substance abuse and high-risk sexual activity, and irregular patterns of sleep and eating contribute to the poor physical and mental health commonly found among homeless youth".

(continued on next page)



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$31,260,601

ARPA Request: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Identify the need for the proposed project (continued)

Unfortunately, youth experiencing homelessness are reluctant to seek behavioral health services due to embarrassment at their lack of healthcare knowledge, uncertainty at navigating a system that is geared toward adults, and fear of discriminatory attitudes by healthcare professionals (Busen & Engebretson, 2008). Youth at AYA have shared over 1400 separate encounters with barriers while accessing necessary health and wellness resources with most common being: missing vital documents, transportation, and prior bad experiences with people in uniforms and/or the “system”. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has furthered the negative effects on youths’ mental health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in their August 14, 2020 report on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic, “symptoms of anxiety disorder and depressive disorder increased considerably in the United States during April–June of 2020, compared with the same period in 2019...[when] 40.9% of respondents reported at least one adverse mental or behavioral health condition, including symptoms of anxiety disorder or depressive disorder (30.9%), symptoms of a trauma- and stressor-related disorder (TSRD) related to the pandemic.”

As we recover from the pandemic, many youth face unemployment as a byproduct of their disconnection. Employment can already be a challenge. Youth experiencing homelessness face compounding barriers to employment as they work toward stability and prosperity: racism, lack of education, lack of vital documents, unstable housing, mental health issues. For those who gain employment, lower educational attainment often results in lower wages (Ostyn & Parker, 2019). Further, over 1/3 of AYA members identify as LGBTQ+, placing them at high risk for hiring and workplace discrimination (Slesnick et al, 2018) and 40% of AYA youth have experienced foster care - a reality that makes them 2.5 times more likely to experience unemployment than their peers. Our solution is as complex as it is common. We build relationships to support employment success. AYA is connecting business owners with employees - mentors with entrepreneurs. We invite youth and businesses to invest in this initiative with us to build a community where the most vulnerable youth experience an equal shot at creating generational wealth.

Brief Description

Our proposal scales solutions to overcome the barriers that homeless youth face every day. This requires deep investment in housing, employment training and healthcare for youth experiencing homelessness. This trinity is essential as youth who’ve experienced complex trauma become compassionate, engaged neighbors in our county. We’re inviting you to invest in youth and experience how our collective efforts pay generational dividends. Affordable Housing Part 1: Mixed-use development (retail/housing/parking/green space) including 75 additional housing units divided between: (1) supportive housing for AYA youth and (2) affordable units to meet the ‘missing middle’ in Kent County. Part 2: Building/renovating an additional 8 duplexes for supportive housing - totaling a 32 youth units & 8 house mentor units. Employment AYA will provide on-demand jobs through our Bottle Redemption Initiative, a small business that provides a service and generates sustainable revenue. We’ll also invest in providing training and mentorship for youth employment in manufacturing & skilled trades as we continue supporting youth who need it most. Healthcare Publish and expand our proven Comprehensive Healthcare Initiative (CHI) to scale access to mental/physical healthcare for youth as a best practice for engaging vulnerable populations. Serve more youth throughout the county. More information including partnerships, a financial overview and program details can be found at aya-arpa.org.



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$31,260,601

ARPA Request: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Long-Term Benefit

Long-term, supportive housing for youth experiencing homelessness Opportunities for homeownership + wealth creation Comprehensive advertising campaign to promote Kent Co.'s investment in homelessness + green recycling programs Affordable housing and employment support for 30+ years Affordable retail space + new green space Rapid employment for unemployed youth Ongoing development of labor force Expanded access to mental/physical healthcare Increased county tax revenue Reduced adult homelessness

Intended Beneficiary

This project benefits youth and young adults, ages 14-24, who face housing crises due to a myriad of different factors, such as aging out of the foster care system, family conflict/homelessness, health conditions resulting in unemployment, a lack of acceptance due to their sexual orientation or gender identity and untreated mental health challenges. Of the 360 youth AYA served in 2021, 51% identified as male, 43% as female, 6% as non-binary/trans/other, and 74% identified as BIPOC. Furthermore, 34% identify as LGBTQ+ upon first meeting (compared to 10% of the national population) and nearly 40% have engaged with the foster care system. These trends clearly show an overrepresentation of youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth, and foster care youth in the homelessness population, strengthening our case for a new approach. By intervening now, we can help break the cycles of homelessness for so many young people. 40% of homeless adults also experienced homelessness as a youth - when we connect youth to resources and walk alongside them on their journey to stability, we can help prevent re-entry into the system. Over 90% of youth in AYA housing exit to safe and stable housing for the long term - measured over 10+ years. That means this project will affect generations of youth, families, and children. Finally, this proposal will benefit all Kent County citizens, by increasing impact in all five funding areas. Community Health: by investing in the physical and mental health of vulnerable youth, we will see fewer emergency room visits, fewer crisis calls to police and first responders, and increased long-term health support. This helps all Kent County residents have greater access to services as they need it. Quality of Life: Investments at the Roosevelt Park project will bring much needed green and park space to a neighborhood that is bordered by truck routes and heavy traffic. Infrastructure: The green recycling program will grow Kent County's footprint as innovative leaders in Michigan. Economic Innovations and Workforce Development: By pairing jobs, training opportunities, and an innovative recycling model, we will build up the skilled workforce and have more people contributing to the Kent County economy. Improving Government Operations: This project will bring additional tax revenue to the county, along with a reduced need for emergency services. Housing bridges all five funding areas, recognizing that housing is health and that without housing, none of the other investments are possible.

*Partnership

AYA has MOUs and/or partnership agreements with the following organizations. These agreements will continue or be expanded through this proposal. Documentation of partnerships is available upon request: Arbor Circle, Catherine's Health Center, Cherry Health, Claire Graves (Substance Use Provider), Covenant House Grand Rapids, Elisa Pérez-Arellano (Bilingual, open access), Family Health Center at Grand Valley State University, Family Promise of Grand Rapids, Health Net of West Michigan, Kent County Health Department, Mel Trotter Ministries, The Pride Center, The Red Project, Safe Haven Ministries, Samantha Lemmer (LGBTQ+ and Trauma-Focused therapist), Salvation Army/Housing Assessment Program, Southtown Guitar, Steepletown Neighborhood Services, Valarie James (Therapist + Wellness), YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Young Money Financials. AYA also partners closely with the following organizations, but does not have documented agreements: Bethany, Dégagé Ministries, ICCF Community Homes, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids Police Department, Grand Valley State University, Kent County Essential Needs Taskforce (ENTF), Legal Aid of West Michigan, Network180, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services. Roosevelt Park project partners include: The Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, Wolverine Building Group, Fishbeck, and The Navigators



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$31,260,601

ARPA Request: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective


Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

Between \$7,540,243 to \$19,947,585, depending on the projects that are funded. The lowest amount to make 2 parts feasible is the \$7.5 million. The highest amount to bring all 6 parts (three building projects, two employment opportunities and the Comprehensive Health Expansion Initiative) to completion is \$19.9 million. The budget overviews are outlined at aya-arpa.org, further detailed budgets available upon request. AYA can be flexible with projects and amounts funded.

*Source of Funding

Pending requests for Comprehensive Health Expansion Initiative from 5 additional foundations; Committed requests for Comprehensive Health Expansion Initiative from 4 foundations/partners; Those participating in the Roosevelt Park project will fund the remaining part of the project with individuals, foundations, and financing.

Project Management Experience

AYA is now the largest organization in Kent County, MI focused solely on the unique needs of youth, ages 14-24, who are unsafe/unstably housed or experiencing literal homelessness. AYA is perfectly poised to lead this work as we are the only organization offering a continuum of supportive services and collaborative partnerships in a low-barrier, youth-specific, affirming, and relational environment. Offering a one-stop-shop, allows youth to set and achieve their goals in a trusted environment. We push beyond passive inclusion towards an intentional celebration of diversity, creating safety for youth to show up exactly as they are, believing in their inherent dignity and worth, and supporting their journey to become their fullest and healthiest self. AYA is deeply invested in the success of Kent County's Coalition to End Homelessness (Continuum of Care [CoC]) which serves Grand Rapids, Wyoming, as well as the entire county. AYA has boldly committed to systemic change and community accountability through more intentional participation in the CoC, with representatives at the Executive Committee, Steering Council, Youth Committee, Youth Action Board, Youth functional Zero Workgroup, and other ad hoc committees, as appropriate. Additionally, we are active in the HousingKent work and maintain positive relationships with local units of government. Our executive director, Lauren VanKeulen, serves as the Steering Committee Chairperson and is responsible for ensuring the coalition meets the following goals: Develop and promote integrated, community-wide strategies and plans to prevent and end homelessness; Provide leadership and coordination among the numerous local organizations and initiatives that serve the homeless population, and Manage the CoC's single, comprehensive grant application to HUD for Continuum of Care funds and manage State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. One notable example of AYA's leadership in our community is through the local Direct Cash Transfer program, known as the Kent County Youth Stability Fund. Locally, service providers across multiple disciplines and approaches have consistently highlighted the disparities that youth experiencing trauma face in our community. There is finally broad agreement that the historical processes have left youth behind, struggling to navigate a system primarily designed for adults. After countless attempts to work within the parameters of the system, all of which failed to result in adequate, lasting change, AYA convened multiple partners. A Direct Cash Transfer pilot project was born in 2019 with a shared commitment to find a more effective solution for the over 200 young people on the streets. The Youth Stability Fund allows youth to make requests for funds through community partner agencies, with dollars being used to secure housing, maintain housing, or cover housingrelated costs. AYA and its four core partners met regularly to review youth "cases," brainstorm solutions, and confirm eligibility for funds. Dollars were then distributed quickly to the youth to cover critical expenses like short-term rent with a friend, a hotel, or other needs that free-up resources for housing. Finally, a youth advocate through AYA was assigned to each young person, providing individualized supportive services alongside the funds. As the facilitator for this project, AYA has led the way in creating a multi-organizational release of information and setting the standard operating procedures for this effort.



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$31,260,601

ARPA Request: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective


Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Federal Funds Experience

AYA is a current recipient of federal VOCA funds (Victims of Crime Act) designed to enhance and expand treatment, housing and community services for victims of sexual/labor exploitation. We are partnering with Wedgwood Christian Services and several experiential therapy providers to accomplish our goals related to this funding. VOCA grants are subject to extensive monitoring and reporting, as well as routine audits of activities and expenditures. AYA is also a current recipient of the Emergency Food & Shelter Program funding and has had comprehensive success in reporting. AYA received nearly \$500,000 in CARES Act funding through Heart of West Michigan United Way and Kent County, with near flawless reporting, despite the quick turnaround of funds. AYA has always been able to expend 100% of federal and foundation funding, never needing to return funds, and is confident we would be able to do the same with these dollars. Finally, AYA was ranked as the highest scoring Tier 2 bonus project funding through the CoC's 2021 HUD competition. Bonus funding was not awarded to most communities across the US, but had it been, AYA would have received the funding. AYA's financial management is overseen by our internal Director of Finance and Finance Committee along with an external bookkeeper, Maner Costerisan - a contracted certified public accounting firm headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. All three groups are responsible for developing and ensuring compliance with the accounting policies and procedures contained within the Accounting Manual. The Accounting Manual ensures that the financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles; assets are safeguarded; guidelines of grantors and donors are complied with; proper segregation of duties are built into internal controls; and finances are managed with accuracy, efficiency, and transparency. Vredevelde Haefner, LLC provides a forensic-level audit annually to assess the effectiveness of our internal controls and opine on the material accuracy of the Financial Statements. In the audits completed since AYA's inception, there have been no material findings. AYA's Director of Finance, Krista Josephson, CPA, has over 12 years of experience both in Public Accounting and in the corporate sector holding roles focusing on compliance with internal controls ensuring the accuracy and transparency of financials. AYA's Finance Committee is headed by Shawn Perdue, AYA's Treasurer. Shawn is currently completing a Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship at MillerKnoll. Formerly, Shawn was on the Credit team at Herman Miller for 10 years where he was responsible for assessing the financial health of customers and managing the corresponding risk to maintain compliance with internal controls. The committee also includes two additional CPAs and one staff accountant working toward their CPA. The Finance Committee is responsible for oversight of all financial activity and reporting. We have confirmed with these experts that we hold the capacity to manage and support this grant successfully and will have their support throughout the process.

Studies on Impact

Yes, many researchers have validated AYA's approach, and AYA is built on best practices for youth engagement. This is a sampling of some applicable research. More is available, upon request. Research articles and reports can be found at <https://linktr.ee/ayayouth>, since all links were over the character count.



Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility



Sustainability



Feasibility

Housing support for homeless and accelerates rehiring of unemployed is eligible

Has a plan for increased budget.

Project Cost

Project Cost: \$31,260,601

ARPA Request: \$19,947,585

Submitter Info

Name: Lauren VanKeulen

Organization: AYA Youth Collective

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Supporting Documentation

1. [AYA ARPA Financials](#)

2. [AYA ARPA Supplemental](#)

PROJECT #295

FOROURDAUGHTERS



Identify the need for the proposed project

FOROURDAUGHTERS is founded by an African American female nurse-returning to Kent County, feeling disconnected and starving for resources. In an attempt to find support, we found that many women of color feel the disconnect. Especially, black and brown women and girls who we would later find-rank last in college enrollment, persistence, and post secondary success in this county. Through personal experience, and data backed research through resources like K Connect and the Kent County Community needs assessment, we have identified a gap that we know is necessary to fill. That is: to decrease the inequity of underserved women and girls through intergenerational connections and reliable community resources.

Brief Description

FOROURDAUGHTERS: aspires to change the trajectory of at risk women and girls through the following 4 components. mentorship, housing, education, resources. We will focus on the mentorship and resource components for this proposal. Nex-Gen mentorship Objectives are as follows: To annually recruit four (4) at-risk youth within the Kent County community between the ages of 12-18. To provide activities and educational events four (4) times a year that focus on empowering, education, and connections. To select and connect qualified female mentors from the community with at-risk girls. This will include women of color in corporate America along with entrepreneurs. To make community connections through four (4) required volunteer opportunities. Provide leadership and teamwork opportunities twice (2) a year for gifting projects to selected populations in the community. To provide continual follow-up with each female until high school completion. Resource component: FOROURDAUGHTERS: plans to provide feminine hygiene products, to two Kent County Schools throughout the fall 2022/2023 school year. Reducing issues with esteem and basic needs not being met. We also plan to continue our yearly gifting project-which provides gifts, clothing and needed resources during the holiday season. We would like to serve 3 families winter 2022.

Long-Term Benefit

There are many long term benefits to decreasing the inequity of at risk women and girls-which is our mission. This is especially important in a county where failure is high for black and brown females. FOROURDAUGHTERS will impact this community greatly for years to come being sure the women in need are safely housed, empowered to do more, educated to do better, and connected for continued growth.

Intended Beneficiary

At risk women and girls ages 12-23 living in Kent County.

Estimated Cost

10000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000

Maximum Cost: \$10,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nakiah Mayfield

Organization: FOROURDAUGHTERS

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



Project Management Experience

Our fund developer -Audrey Mayfield has completed county wide community projects for greater than 30 years.

Federal Funds Experience

Our fund developer is well versed in 501C3 process both EZ and large cooperation applications. 30 years experience in proposal/grant writing along with managing federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes! Specific to Kent County-The 2020 needs assessment, census data, K Connect, Grand Rapids African American Health Institute research studies.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$10,000
Maximum Cost: \$10,000

Submitter Info

Name: Nakiah Mayfield
Organization: FOROURDAUGHTERS

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Youth Support
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Individuals or communities served aligns with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

Sustainability

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

Feasibility

New organization



PROJECT #152

Alpha Grand Rapids Men's Center Basement

Identify the need for the proposed project

The need for active, intentional fathers who are not only contributing members of their families but also contributing members of the economic engine of our community is needed more than ever. The National Fatherhood Initiative has conducted extensive research surrounding the impact of fathers on not only their individual families but also their communities as a whole. Below are some of the most impactful conclusions of their research. Children raised in homes with absent fathers are: 4 times more likely to grow up in poverty. 7 times more likely to become pregnant as a teen. 2 times more likely to drop out of high school. 2.79 times more likely to carry guns and deal drugs. With statistics like these, one does not have to stretch one's mind very far to see the lasting impact fathers can have on the greater community, particularly regarding the economy and its future workforce. Alpha Grand Rapids already provides a fatherhood support group, one-on-one coaching, and many other programs. But, based on these facts, we knew we needed to provide a place for men to not only grow in their personal lives, but also in their professional lives. This began an extensive search for a job training program that we wanted to make available to our male clients (after piloting the program for our male clients we hope to offer this program to our female clients in the future as well). Our search concluded with the international organization, Jobs For Life (JfL), which features an extensive soft skills job training program. In order to properly provide this service, the basement of our newly built, and first in the nation, Men's Center needs to be finished. The full-circle potential of our programs is evident in the story of Carlos. He attended programs for male clients before we opened our Men's Center, so he came to our Women's Center for programming. He earned his GED which led to him getting a job in construction. His new employer was one of the contractors that worked on building our Men's Center, so Carlos was able to pour back into other men within our community. Carlos is a prime example of the holistic approach to our programming, and if we had our Jobs For Life program when Carlos was a client, he would have benefited greatly! To see more of Carlos's story, click here: <https://vimeo.com/296035847>.

Brief Description

JfL has existed for over 25 years in over 300 cities and 9 countries. Their motto is Uplifting Humanity Through the Dignity of Work. JfL teaches the soft skills needed to make men and women better employees: resumes, interview skills, what employers are looking for, overcoming previous employment barriers, etc. Each student is matched up with a Champion to walk with them through classes and help job searching post-graduation. Over an eight-week period each fall and spring, 16 classes will run on Monday and Wednesday nights from 5:45-8:00 pm; dinner is included. Students must complete a minimum of 13 classes to graduate, earning points for each class. Points are transferred into a gift certificate to purchase materials to help launch their career. See the full story of how JfL started here: <https://jobsforlife.org/our-story/>. In order to provide this much-needed program, we require a space to hold classes. Not only will the basement be the hub for our JfL classes, but we will also be adding additional rooms for our one-on-one coaching. Clients have coaching sessions monthly with a trained volunteer. These sessions focus on a multitude of topics ranging from personal relationships and finances, parenting, mental health, and more.

Long-Term Benefit

With men learning lifelong skills through JfL, as well as the benefits if they attend coaching, the long-term impact on the community is staggering. Imagine the impact if men have more stable employment. Imagine a community where dads have better-paying jobs so fewer kids grow up in poverty. Imagine more engaged fathers so there are fewer high school dropouts, teen pregnancies, and kids carrying guns and dealing drugs. Those are the impacts that change a community now and in the long term.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$55,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000

ARPA Request: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Smith

Organization: Alpha Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

One private individual has already given \$10,000. A local business has pledged \$10,000 as well.

Partnership

No



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$55,000

Maximum Cost: \$60,000

ARPA Request: \$30,000

Submitter Info

Name: Brad Smith

Organization: Alpha Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

One private individual has already given \$10,000. A local business has pledged \$10,000 as well.

Partnership

No

Intended Beneficiary

Men in our community are the direct beneficiaries of finishing our Men's Center basement. Learning skills to grow professionally as well as personally will benefit every man that works through our programs. However, the long-term impact felt by their partners, children, and our community is the most important and the longestlasting benefit. As mentioned above, those are the changes that will impact an entire community for generations to come.

Estimated Cost

\$55,000 - \$60,000.

Project Management Experience

Last year we completed construction on our Men's Center, which is the first of its kind in the nation. This was a \$1.5 million project and was completed debt free.

Federal Funds Experience

We received COVID emergency response funds during the COVID19 pandemic. This is the whole of our experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

The National Fatherhood Institute has conducted a multitude of research. Results of their research can be found here: <https://www.fatherhood.org/father-absence-statistic>. AGR currently surveys our clients to ensure our programs are beneficial and accomplish their intended goal. We plan on continuing these surveys for our JfL program as well.

Supporting Documentation

[Grant Request Additional Letter](#)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

May be eligible as job training to unemployed

PROJECT #292

Top Notch Kids agenda



Identify the need for the proposed project

Boston Square neighborhood association

Brief Description

Top Notch Kids is a personal vision and community engagement effort to encourage and inspire youth ages 8 to 17 years of age to help revitalize their neighborhoods making the infrastructure more energy efficient and LEED Certified as well as safer for residents. As we know, crime, poverty, vandalism, and violence have no boundaries. Gun violence in schools has also been on the rise. Top Notch Kids provides a fun, positive, and safe alternative to this culture of violence. Although the history of the gun has been one filled with the taking of life and the destruction of communities, Top Notch Kids will change the narrative of the gun and how it effects our communities by providing real life opportunities to save lives and revitalize communities using the "GUNS" of home improvement. Not only does this community effort allow for residents to take part in the beautification of their communities making them more attractive to new businesses and various investments, but it also allows for children to attain a valuable skill set which helps with career readiness and future orientation. Our motto is "We don't kill with guns, we build with guns" as they learn how to improve the conditions of their community with caulk guns, staple guns, nail guns, and paint guns!

Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefits of this proposed project is safer communities, home ownership and a community that could be lucrative to businesses that could be encouraged to move in and create more job opportunities.

Intended Beneficiary

Single parent structured homes , 1st time home buyers and the youth who will gain a skill set while they help to beautify the community they live in.

Estimated Cost

\$150-200

Project Management Experience

My team and myself have worked on major projects throughout the city such as the " 1st Street Office Building dwntwn Grand Rapids , Meijers store (Lansing) Ambiance Resturant, Chaz Oga Restaurant , Wing Heaven , Load a Spud. We have remodel many home for ICCF and also did volunteer work for Amplify GR , the Linc Organization , Urban League and Destiny's Place to name a few.

Federal Funds Experience

We have never received any Federal grants through our nonprofit organization.

Studies on Impact

No

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150

Maximum Cost: \$200

Submitter Info

Name: Cory Mcliechey

Organization:

Descendants of the Truth

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The "Love movement" as well as " The M.e.d.I.c.I.n.e. (2 organizations that I worked with in the past)



Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

 Sustainability

 Feasibility

Eligible with narrowly tailored beneficiaries. Will need to be detailed in program design.

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

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$150
Maximum Cost: \$200

Submitter Info

Name: Cory McIiechey
Organization:
Descendants of the Truth

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development
Project Theme: Youth Support
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

The "Love movement" as well as "The M.e.d.i.c.i.n.e. (2 organizations that I worked with in the past)

PROJECT #334

U-nique By Design Dance Scholarship and Internship Program



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$100,000
ARPA Request: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Crystal Allen
Organization:
U-nique By Design

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Youth Support
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No

Identify the need for the proposed project

Within the Michigan Department of Education academic standards includes career and college ready skills, such as 1) acts as a responsible citizen and employee, 2) learn how to utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them and 3) model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management. Found here: <https://careertech.org/career-ready-practices>

Brief Description

This scholarship and internship program will provide school-aged dancers in the community with financial assistance to participate in professional dance training and those youth ages 12-18 with a paid dance internship.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefit is to give the youth a safe space where they can through dance improve the condition of the heart and lungs, increase strength, endurance and motor fitness, coordination, agility, flexibility, balance, spatial awareness, mental functioning, general and physical wellbeing, self confidence, better social skills and self-esteem. All of this while learning and building long lasting relationships.

Intended Beneficiary

This program is designed to benefit the entire Community, both the children that attend the internship program, those that receive dance scholarships as well as the students of the MLK Summer Day camp and their entire families.

Estimated Cost

\$\$80,000.00-\$100,000 over 4 years

Project Management Experience

Partnership with Dreams Take Work Summer Day Camp and Imprint Dance Company

Federal Funds Experience

We have partnered with Dreams Take Work who has received its funding from the Grand Rapids Parks and Rec. over the past few years. We have partnered with Dreams Take Work who has received its funding from the Grand Rapids Parks and Rec. over the past few years.



Project Cost

Project Cost: \$100,000
ARPA Request: \$100,000

Submitter Info

Name: Crystal Allen
Organization:
U-nique By Design

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Youth Support
Project Status: Existing Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

No

Partnership

No

Studies on Impact

According to Dancespirit.com, "Pursuing an internship in a field like arts administration, production, community outreach, or casting doesn't mean you're giving up on a performing career. Experiencing the dance world offstage could help you discover interests and skills you didn't know you had, enrich your understanding of the dance scene, and inform your work as a performer."

<https://dancespirit.com/could-your-dancing-benefit-from-a-dance-adjacent-internship/>

According to an article published by the GR Public Schools News Network, "The Third Ward, which covers roughly one-third of the city's land size and population, received \$19.4 million – or 1.5 percent – of the \$1.29 billion in private investments supported by the city's economic development programs in 2012-17. That's compared to \$750 million and \$516 million invested in the First Ward and Second Ward, respectively."

Article: <https://www.grps.org/all-grps-news-events/951-it-might-spark-a-desire-to-want-to-change-something>.
Most participants live in these neighborhoods and her low-income areas where youth face many barriers to success.

Supporting Documentation

Letters of Support

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Potentially eligible if clientele is disproportionately impacted

 **Sustainability**

No clear plan for funding beyond 2026. However, initial program is designed to end in 4 years.

 **Feasibility**

Seems achievable assuming internships can be gained. Need to pay attention to timeframe as there are realistically only 3 years left to spend the funding.

PROJECT #331

Grand Rapids HIPHOP Academy



Identify the need for the proposed project

Grand Rapids suffers from the need of arts and science related schooling and training for Black students. I've taught my program after school and throughout the summer for years. I know that children are thirsty for a cultural experience that no school in Kent County offers.

Brief Description

Grand Rapids HIPHOP Academy is a STEAM based learning experience rooted in the Tenants of Authentic HIPHOP Kulture. Peace, Love, Unity and Safely having fun. 10 REFINITIONS: Breakin, Emceein, Graffiti Art, Deejayin, Beatboxin, Street Fashion, Street Language, Street Knowledge, Street Entrepreneurialism and Health and Wellness. These elements not only teach children incredible technical skills in each discipline but they also learn invaluable life skills which unfortunately too many of our young people are thrust into the world without ever learning. Grand Rapids HIPHOP Academy is a high level STEAM PROGRAM in which children will learn math and science through the daily exercise of HipHops various elements. GRHHA also serves as a trade school. Once students graduate in 12 grade, not only will they be able to get scholarships in various disciplines but they will also have learned valuable trades that will allow them to be instantly employable day one after graduation and even before. In fact through our partnership with the Universal HIPHOP Museum and other global institutions, our students will be involved in high level internships throughout their high school career.

Long-Term Benefit

This program will create an employment base. By training students to fill positions that are currently filled by people from outside of the city. This program will also create pride within the community. This would be the first project of its kind in the world and it would bring global attention and investment in Kent County.

Intended Beneficiary

The children most at risk. The children who traditional schooling methods are failing on a continuous basis. If we want to inspire young people to be apart of something greater this is the program that will do it. This program will almost single handily end youth violence in the urban community This program will also benefit Kent County on a global art & education scale.

Estimated Cost

\$20M - \$30M

Project Management Experience

We don't have any but our partners do.

Federal Funds Experience

We have partner orgs who have experience working with federal grants.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20M

Maximum Cost: \$30M

Submitter Info

Name: Victor Williams

Organization:

The Love Movement Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26% - 50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We would reach out for other grants and local partners to match funding through in kind services or investment.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools(possibly) ISLE Construction, Pride Builders



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$20M

Maximum Cost: \$30M

Submitter Info

Name: Victor Williams

Organization:

The Love Movement Inc

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 26% - 50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

We would reach out for other grants and local partners to match funding through in kind services or investment.

Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools(possibly) ISLE
Construction, Pride Builders

Studies on Impact

HIPHOP is the fastest growing culture on the planet earth. I've been teaching HIPHOP Beyond music for over 10 years and several of my students have went on to an Ivy League education and they all credit my program with being the driving force that changed their lives. Colleges and Universities across the world are teaching HIPHOP Courses and starting to offer scholarships. Grand Rapids can be a pioneer in this space.

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Unclear if this organization is targeting a QCT. if it is not, likely ineligible.

 **Sustainability**

No clear plan beyond 2026 and much ongoing funds would be required.

 **Feasibility**

Very unlikely a full Academy could be established by 2026. High costs.



PROJECT #325

GrassrootsUp "Golden Rule Gaming & eSports Initiative"

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Brown

Organization:
Grassroots Up Initiative

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Youth Support

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Philanthropic Organizations,
Private Investment

Partnership

Community Media Center Grand
Design Public Relations Company
Grand Rapids Media Initiative and
Film Incubator African American
Male Achievement Conference
Progress Race Organization Big
Rock Iconic Gaming

Identify the need for the proposed project

Youth connect vigorously through social media platforms and video games thus meeting them where they are is important. In order to build upon a platform there needs to be an intentionality to connecting with youth. The social-emotional growth and development of young people are at stake and the mental health and community safety of this demographic must be addressed creatively.

Young people constantly seek networks with their peers and it's time the community supported young people with an investment into their interests. This is the objective of Grassroots-Up's "Golden Rule Gaming and e-Sports Co-operative" Losing friends and peers at a young age to senseless violence and young people getting caught-up in the whirlwind of negative peer impacts and influences is a lot to bare for the community. Investing restorative justice practices and social-emotional activities within the networks of young people is important to help prevent senseless violence. Establishing peer networks of accountability partners through video gaming and e-sports will make positive community connections of diverse youth between the ages of 13 to 26 years old.

Brief Description

Grassroots-Up's "Golden Rule Gaming & e-Sports Co-operative" will utilize a co-operative business model and restorative justice practices in building a Kent County community of gamers and e-sports professionals. Besides gaming/e-sports competitions between various demographics and targeted activities. This model will also work towards repairing breaches of trust and to foster a community of mutual respect towards all people in efforts to reduce violence and help young people identify mental health challenges they are facing. Utilizing enrichment activities and place-based educational opportunities, this platform will have a dynamic use of technology, but this program is also fashioned as a real-time peer accountability system offering peer support partners and mentoring opportunities for young people as a tool to help prevent violence. The Golden Rule Gaming & e-Sports Co-operative will actively develop economic development opportunities for young people through the use of technology and video gaming for teens and young adults with a goal of building a healthy and sustainable personal, community and business development model. All strategies are inclusive of short-term goals/objectives and long-term goals/objectives for engaging youth in positive activities in virtual spaces and in-person interventions and through place-based education and enrichment programs, like; neighborhood-based Gaming & e-Sports Arenas that can be accessed through curation of competitive teams.

Long-Term Benefit

Mentoring and modeling of healthy competitive gaming strategies to help unpack and talk about social-emotional issues and peer impacts on youth culture. Engaging, safe and fun activities: making positive connections while integrating social and emotional supports, topics and considerations for the youth demographic including college and career development opportunities. Access to conflict resolution in virtual spaces navigating feelings and conflicts through the use of restorative practices.

Intended Beneficiary

Youth and young adults ages 13 to 26 county-wide will benefit from this project.

Estimated Cost

\$750,000-\$1,250,000



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$750,000
Maximum Cost: \$1,250,000

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Brown
Organization: Grassroots Up Initiative

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health
Project Theme: Youth Support
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

Philanthropic Organizations,
Private Investment

Partnership

Community Media Center Grand
Design Public Relations Company
Grand Rapids Media Initiative and
Film Incubator African American
Male Achievement Conference
Progress Race Organization Big
Rock Iconic Gaming

Project Management Experience

This would be first foray into county-wide endeavor for the Grassroots-Up Initiative.

Federal Funds Experience

Primary organizer with this initiative has experience with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

3 Things Every Business Leader Should Know About ESports
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.entrepreneur.com/amphtml/311979>

The Investment Opportunity of The Decade
<https://www.toptal.com/finance/market-research-analysts/esports>

What You Need To Know About E-Sports
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.usatoday.com/amp/1017054001>

Professional Gaming on the Rise and Talks of Olympic Possibilities
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/variety.com/2018/digital/news/esports-video-games-olympics-1202709110/amp/>

Untapped Brand Opportunity (Authenticity Is Key!)
<http://www.thedrum.com/opinion/2017/04/21/why-esports-represents-untapped-brand-opportunity>

Washington, D.C. Enters E-Sports
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.polygon.com/platform/amp/2017/3/12/14898634/washingt-on-dc-esports-arena-nrg-sponsorship>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility **Sustainability** **Feasibility**

General economic development is not eligible. The Treasury Guidelines indicate that for projects to be eligible for economic and workforce development there must be a benefit to those who have been negatively and/or disproportionately impacted economically. This includes underemployed and unemployed persons. Not a traditional government service.

Funding plan past 2026 is unclear