



Thank you for applying to the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. Tell your story clearly and concisely. Attachments are required; follow all directions. Failure to answer questions, utilize this template, or attach required documents will disqualify your application. **Answer all questions using information that applies to the project seeking support of grant funds.** Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Offer for Community Investment, at jstrechay@tfec.org or 717-236-5040 with questions.

APPLICANT PROFILE

Applicant Organization Name

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Provide your organization's name as currently recognized by the IRS

- Check box if the Applicant Organization Name above is a "Doing Business As" name and the provided 501c3 letter states a different name. *To be recognized by the "Doing Business As" name, attach ONE legal document using the provided name. If not provided, TFEC will utilize the 501c3 name.*
- Check box if the Applicant Organization uses a Fiscal Sponsor and provide name here
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Executive Leader

Jodina Hicks, President, jhicks@voapa.org, (717) 326-1440

All contracts and notifications of grant status will be addressed to the individual provided here

Applicant Organization's Physical Address

2112 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103

Applicant Organization's Address for Mailed Communications

2112 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17103

All contracts and notifications of grant status will be sent to the address provided here

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Contact Completing Application

Jane Merolla, Northeast Area Director & Statewide Intellectual Disabilities Director, jmerolla@voapa.org, (570) 219-3079

If application questions arise, this individual will be contacted by TFEC staff

Organization's Mission Statement

The mission of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania is to provide people in need with support, skills, and tools that lead to individual empowerment, self-sufficiency, and stability.

Organization History (Do not exceed this page)

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania, Inc. (VOAPA), an affiliate of Volunteers of America, provides essential human services programming in several regions of the state. VOAPA's highly effective programs help seniors, adults, youth, and children reach their full potential. For example, we provide emergency and transitional housing programs for low-income veterans, older adults, homeless women, youth, and those diagnosed with mental illness in the Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg communities. We operate the Children's Center in Allentown, providing high quality early learning, after-school programs, and summer camp for children from low-income families while their parents work or pursue their own education. And in the Pittsburgh area, we operate The Youth Empowerment Project, a community-based program for Pittsburgh youth.

PROJECT PROFILE

Project Title

Intellectual Disabilities Mobile In-Home Care Program

Project Title must match title listed throughout application and online.

Project Areas of Focus

UPSTREAM GENERAL

Choose UPstream General if your project utilizes upstream strategies but is not principally centered upon the categories below. See the grant guidelines for additional detail.

UPSTREAM: FOCUS AREAS

Choose an UPstream Focus Area (if your project is principally centered upon one or more of the categories below). Please select only those area(s) that apply to this project. See the grant guidelines for additional detail.

<p>EDUCATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Programs & projects that focus upon or nurture access to early childhood education</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education & development programs for children & youth</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Educational programs serving adults</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENT & PARKS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental stewardship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Horticulture & the arts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health & environment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Park beautification & improvement</p>
<p>HEALTH</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health & human services</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cancer awareness and/or research</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dental care for those in need</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health & human services</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> HIV & AIDS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with debilitating or terminal illness</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with intellectual disabilities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prevention of head and/or spinal cord injury</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Purchasing of devices that improve accessibility</p>	<p>HOMELESSNESS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness & hunger</p>
<p>MENTAL HEALTH</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Counseling for children with terminally ill family members</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Guidance, counseling, or programming that includes guidance and/or counseling for youths</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mental health</p>	<p>SENIORS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Programs & projects serving older adults</p>
<p>COMMUNITIES OF FOCUS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disaster relief & human services that serve the communities of Lebanon City, PA and Cressona, PA</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Programs and projects that benefit residents of Millersburg, a borough of Dauphin County, PA</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Projects to enhance Camp Hill Borough parks provided by youth organizations such as Scout programs or other youth organizations; programs & projects that focus upon or nurture access to early childhood education within Camp Hill.</p>	

Counties to be served as part of project; check all that apply.

Cumberland Dauphin Franklin Lebanon Perry Northern York (Dillsburg Area)

Projected Number of Individuals to be served by project

 69

Total number of ADULTS served

 3

Total number of CHILDREN (ages 17 and under) served

 72

Total number of ALL INDIVIDUALS served by the project

If above data is not appropriate to project, be sure to fully state the audience type and numbers to be served in Question 2 of the Impact Narrative.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

1. Capture your UPstream project and the community need it seeks to address in 200 words or less.

The majority of Pennsylvanians who would historically have been served in nursing homes, group homes, or intermediate care facilities have opted to enroll in Medicaid Waivers which enable them to have supports in their own homes to avoid institutional settings (Disability Rights Pennsylvania). The need to provide in-home care has been accentuated during the COVID-19 crisis, as data indicates clusters of infections arising in facilities where many are living together in close proximity, such as prisons, nursing homes, and group homes.

VOAPA currently serves an estimated 250 individuals with in-home support, including seniors, individuals diagnosed with mental illness, and master leasing in Dauphin and Luzerne Counties, and 12 individuals with intellectual disabilities in Luzerne County. When COVID-19 hit, it became clear that the existing in-home care model to help individuals avoid institutionalization needed to be amended with virtual service provision, and made more efficient to meet greater need. By leveraging existing infrastructure in our programmatic hubs across the state, and with key investments in technology and staffing, VOAPA will scale our in-home care program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Pennsylvania, and specifically in the Greater Harrisburg area, to increase efficiencies in process and improve quality of care.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Answer questions 2-10 clearly and concisely; no limit.

2. The GHCF UPstream grant opportunity seeks to improve our area communities by supporting existing or new “upstream” systems, interventions, programs, or projects that attempt to create positive social change by addressing a problem at its source rather than managing its “downstream” symptoms. Describe your proposed upstream project, the geographic area it will serve, and the audience to be served; state why this audience was selected. Include how/why your project is “upstream” and how your project is working to address a specific need or needs. You MUST use and complete the following statement within your answer, “Grant funds will be used to _____”.

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania began working in the realm of supporting people with intellectual disabilities in their homes in 2017 with two clients. This new program for VOAPA was born from our longstanding service to the intellectual disability community through our transport program (Dial-a-Driver), in which we drive approximately 50 individuals with an intellectual disability daily to and from home and day habilitation programs and other essential appointments. Due to the demonstrated need in our community, we felt the need to explore our ability and capacity to serve more individuals and their families with additional services, such as in-home and community support workers. Over the last three years, we’ve slowly increased our capacity to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities, in their homes and communities, and as of January 2020, we are now providing in-home and community support to more than 260 individuals, allowing them to live independently.

In-home care service is much preferred by individuals to institutionalization. When the COVID-19 pandemic began in the United States, it quickly became clear that beyond not being preferable, institutional facilities are unsafe, as data showed rising rates of COVID infections in group homes and other congregate settings. Further, we quickly realized that the existing in-home care model was insufficient in both quality and in meeting the extensive need. We thus saw the opportunity to improve the model, to create a upstream system and address the problem at its source – to meet more individuals where they are, allowing them to live independently and with dignity, while scaling to serve exponentially more individuals and improve quality of care with safety guidelines in mind.

There are currently 62,620 people receiving waiver services in Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). Of these, Intellectual Disability and Developmental Disability waivers serve 26,376 people. The remaining 36,244 are waiting for in home services and at risk for institutionalization and/or

unsafe situations, including abuse. The majority of those who are able to be served through waivers are living in their own homes, receiving an average of 40 hours per week of paraprofessional non-medical services, including personal companion care, homecare, and life skills education.

VOAPA is underway in implementing a version of the hub and spoke model – we will use our existing expertise to hire and train supervisors in each of our programmatic ‘hubs’ across Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh, Harrisburg/Central PA, Allentown, and Wilkes-Barre), and invest in technology to mobilize both service provision and supervision of in-home care. VOAPA has an existing fee-for-service contract with the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) to provide in-home and community-based services to people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities, with no geographic boundaries or limits on the number of individuals we can serve.

Effective July 1, 2020, VOAPA was contracted by ODP to serve Dauphin, Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Cumberland/Perry, and Franklin/Fulton County joiners. We will serve individuals aged 4 to 65 and over, with no income or gender restrictions. All clients will have confirmed intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, with a state-documented support plan. A majority of clients will experience coexisting Autism Spectrum Disorder or mental health diagnoses. We anticipate serving 3 children and 69 adults, for a total of 72 clients in the Greater Harrisburg area. We are also serving the families of these individuals by alleviating the over-reliance on caregiver supports from siblings and parents. In some cases, families believe that they or other members of their family are the best caregivers for their adult loved one. In such scenarios, as permitted by State regulations, VOAPA frequently hires and trains qualified family members to become direct support professionals for the person they care so deeply about. This offers an additional benefit of economic security during uncertain times like the COVID pandemic. This is incredibly important as parents age, which is typically when many individuals with intellectual disabilities are institutionalized. The ultimate goal is to help people with intellectual disabilities live independently.

To serve these 72 individuals, we will hire a Greater Harrisburg Supervisor who will work out of our VOAPA HQ office in Harrisburg, and hire direct support professionals, creating 75 new essential jobs which pay a living wage. Our staff will use the same level PPE as other healthcare workers for the protection of both clients and personnel.

We will also increase efficiency and improve effectiveness of our service delivery by making investments in technology. Using an online system of service documentation, SETWorks, which is widely used by intellectual disabilities programs across the United States, our direct support professionals will be equipped with tablet devices which will enable them to access client data confidentially, use the internet to help clients access online activities such as remote shopping and educational resources, and more effectively communicate from the field to supervisors for support in real-time. Remote supervision will significantly reduce the need for personnel travel, creating both time and financial efficiencies.

VOAPA respectfully requests \$10,000 from the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation to support scaling our in-home model for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Greater Harrisburg area. Grant funds will be used to support hiring a Supervisor for the Greater Harrisburg area.

DATES & LOCATIONS

- 3.** When and where will the project take place? List dates and locations as appropriate in chronological order. State if provided dates/locations are confirmed, estimated, or to be determined.

The confirmed project will take place from January 1, 2021-December 31, 2021. The project will take place in the Greater Harrisburg area, with the supervisor and personnel working out of our VOAPA HQ office in Harrisburg and remotely if/when COVID19 requirements dictate distancing.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

4. Does the project involve partnerships, collaborations, service, or affiliations with other organizations that will strengthen the project? If so, LIST their name(s) and corresponding role(s) within the categories below OR if this does not apply to you, state why your project is best positioned for success as a single organization.

SINGLE ORGANIZATION STATEMENT:

Due to the nature of this project, and our relationship with the ODP, there are no formal partnerships that are necessary for implementation. We would occasionally partner with local institutions of higher education or career centers to search for candidates for our professional service delivery positions, but due to the current market in light of COVID-19, we will be able to manage recruitment on our own. All of the below listed organizations are not integral to, but will enhance the work of this project. When we are able to hire a Supervisor for this region, and begin hiring staff and building our clientele, we intend to collaborate with more local partners for mutual benefit and enhanced shared outcomes. For example, we partner with transportation organizations (Capital Area Transit, York County Transit) in our work with veterans that would be terrific partners for our in-home care supports program once we have clientele.

PARTNERSHIPS: *We are equally invested in providing this project and success is dependent upon all organizations and shared roles although one entity serves as the applicant for this grant. Our application includes a letter from each partner that states their role in this relationship.*

Volunteers of America (National) is a partner on this project. In addition to providing funding for the start up of our statewide expansion (see letter), they are also providing access to and lower pricing for PPE. They provide access to a database repository (Blackbaud), which we use in a variety of ways to build support, marketing, and metrics for our work in Pennsylvania. They provide financial accountability and technical assistance, as needed. Lastly, they provide technical assistance around service delivery for our staff.

COLLABORATIONS: *We are working with other organizations to make this project happen, but we serve as the lead organization for this grant opportunity and our project success is enriched by, but not dependent upon, our collaborators. An additional letter is NOT required, but may help the application.*

Office of Developmental Programs: The structure of the Community Supports and Services under the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) allows individuals with disabilities to have a voice in choosing their support providers and services. ODP builds partnerships between the individuals seeking services, county administrative entities, support coordination agencies, and the individual providers (like VOAPA) who serve individuals in their homes. All components of service delivery are coordinated in the Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS) database managed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. VOAPA is presented to individuals as an option for their service provision by a Supports Coordinator. Our contract with ODP allows us to serve an unlimited number of individuals, with no geographic boundaries. ODP is central to this project, however, they do not provide letters of support.

Central Pennsylvania Food Bank – Harrisburg branch: We will work with the Central PA Food Bank Harrisburg branch to provide emergency food for our clients.

SERVICE: *Our project will serve these organizations and cannot take place without their commitment to accept service. Our application includes a letter from each organization (this includes schools) that states their intent to participate.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

AFFILIATIONS: *Our project may be affiliated with these organizations in some way, but is not 100% dependent upon their participation. An additional letter is NOT needed.*

Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities: VOAPA will be affiliated with the PA Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities for technical assistance, training, and advocacy information.

COMPARABLES

5. Are other organizations in your service area providing services that are similar to your proposed project? If yes, state their names or services and explain how your project differs. If no, state NA.

According to the HCSIS Supports and Services Directory, approximately 92% of the 126 Agencies which serve the Greater Harrisburg community are for-profit entities, the majority of which are private duty nursing agencies. For example, Pediatric Services of America, Maxim Home Health Services, Bayada Nurses, and Interim Home Health, are examples of National companies providing Companion and In-Home and Community Supports to those who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

These national for-profit entities staff clients based on personnel availability, and do not differentiate specialty for intellectual or developmental disability and general “non-skilled” home health patient. Their staff are referred to as “aids”, wear hospital scrubs and identity badges with company branding, and drive patients to and from appointments in the community in company vehicles, each of these physical attributes drawing attention to the caregiver-patient relationship in public, which unnecessarily violates clients’ rights to receive services which are undetectable to the public. With staff being assigned based on availability, schedulers for the company may deploy personnel who have never met the client or their family members in advance. After hours calls are met by an answering service, which rarely has intimate knowledge of the client or family, and cannot provide personalized responsive care.

In contrast, VOAPA believes in equipping and empowering client personal choice on multiple levels. First and foremost, we embrace the vision that services should be highly connective to the family and invisible to the public – known only to the person and the family we support. We do not permit staff to wear attire which would call any attention to the paid caregiver relationship that exists. Transportation is provided in non-descript family-type vehicles, and our personnel do not wear name badges. Furthermore, a member of our staff would never attend someone’s home without first being introduced.

VOAPA inaugurates services with meet-and-greet sessions, with our Supervisor introducing multiple staff members to the client, allowing the client to personally select their caregivers. Once service employees are selected, we provide in-home orientations in which the family outlines preferences for working in their home. These details are recorded in our systems so that they can be adhered to in the event of the primary staff person’s absence, and are conveyed to our schedulers to ensure staffing wishes are fulfilled. In the event families need help after business hours, they may call the Program Supervisor directly for assistance by cell phone at any time of the day or night. They will provide answers to any questions the family might have, and is likewise available to travel to the home to mitigate emergency situations.

In some cases, families believe that they or other members of their family are the best caregivers for their adult loved one. In such scenarios, as permitted by State regulations, VOAPA frequently hires and trains qualified family members to become direct support professionals for the person they care so deeply about.

As committed caring supervisors are essential to effective family support, we seek help to fund the acquisition of this Greater Harrisburg –based position in partnership with the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation’s Upstream initiative. The proposed grant funds will pay this professional’s salary during the first three months of start-up. We anticipate the position will be adequately funded by the revenues this program generates ongoing.

ASSESSMENT & IMPACT

6a. What will project success look like? Provide a brief overview of the project's key outcomes, outputs, and/or other results of success.

Staffing: VOAPA defines project success as hiring a Greater Harrisburg Supervisor, hiring 75 direct support professionals, and increasing our client capacity to serve 72 individuals with intellectual disabilities in the Greater Harrisburg area.

Staff Retention: Once service begins, those supported by the provider tend to remain connected as long as sufficient staffing resources are made available to the individual and their family. The Supervisor's role is pivotal in staff retention. This Supervisor ensures initial staff training pertinent to the individual's specific needs, and remains connected to them remotely throughout each workday to help mitigate problems which might arise. An acceptable staff retention rate for the duration of this grant cycle is 85%.

Client satisfaction: Following six months of linkage to a new provider, Supports Coordinators conduct routine client satisfaction surveys. Results are regularly conveyed to the provider agency upon receipt. VOAPA will consider itself successful with a 95% client satisfaction rating throughout the grant period.

6b. How will project success be measured and documented (i.e.: how will you know the project is successful? Are you collecting value statements, numbers served, surveys, photos, before and after images, or using other methods)?

VOAPA will measure success by incremental client acquisition and job creation. Over the course of the 12 months of our project, we intend to meet, and will track progress at each of the following milestones:

By April 30, 2021: 25 total clients acquired, 25 total jobs created (direct support professionals hired), 1 Greater Harrisburg Supervisor hired

By June 30, 2021: 50 total clients acquired, 50 jobs created (direct support professionals hired)

By December 31, 2021: 72 total clients acquired, 75 jobs created (direct support professionals hired)

Staff retention 85% or greater for the duration of the grant period.

Client satisfaction 95% or greater at the six-month client satisfaction survey.

FUNDING & SUPPORT

7. If this proposal is not funded at the level requested, will you be able to implement the project as stated? Explain as needed.

VOAPA secured \$25,000 from VOA, Inc. to purchase necessary technology to pilot the remote charting for clients who are deaf, across several counties in Pennsylvania. We also have a pending request to AllOne Charities for \$25,000 to then scale to cover 13 counties in Northeast PA. Our next goal is to expand into the Harrisburg area. A grant from Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation will leverage match money, which combined will provide the seed money necessary to start up the In-Home and Community Supports for individuals and families in Central Pennsylvania. Without this support, VOAPA's ability to enter this area will be slowed. We prefer to jump start this work in our areas of service in Pennsylvania, in part as a humanitarian effort to slow the impact of COVID-19 and reduce institutionalization. VOAPA is committed to this statewide expansion; through our good relationship with the PA ODP, we are well-positioned to sustain this program over the long-term through our fee-for-service contract that has no geographic boundaries or limits of number of

individuals served. We are fundraising to support the one-time technology upgrades and hiring to support the expansion to each of our regional hubs.

8. This grant opportunity will not fund 100% of any project. Restate the amount you are seeking and describe other funding sources and amounts.

We respectfully request \$10,000 to support hiring a Supervisor for our Greater Harrisburg area expansion to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities. If this request is approved, we have another funding source that will match it, allowing for the start-up needs for VOAPA's Intellectual Disability expansion to be fully funded in Central PA. This investment will yield a great result, as once we build up a clientele, we will also develop long term sustainability through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's support via the Office of Developmental Programs.

9. Did the applicant organization end its most recent fiscal year with a budget surplus or deficit? If so, briefly state the amount of the surplus or deficit and state how the surplus may be used (i.e. is it earmarked for another program) and/or how the deficit may be handled.

VOAPA ended FY20 with an estimated \$475,000 deficit, which is covered by the SBA Paycheck Protection Loan, which will be forgiven (\$557,000). VOAPA projects a surplus in 2021, all of which will be reinvested in its service to communities in Pennsylvania.

ACCESS & INCLUSION

10. As a community foundation, TFEC fosters a climate of purposeful inclusion that values diversity of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Please state how your project will be made accessible to all individuals who qualify for participation in the project and describe any accommodations, modifications, technologies, or services you will offer to ensure that all eligible participants experience the best possible services or outcomes.

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania is committed to the principles and actions that support diversity and inclusion. It is our policy to recruit, hire, train, and promote individuals, as well as administer any and all personnel actions, without regard to race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, national origin or ancestry, marital status, status as a disabled or Vietnam era veteran, union affiliation, or status as a qualified individual with a disability, genetic make-up, or any other protected characteristic, in accordance with applicable laws.

Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania is committed to the same conduct regarding the inclusion of clients. Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination and any such conduct is prohibited. Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania is committed to ensuring that our clientele, workforce and volunteers reflect America's diverse population, with equal treatment.

VOAPA works closely with those we serve to overcome barriers that impede progress and self-determination. The principles governing VOAPA's Intellectual Disabilities clients are:

- The individual shall relate to their family, friends and community when and how they choose;
- The individual shall be as independent as possible and determine the direction of their life;
- The individual shall have the opportunity to make life choices that do not compromise health and safety;
- The individual shall have the opportunity to communicate their fears and have them addressed without fear of reprisal in connection with the provision of supports and services;
- The individual should receive supports and services which are effective and meet their needs.

BUDGET WORKSHEET

Complete the Budget Worksheet below; a Project Total is required.

ITEM OR SERVICE <i>Examples include: Contracted Services, Equipment, Personnel, Supplies; list your own as appropriate.</i>	DESCRIPTION OF ITEM OR SERVICE	REQUESTED GRANT FUNDS <i>Indicate where funds sought through this grant opportunity will be applied.</i>	OTHER FUNDING SOURCES <i>State the names and amounts of all other funding sources.</i>	PENDING, COMMITTED, OR RECEIVED <i>Using a P, C, or R, indicate the status of all funding sources.</i>	\$ TOTALS <i>Add across to provide a total for each row. Total columns as indicated in bottom row.</i>
Personnel	In-Home Care Program Supervisor	\$10,000		R	\$10,000
Personnel	In-Home Care Program Supervisor	\$	ODP fee-for-service billing, \$35,000	C	\$35,000
Personnel	In-Home Care Program Supervisor	\$	PA DHS \$10,000	P	\$10,000
Equipment	Tablets, SetWorks, 800-line	\$	VOA National \$7,000	R	\$7,000
		\$			\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$
		\$			\$

TOTALS	\$10,000	\$52,000		\$62,000
	Total: Requested Grant Funds	Total: Other Funding Sources		PROJECT TOTAL



Volunteers of America®

PENNSYLVANIA

Board of Directors

FY 2020-2022

Daniel L. Lombardo, Chairman

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Dolores Goldstein, Second Assistant Secretary

Executive Coordinator
Volunteers of America Delaware Valley
531 Market Street
Camden, NJ 08107

Owen McCabe, Secretary

VP of Acquisitions & Development
531 Market Street
Camden, NJ 08102

Paula Zawadzki

463 Dover Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

NOTES:

*All members are volunteers.
All Officer terms expire on June 30th, 2021*

Revised 7/28/2020



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717-393-2907
www.post19amvets.com
amvetspost19@comcast.net

September 16, 2020

Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
200 N. 3rd Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Ms. Strechay:

I write this letter in support of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania's (VOAPA) expansion of In-Home and Community Supports program to Central Pennsylvania.

AM VETS Post 19 has been a community partner with VOAPA since 2018. VOAPA provides outreach and support to veterans experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness within our post as well as the community at large. AM VETS Post 19 serves as the only Military Share partner with the Central PA Food Bank in Lancaster County. With this partnership, AM VETS Post 19 has the honor of providing veteran households experiencing food scarcity the ability to not only receive fresh and nutritious food but outreach and supportive services through Volunteers of America of PA staff and our post service officer.

We recognize that military and veteran households may consist of individuals with special needs, differently abled individuals and those with intellectual differences. The expansion of the program would allow individuals with intellectual differences to have supports in their own homes and avoid institutional settings. This is especially important during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

AM VETS Post 19 fully supports the efforts of VOAPA as they seek funding to support a program designed to enhance the lives of Pennsylvania residents.

Sincerely,

James P. Stafford, AM VETS Post 19 Service Officer



September 16, 2020

Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment
The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
200 N. 3rd Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Ms. Strechay:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania's expansion of In-Home and Community Supports program to Central Pennsylvania.

Our organization has worked with VOAPA through its programs supporting homeless veterans, people with disabilities, various family and youth programs and providing the basic needs of the most vulnerable and underserved households throughout Central PA. In this capacity, VOAPA has utilized the resources of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to provide families with nutritious food options, diet and health education, access to SNAP benefits through the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank Food Stamps Helpline and access to MilitaryShare partners.

The expansion of the program would allow individuals with intellectual differences to have supports in their own homes and avoid institutional settings. This is especially important during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank's mission to fight hunger, improve lives and strengthen communities intersects with the core values of VOAPA. We fully support the efforts of VOAPA as they seek funding to support a program designed to enhance the lives of Pennsylvania residents.

Sincerely,

Tara M. Davis
Director of Agency Services and Outreach
tdavis@centralpafoodbank.org
717.564.1700

www.centralpafoodbank.org

3908 Corey Road **Harrisburg**, PA 17109-5929 Phone: (717) 564.1700 Fax: (717) 561.4636
3301 Wahoo Drive **Williamsport**, PA 17701-9205 Phone: (570) 321.8023 Fax: (570) 321.8024

The official registration and financial information of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank may be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

2020 GREATER HARRISBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION UPSTREAM SIGN & SUBMIT FORM

Provide signatures from the applicant organization, below. Both organization representatives must sign.

By providing your original OR digital signature below, you agree that the provided information in this application is true to the best of your knowledge and may be submitted for review. Completion of this form is one component of your Complete Application.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | President/CEO | _____ | Jodina Hicks |
| | | Ink Signature | Digital Signature |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Board President | _____ | Daniel Lombardo |
| | | Ink Signature | Digital Signature |

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO BE UPLOADED & SUBMITTED BY 4PM ON THE DEADLINE DATE

All grant materials must be submitted through the TFEC online application system by 4pm on the deadline date.. This grant opportunity does not utilize delivered or mailed materials.

- Complete Application:** Applicant Profile, Project Profile, Project Snapshot, Project Narrative, Budget Worksheet, and Sign & Submit Form with original or digital signatures.
- Board of Directors List:** Professional affiliations (ie: work positions and/or titles as applicable) must be included.
- ONE, TWO, or THREE letters of support with original or digital signatures.** Applicants may submit the number of letters that will best support their application. Letters of support from the applicant organization's Board of Directors will not be accepted. Identical form letters are discouraged. A minimum of ONE letter of support is REQUIRED for this grant opportunity regardless of response to Question 4.
- If you have indicated PARTNERSHIP with or SERVICE to other Agencies as stated in Question 4, you must upload letters with original or digital signatures documenting the relationship.** A letter of partnership or service may also serve as a letter of support if support is expressly stated.
- Applicants who utilize a FISCAL SPONSOR** must include a letter signed by the Executive Leader of the Fiscal Sponsor organization indicating agreement to serve as the Fiscal Sponsor. An original or digital signature is required.
- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter.**
- 1st Page of Applicant Organization's Most Recent 990.** If 990 is not available, upload applicant organization's most recent audit or financial statement to meet this requirement.

QUESTIONS

If you should have any questions regarding this form or TFEC grant opportunities, contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Officer for Community Investment, at jstrechay@tfec.org or 717-236-5040.