



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING REQUESTS, PAST PERFORMANCE REVIEW, AND PUBLIC INPUT FOR ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, 2018-19

February 6, 2018

WHITE PLAINS CITY HALL
255 MAIN ST, 2ND FLOOR, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601

ATTENDEES:

City of White Plains Planning and Community Development Department: *Christopher Gomez, Commissioner; Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner; Corina Peralta, Community Development Assistant; and Maura Smotrich, Community Development Analyst*

Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee Representatives (CDCAC): *Dennis Power, Chair; Millie Castro; Marie Houston ; Stephen Walfish; Sidia Cortes; Mary Perri; Ken Creary; Rosa Boone-Morgan; Soknan Han Jung; William C. Brady.*

Dennis Power, Chair of the CDCAC called the Public Hearing to order at 7:03pm.

- Introductions of the Planning /Community Development staff and CDCAC Members
- Dennis Power advised all attendees that the power point presentation will be available on the City Of White Plains website.

Christopher Gomez, Commissioner of the City of White Plains Planning Department; expressed his gratitude for all the hard work everyone has done for the City of White Plains.

Maura Smotrich, Community Development Analyst presented:

Meeting Overview, 2017-2018 Annual Action Plan Update, and Introduction to 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan.

- Program Overview
- National Objectives
- Consolidated Plan -Strategic Goals:
 - Housing
 - Home Safety Initiative

- Lead-based paint rehabilitation
- Safe Housing Task Force
- Support energy efficiency upgrades
- Code Enforcement
- Affordable Housing Development
- Public Housing
- Public Facility Rehab and Improvement
- Public Services Homeless
- Support Special Needs Populations
- Public Services Non-Homeless
- Neighborhood Rehabilitation Program

Community Development Program Current Status:

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

- \$779,032 CDBG funding
- Additionally, up to \$400,000 in revolving funds
- **Neighborhood Rehabilitation Program**
 - One and Two Family- Goal: 12 units/year, Actual: 10 units, Planned: 3
 - Multi-Family- Goal: 20 units/year, Completed: 3, Planned: 50
- **AHC (New York State Funds)**
 - 14 One Family Homes Actual: 11
 - 3 Two Family Homes Actual: 3
 - 5 Coop Units in 1 Coop Buildings Actual: 5 in 1
- **Community Facilities**
 - Delfino Park
- **Home Safety Initiative**
 - Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- **Code Enforcement**
 - Goals: 500 violations - on track
- **Public Service Program**
 - 16 Programs

Proposed Activities for 2018-2019-Consolidated Plan Year 4

- Anticipated Funding Award: \$770,000
- Proposed Activities:
 - Parks and Public Facilities: Mattison Park and others as funding permits
 - Neighborhood Home Rehabilitation
 - Code Enforcement
 - Public Services: Services for seniors, homeless, youth, persons with disabilities, employment training, housing counseling

Presentation concluded and Chair Power opened the floor for questions and comments from the public.

Q- Heather Miller, Thomas H. Slater Center- When will we know if we will get the funds?

A- Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner – *When the draft plan is written it is released to the public for 30 days review and in that document it specifies where all of the amount of funding and where it goes.*

Q- Susan Turnbull, Ecumenical Food Pantry- Where can we find tonight’s presentation?

A- Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner - *On the City of White Plains Website (www.cityofwhiteplains.com)*

Q- Judith Aucar, El Centro Hispano – When will we actually get the funding?

A- Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner - *It is federal funding, so it is dependent on approval and implementation of the federal budget. Whenever there’s a delay, there’s a delay to be expected in the future. We are expecting a delay for the next few years and what this means to you is; we cannot issue a contract until we have the funding award letter in our hands.*

As a funded agency the decision you will have to make is, if you are willing to implement the services that CD is funding on July 1st without a contract, anticipating that you will be reimbursed (because if funding is all allocated as we expect you will be reimbursed from July 1st). Until we get the approval award in our hands you will be implementing services without a contract which is a risk.

Judith Aucaer El Centro Hispano- Expressed her concern about not having the funds available on time.

Community Agencies Representatives:

Martin Rudow - White Plains Youth Bureau (After School Program)

The City of White Plains Youth Bureau After School Program requested \$20,000.00. As the largest provider of youth in White Plains, we serve 7,000 youth annually and more than 2,000 youth daily through a variety of programs. The After School Connection offers after school child care and enrichment activities to over 300 students in White Plains, from kindergarten through eighth grade. The program is offered at 10 sites in White Plains: all five elementary schools, Eastview School (6th grade), Highlands School (7th and 8th grade) and three community sites: the Slater Center, 86 De Kalb Ave. and 70 Ferris Ave. The program is open every full school day from the first to the last day of school, from the end of the school day to 6 pm with extended hours available to 6:30 pm. The services and activities offered at these 10 sites include snacks, homework help, choral music, arts and crafts, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning, sewing, sports and games including tennis instruction, gardening and environmental education, character education, community service and community trips and more. The program opens at the end of the school day and is open till 6 pm; parents have the option of extending the program till 6:30 pm for a small additional fee. The City of White Plains Youth Bureau charges a weekly fee of \$85 to families using the program; those who are eligible according to CDBG guidelines can apply for and receive a partial scholarship, which reduces the weekly fee to \$51.25 It's not only about out fees, We try to help every family that come through out door seeking for help. The CDBG funds we are applying for will be used to provide scholarships to many families who could not otherwise afford to send their child to our after school program. The need for these scholarships remains great in our community as after school care is not a luxury but a necessity for families, but one that many families could not afford without some financial assistance.

Raymond Tribble - White Plains Youth Bureau (Bits and Pieces Program)

The City of White Plains Bits 'n Pieces Camp is available for six weeks, operating in the summer months, 8:30 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday from July 2, 2018 through August 10, 2018. The Tutorial camp provides summer academic enrichment day camp for White Plains children entering first through fifth grades. The tutorial camp requested \$15,000.00 to provide services to 180 children and help those children stay on track with their academic skills during the summer by offering modules in English/language arts, math, science and technology for six weeks in the summer. The camp operates out of Church Street Elementary School located at 295 Church Street. The fee based on family income and is set by the City. Last year fees were \$902 with no scholarship and \$541 with scholarship

Q- Kenneth Creary, CDCAC Member- How do you monitor improvements?

A- Raymond Tribble- The Bits'n Pieces Camp teachers administer a pre and post-test that will measure the Camper's reading, writing and math skills.

Sia Tofano - White Plains Recreation & Parks Summer Camp Program-

The mission of the City of White Plains Recreation and Parks Department is to enhance the quality of life by providing recreational opportunities through safe, well-organized and affordable programs and facilities; and to maintain a comprehensive network of parks, trails and open spaces that promote the mental, physical and social well-being of our residents. The City of White Plains Recreation & Parks Department provides 2 (6 week) summer camp programs to the residents of White Plains. The Summer Day Camp runs from July 2, 2018 – August 10, 2018. Camp Panawok provides services for youth, grades Kindergarten through 2nd from 8:15am to 3:15pm. Camp Quarropas provides services for youth, grades 3rd through 8th from 8:30am to 3:30pm. All campers at Camp Panawok receive free breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Early Drop Off and Extended Day Hours are also available. The summer camp program curriculum includes swimming, sports, games, art, dance and STEM activities as well as a variety of trips and special entertainment. Camp scholarships will be granted to children of White Plains residents who live in moderate to low income households. All clients are evaluated based upon HUD's current household income scale. Eligibility is dependent on residency and a 2017 Federal Tax Form or SSI Benefits. CDBG funding is necessary to subsidize families requesting scholarship assistance. Each year the number of individuals who request and qualify for financial assistance increases. Our existing budget is unable to accommodate this increase in demand. Funds will only be used to benefit residents.

Sia Tofano - White Plains Recreation & Parks Youth Program Scholarship

This year we are requesting \$10,000.00 to serve 250 youth with scholarships. Our existing budget is unable to meet the increased demand we have been experiencing for our programs. Scholarships will be offered to children residing in White Plains whose households fall within the moderate to low income levels. All clients are evaluated based on HUDs current income scale. Eligibility is dependent on residency and a 2017 Federal Tax Form. The CDGB funding is necessary for the City of White Plains to subsidize those families requesting Youth Recreation Programs at a discounted rate from our adopted fees due to financial hardship and an inability to pay to participate in our programs.

Q-Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner - This year you submitted an application for the same amount, to serve 250 youth, and that's an average of 40 dollars scholarship. Do you have an average cost to your programs or is it a wide range?

A-Sia Tofano- It's a wide range depending on the type of program.

Q-Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner - Do you give everyone a percentage of the cost of the program or is it a flat scholarship?

A-Sia Tofano- It's the same 40-60 we usually do; the same 40-60 we do for the Summer Camp.

Q- Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner -You had projected that this year you were going to issue 275 scholarship. Are you on track with that?

A-Sia Tofano- I've been working with Fran, the Deputy Commissioner, who thought 275 was a good number.

Q- Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner -are you expected to meet the 275?

A- Yes, based on our past numbers.

Sia Tofano - White Plains Recreation & Parks Differing Abilities Out and About Program

This year we are requesting \$7,500.00 for the Differing Abilities Program. The City of White Plains Recreation and Parks Department has been serving those with differing abilities for over fifty years. Originally, the City of White Plains provided segregated programs for those with differing abilities. White Plains Recreation and Parks will collaborate with the White Plains School District for use of school facilities when needed. Additionally the Recreation Department will work with both Westchester County operated parks programs as well local commercial recreation enterprises. 25 Clients will be served by this project, all scheduled activities will be completed in June of 2018, with implementation in September 2018. All program information will be included in The City of White Plains Recreation and Parks 2018/19 Fall Winter guide and the City of White Plains website under recreation. The CDBG grant will be applied to the hands on staffing needs for this Differing Abilities program initiative. In order to provide training to clients, the City of White Plains Recreation and Parks Department will require the hiring and training of specialized staff to implement the following programs, Life skills training, social skills as well as activities of daily living.

Rachel Halperin (Staff Attorney)

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) Preventing Evictions program - The mission of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is to provide free high quality counsel in civil matters for individuals and families who cannot afford to pay an attorney where basic human needs are at stake. We're requesting \$20,000.00 to provide services to low and moderate income household's families. Legal Services Hudson Valleys will provide free civil legal services to 25-30 individual clients that are low or extremely low income seniors on 30 legal matters of nonpayment or holdover proceedings, affecting a projected 38 to 45 White Plains household members. The White Plains Elder Attorney provides legal services on medical insurance, government benefits, wills, advanced directives, powers of attorney and other civil legal issues. The full breadth of available services may include advocacy, negotiations and/or court representation. The proposed legal support will avoid displacement for the most vulnerable city residents, and identify low and extremely low income individuals who are entitled to benefits with the objective of alleviating late or overdue rent payments. High demand for housing assistance exceeds the current capacity of LSHV's elder ("Elder") attorney in White Plains.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley provides office hours at its 90 Maple Avenue location, Monday through Friday, 9 AM-5 PM. Each office is ADA compliant offering physical accessibility to clients with disabilities, including reception areas, advocate offices, meeting spaces and bathroom facilities. Home visits can be arranged for clients in ill health that are immobile. Clients can also arrange for a mutually agreeable place to meet the attorney, i.e. community service provider, library, Court. LSHV has recently added online intake for certain housing problems by initiating an inquiry at www.lshv.org besides offering its normal walk-in hours. The toll-free hotline staff operates Mondays through Thursday from 8 AM to 6PM and Fridays from 8 AM - 4 PM. A Spanish speaking staff member is available on location and by telephone for translation and LSHV employs a language translation services for 170 languages for non-English

speakers.

High demand for housing assistance exceeds the current capacity of LSHV's elder ("Elder") attorney in White Plains. This funding allows for specific time to be devoted to outreach, finding and assisting White Plains seniors in need of housing advocacy.

Judith Aucar- El Centro Hispano Comprehensive Project

The mission of El Centro Hispano Inc. is to strengthen families by providing them with information about health, housing, employment, and to assist with translations. El Centro Hispano offers comprehensive services focused on changing the lives of youth, adults and senior citizens of White Plains within the low to moderate and very low income guidelines. The agency provides families with educational programs, technology classes and services, outreach, counseling and empowerment support. We're requesting \$30,000.00 to serve between 900-1,000 clients in the HUD low-income designated areas in White Plains. We support individual clients, as well as households.

The educational program includes English as a Second Language classes for adults and seniors, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. Four days a week; two evening combined classes on Thursdays and Saturdays, one morning combined class on Sundays; and one daytime HSE (GED) prep class. One Citizenship Class every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., a daily Tutorial Program for high school students Mentoring/Tutorial Programs at the Middle school for female and male students three times a week, An intensive four and a half hour Saturday Academy tutorial program for seventh – eleventh graders, Summer Literacy Academy for 2nd and 3rd grade students, Early Literacy Program for kindergartners and first graders.

The Technology class includes a study skills preparation class, Culture through Technology class on Saturdays for 4th & 5th graders. And thirteen separate classes for adults and seniors in the evening throughout the year. Quick Books and Introductory Accounting class is included as part of our Technology Class as well.

The outreach, counseling and empowerment support program includes food distribution, year round Drop-In Center open Monday-Friday, from noon to 7 p.m. El Centro Hispano also offers assistance to thousands of individuals and families who come to the center every year seeking help with housing, looking for a job, completing applications, composing letters, notarizing documents, making calls on their behalf, or having a document translated. Cancer support is offered to White Plains' residents diagnosed with the disease. A bilingual representative of the Westchester County Department of Health has been onsite at El Centro since October 2013 one full day a week to offer our clients free assistance in completing the application paperwork for the Affordable Care Program. El Centro Hispano also provides workshops on parenting, educational, and other issues such as nutrition, major illnesses, domestic violence and services available to them in the City and/or the County.

CDBG funds will help us continue with our services and help our program expand.

Maria Imperial - YWCA

For over 90 years, the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester ("YWCA") has been a pioneer for social change through innovative programs that improve the lives of women, families and communities. The YWCA's mission is "to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all." The YWCA is a trusted organization with deep roots in many parts of the community. Our programs reflect diversity in race, ethnicity, age, religion, income and ability; diversity is one of our greatest strengths. We believe that impacting lives begins with understanding individual needs. Our mission is best achieved through a combination of programming and advocacy. We work tirelessly to bring about real change in the lives of women, families and communities.

We're requesting \$8,000 to serve 70 GEMS participants grades 1 – 12. Next year we hope to serve 75 girls, at least 75% of the girls (56) come from families at or below 80% of AMI. CDBG funds will provide general support of the GEMS program. GEMS has recently lost funding from the Westchester Community Foundation for its college and career preparation activities and government funding from DOH, which supported the CAPP program, and NYSHEC, which supported the College Tour. The GEMS program meets weekly throughout the year, including in the summer. During the school-year, programming is provided 1-2 times per week, for grades 1-12. Within this population, GEMS programming targets 4 groups: 1st-2nd grade (Little Sisters), 3-5th grade (Big Sisters), 6-8th grade (Size) and 9-12th grade (Strivers). The GEMS program is always expanding. This year, we would like to expand our STEM offerings and add public speaking and civic advocacy classes, which would be supported in part with CDBG funding.

Q - Kenneth Creary, CDCAC Member -You've lost funding from a few foundations, how have you been able to make up for that lost?

A - Maria Imperial - Little by little we have been applying for more and more grants to make up for that loss.

Chris Schwartz - Lifting up Westchester Case Management

The mission of Lifting up Westchester (LUW), a nonsectarian, community-based nonprofit is to restore hope to Westchester County's men, women and children in need by providing them with food, shelter and support that lifts them to greater self-sufficiency with dignity and respect. We're requesting \$35,422 to help 800 chronically homeless men and women. The goal of the Charlie Bevier Outreach Team is to assist chronically homeless men and women in White Plains; provide all guests at Grace's Kitchen with case management services as needed, continue to work closely with White Plains Police Department to discuss/ensure collaborative efforts to assist chronically homeless individuals, conduct regular visits to the streets of White Plains to identify chronically homeless individuals, encourage them to seek shelter especially during the winter months (in support of Governor Cuomo's executive order to bring all homeless individuals in from the streets during cold weather), encourage them to enter in to the homeless system and connect them to other services to which they are entitled.

The Lifting Up Westchester Outreach Team meets homeless individuals on the streets and brings them to our shelters where they can get an emergency bed, a meal, a shower, and a fresh change of clothing. Our Outreach Team provides case management services that help chronically homeless individuals enter into the DSS system, enroll in programs designed to address the mental health and substance abuse issues many of them face, or obtain other forms of public assistance to which they are entitled e.g. food stamps.

Through Lifting Up Westchester Outreach Team services, individuals move toward independent living, are reconnected with their families or find placement in transitional/permanent housing. As they regain self-sufficiency, they become active, contributing members of the community. In addition to the stated Consolidated Plan goals, our Outreach Team services improve public safety value by reducing the number of indigent individuals on the streets.

CDBG funds will allow our case management team to reach out to chronically homeless individuals on the streets to bring them into shelter and help them find housing and other necessary supports, so they can re-establish their lives and become more self-sufficient.

Chris Schwartz - Lifting up Westchester - Home Health Aide Training Program

The mission of Lifting up Westchester (LUW), a nonsectarian, Community-based nonprofit is to restore hope to Westchester County's men, women and Children in need by providing them with food, shelter and support that lifts them to greater self-sufficiency with dignity and respect. We're requesting \$ 15,000.00 to assist 36 students.

The goal of Lifting up Westchester's HHA training program is to provide individuals with satisfying careers, guaranteed long-term employment opportunities and the chance to provide their families with a better life. During the grant period we anticipate to provide eleven, 3-week-long training sessions to 36 unemployed/underemployed low-income, minority students; White Plains residents. 90% of all graduates will be employed by Neighbors Home Care Services agency. Students will understand how to safely and appropriately perform health-related tasks such as monitoring a client's temperature, pulse, respiration and blood pressure. Students will understand how to assist client's with personal care tasks like dressing, feeding, bathing, walking assistance, meal preparation, light housekeeping and laundry.

Longer term, our HHA training program will provide a steady stream of qualified home health aides to help alleviate the current shortage of aides in New York and ensure that the growing need for high-quality geriatric home care services is met.

CDBG funds will help LUW address these community needs by supporting free HHA training for low income, minority individuals with limited education and few prospects for employment. HHA training can provide these individuals with a satisfying career, guaranteed long-term employment opportunities, a stepping stone to higher levels of nursing training and the chance to provide their families with a better life.

Geoffrey Anderson - Westchester Residential Opportunity

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote equal, affordable and accessible housing opportunities for all residents of our region. Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. proposes to provide Comprehensive Housing Counseling, consisting of Mortgage Foreclosure Counseling, Fair Housing Education, Senior Housing Counseling, Reverse Mortgage Counseling, Eviction Prevention and Utility Shut Off Assistance and First Time Home Buying Education. WRO anticipates receiving, reviewing and taking appropriate action on 15 complaints of housing discrimination; modifying 15 mortgages on homes in the foreclosure process, enrolling and educating 15 first time home buyers; providing rental arrears to 15 households facing eviction, providing 4 households with utility shut-off assistance and assisting 10 seniors by preventing homelessness.

CDBG support will continue to enhance our existing services to White Plains residents and if awarded, the funds will allow Westchester Residential Opportunities staff work closer with White Plains residents and educate them more about fair housing rights.

Enid Forster- Family Services of Westchester

Family Services of Westchester is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Westchester County with a broad range of social and mental health services that strengthen and support families, children and individuals through every stage of the life cycle. The amount that we are requesting is \$9000.00 to serve 55 during the 2018-2019 project year. FSW provides quality child care that is safe, dependable, nurturing and educational whereby enabling parents to seek and/or maintain employment. Recreational activities are also planned to encourage the children to exercise, and to develop their gross motor skills. We also have intergenerational activities with the seniors who attend our Social Adult Day program. Activities include music, dance, reading and arts and crafts.

FSW currently provides Head Start/Early Head Start and Pre- Kindergarten services to over 320 early learners from the White Plains School District. All of our parents discuss their child care arrangements and needs with our staff during the registration process for each school year. Any families at these three sites who could benefit from our wraparound child care will be advised of the availability of this service.

The Afterschool program will operate Monday to Friday and provide child care services from 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning and from 2:00 to 5:30 in the afternoon. The Afterschool program operates on an annual basis with the requirements of the federally funded early education programming. The Goals of the Afterschool Program are to create a safe environment for the Head Start/Pre- Kindergarten children, to provide an accessible and well supervised child care program that is child centered, offer the opportunity to participate in activities that nurture self-esteem, promote ongoing learning to complement the structured programs the children attend during the rest of the day and to provide an additional opportunity for physical activity on a regular basis.

CDBG funds would not replace existing funding but allow FSW to expand the program at Rochambeau and implement at our CFAA and Bethel sites. If FSW can successfully achieve this expanded afterschool service then we will consider adding an additional site at the Eastview School.

Paul Schwartz- Meals on Wheels of White Plains

The mission of Meals-on-Wheels of White Plains is to deliver both food and compassion to our homebound, elderly neighbors in need. Meals-on-Wheels serves residents of White Plains who are unable to shop or prepare adequate meals themselves. Meals-on-Wheels volunteers deliver two delicious and nutritionally balanced meals per day. Our goal is to bring to each client a smile and meals that taste great, look pleasing and meet their individual health needs. . We serve between 55 and 70 people each day, and more than 150 over the course of a year. This year we are requesting \$40,000.

Meals-on-Wheels of White Plains assists individuals in our community who face serious life challenges, including injury, low income, psychiatric and/or physical disabilities, advanced age, HIV/AIDS, and in many cases, a combination of several of these challenges, often coupled with the frailty that comes with aging. These challenges prevent our clients from shopping and preparing meals for themselves. Our goal is to help seniors in White Plains live independently by delivering nutritious and delicious meals that are affordable. We also provide meals to non-homeless residents of White Plains who are in need for a variety of reasons. Meals on Wheels provide two meals per day (a hot lunch and a cold supper) to residents of White Plains who are unable to shop and/or prepare meals for themselves. In addition to delivering meals, our volunteers provide a daily check on our clients' well-being and respond to emergencies when needed. Without the meals our program offers, our clients might have to move out of their homes and into assisted living facilities or nursing homes.

Community Development funding is indispensable to Meals-on-Wheels of White Plains. Meals-on-Wheels is an organization that devotes most of its resources to providing direct services to its clients. The funds that come into Meals-on-Wheels are used to provide services directly to its clients. Without sufficient Community Development funds Meals-on-Wheels may: cut back on the number of clients served and/or impose a waiting list, cut back on the number of clients subsidized, and/or raise the price (fee for service) to meet the actual cost of serving the meals. This would be a real hardship for people living with both fixed incomes and heavy medical expenses. Funds are needed to help our agency to pay for the meals, to buy needed supplies and equipment for transporting meals, and to help provide for the salary of the executive director.

Q - Millie Castro, CDCAC Member - How do people know about the program? How do you find clients?

A - Paul Schwartz- White Plains Hospital knows how to get in touch with us, we receive referrals from visiting nurse services, Adult Protective Services, outpatient clinics, family members, neighbors and from individuals who enroll on their

own behalf.

Michael Hellman – Westchester Independent Living Center (WILC)

WILC is a community-based resource, advocacy, and training center dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities. WILC has been providing services, since 1981, to people of ALL ages with ALL types of disabilities in Westchester County and the Lower Hudson Valley Region. WILC works within the community to provide Education, Disability Awareness, and Advocacy for the Removal of Barriers. WILC, Project Access is seeking funding in the amount of \$8,000.00 to serve 20 individuals with disabilities and older adults via its individualized housing counseling sessions and registry demonstrations. We're looking to expand the Project's existing White Plains Housing Registry to include 20 additional buildings (for a total of 125 buildings) with significant enhancement components within the registry's data base to specifically address the projected housing needs of an emerging older adult population and for those with physical disabilities. Enhancements to the registry will include: a mapping component that will provide geographic locations of each building using Google Maps; descriptions of the terrain (hilly, flat, etc.) traffic congestion and related impacts to pedestrian routes within close proximity of each building; and locations of public transportation routes with accompanying distance approximations, if possible. We feel that these enhanced components will be of particular benefit to individuals with visual impairments and for older adults with mobility and cognitive challenges. The number of individuals served by the Project is based on the perceived housing needs assessed by WILC staff via the WILC Consumer Needs Assessment Survey, which is disseminated through our consumer intake process.

The overall goal of WILC's Project Access is focused on benefiting low and moderate income White Plains seniors and residents with disabilities in need of accessible and affordable rental housing. Project Access will provide supports and resources that will help them achieve and/or maintain their independent living goals by assisting them to search for safe, affordable and accessible rental housing in White Plains. Project Access will fulfill this goal by utilizing the monies requested within this proposal to enhance its housing services by expanding the information within its White Plains Housing Registry and by conducting community educational sessions to demonstrate how to use the Registry and its accompanying, updated Consumer Guide.

WILC has an existing, collaborative relationship with Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO). WILC and Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO) frequently share resources and make referrals to assist our mutual constituents with disabilities and seniors. Given this relationship with WRO, Project Access staff was able to access the Multi-Family Housing Listing for Westchester County and pinpoint certain buildings in White Plains for inclusion in its White Plains Housing Registry. WRO refers individuals with disabilities in need of accessible housing to Project Access on an ongoing basis, and provides updated housing rental information (real estate listings, realtor contact information, etc.) to Project Access staff upon request. Project Access has also gained feedback from other disability-related agencies (e.g. Center for Career Freedom, Commission for the Blind) regarding the use of its Registry.

The success and enhanced continuation of Project Access has been possible through the ongoing support from CDBG funds administered to WILC by the City of White Plains. WILC's core services are operational through state and federal monies, while other projects receive specific grant funding. Project Access became a reality as a result of CDBG funding and would not be sustainable under WILC's current and ongoing funding streams.

Q - Kenneth Creary, CDCAC Member - I noted that you do a great job at sharing, you said you share some of the information you gather with groups like WRO. Do you share and make it available to other agencies?

A-Yes, it's all on our website and we get calls from other agencies all the time.

Ernest McFadden – Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers

Our mission is to recruit, mentor, and train culturally diverse and economically challenged students from high school through college and place them as effective teachers and committed leaders who strengthen schools and communities. Our program encourages students of color to become teachers. Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers goal is to replicate and expand our 20 years of successful program implementation at the middle and high school levels in the City of White Plains to serve economically challenged students. Our grant request amount is \$15,000.00 to serve a minimum of 20 middle and high school student.

Our recent statistics show 95% of the TSTT student's graduate high school on time. Of the graduating seniors, 96% enrolled in college, and 70% of our TSTT college students successfully complete college, which exceeds the 38% national college graduation rate.

If awarded, the CDBG funding will help us launch TSTT's Youth Leadership Movement (YLM) program under the 2018-19 grant year. Our goals are: to ensure that middle school students successfully transition into high school, to increase the

graduation rate, to improve leadership and character development, to improve pre-college and work readiness experiences and to reinforce the value of service-learning and enrichment activities among middle and high school students.

Q - Stephen Walfish, CDCAC Member - What commitment do you have from White Plains Schools?

A - We met with the superintendent from the White Plains School District and he gave us commitment to work with the City of White Plains Youth Bureau as a partnership.

Q - Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner - Is the White Plains School District providing any funding to support the project?

A - No, Not at this time.

Q - Linda Puoplo, Deputy Commissioner - Where do you get the funding?

A - From other school districts.

Heather Miller and Myrlene Chauvetla - Thomas Slater Center

Our mission is to reach and to serve - outreaching to the community and providing them with direct and indirect services in a safe, secure and nurturing environment. This year we are requesting \$30,000.00 to serve 100 individuals. Each component (Counseling and Referral, Haitian Resource Center, and Senior Drop In Center) services 50 or more clients.

The Slater Center's Counseling and Referral Service has been in operation since the opening of the Center in 1979. Our mandate was to provide the space from which other agencies and organizations would provide services and programs to the residents of White Plains, with a primary outreach to the residents of the Winbrook Public Housing. We were not in the business of running or operating direct services or programs. However, through Counseling and Referral, we would identify missing pieces in how the community was being served.

The Counseling and Referral project will continue to provide critical, turn-key counseling, case management and referral services to individuals and families residing in White Plains. Counseling services are provided at the Slater Center, and clients will be referred to other agencies, organizations and service providers throughout White Plains that specialize in any myriad of services that will address the presenting issues of the client that are not provided directly by the Slater Center. We will also target the Haitian and senior populations with direct services, referral, and advocacy. The Counseling and Referral Services operate Mondays through Fridays, 10-4 p.m. Follow-up appointments are made as needed.

Counseling and Referral

1. Provide the direct counseling and development services identified through the intake process
2. Conduct referral services in house and to organizations that provide specialized services
3. Serve as a resource, clearinghouse and referral-linkage agent to organizations, agencies and services not provided at the Slater Center.

Haitian Resource Center

In its fourth year, the Haitian Resource Center continues to be the only program which addresses the needs of the Haitian community in White Plains and Westchester County at large. The Haitian Resource Center is open Tuesday through Friday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Other hours are available by appointment. Services and activities include: Workshops and informational sessions; celebration of Flag Day; hosting a drive for Haiti; translation services within the White Plains School District; accompanying clients to serve as interpreters.

We are working on telling and showing the rich history of Haiti and its people to counteract the recent negative portrayal of Haiti. The programs are meant to be inclusive, educational, and fun while celebrating Haiti and Haitian People. We will kick off a monthly cable access talk show on February 26th, Sak Pase Haiti.

We are working with the White Plains School District through the Superintendent of Schools to ensure that bullying of Haitian children does not escalate. Haitians and Haitian Americans are not new to the experience of bullying by children and adults alike. We will work with the schools to host an anti-bullying workshop. The Superintendent will bring our request to the school principals to include Haitian books and lessons in the curriculum and/or to hold activities for Haitian Heritage Month.

Haitian Resource Center

1. Provide the underserved Haitian population of White Plains, NY with direct service, advocacy and referrals.

2. Provide and promote cultural and educational activities, programs, seminars and events that foster pride, awareness, and diversity appreciation to the targeted population.

The Senior Drop In Center

Organized a year ago on February 6, 2017 the Senior Drop In Center was as an urgent response to the death of one of our seniors who was found approximately two weeks after falling in her apartment. Slater Center had been addressing the isolation of seniors in our community by hosting quarterly social events to bring them out of their homes to interact with other seniors and to feel good about themselves. With this tragedy, we knew we had to do much more. We needed to bring them out of their homes on a more regular basis, develop a buddy system, provide them with information on senior related and life issues, develop a registration system where we stay in touch with the seniors and have the ability to contact their next of kin. Our registration is now over 120. Even though we have no funding for the program, we provide lunch twice per week, along with workshops, exercise and games. Bingo is key! We do these through the donations from the food pantries, senior volunteers who prepare and serve the meals, monitor the registration desk, and pulling from our meager budget. The seniors, themselves, held a bake sale and bring in donations of paper goods, etc.

The program operates Mondays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday consists of exercise and balance, a presentation by a guest speaker, lunch and games. On Thursdays, there is exercise, TIPS (the blood pressure and other screenings) and lunch.

Senior Drop In Center

1. Provide a warm and welcoming place for seniors who are isolated
2. Provide weekly workshops and activities on issues related to seniors
3. Provide exercise and information on balance twice weekly

The project, though consisting of separate projects, is intertwined in many ways. Clients are counseled and referred to the programs, Haitians attend the Drop In Center, other seniors are learning about the Haitian culture and Haitians are intermingling with other cultures.

Funding from CDBG assists us to continue to provide quality services to our clients and to expand, especially with the new initiatives for the Haitian Resource Center and the new Drop In Center.

Q- Soknan Han Jung- How many Hattians are you serving?

A - Myrlene- 50 with CDBG Funds.

Q- Soknan Han Jung- How do the majority of the people find you?

A - Word of Mouth.

Lorraine Buonocunto - Ecumenical Food Pantry

The Food Panty has grown over the last 36 years to serve over 700 families in the White Plains area. Our mission is to feed the hungry of White Plains and vicinity, the working poor, single parents, senior citizens, children and the disabled. We were established as a volunteer Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry of White Plains in 1979. We received our 501C-3 on December 18, 1986 and provide food for people to take home and cook for themselves and their families. We continue to serve senior citizens, single parents with families, the handicapped or disabled, people whose ages range from infants to ninety plus years and clients of all ethnic groups. We provide our clients with bags of food with which they can prepare varied and nutritious meals for themselves and their families. We also provide clothing, shoes, books, toys, and household items which have been donated. Each client receives enough food to feed every member of the family three meals a day, for five days.

On Wednesdays, we pick up food donated by the White Plains Farmers' Market. On Thursday mornings, we pack bags of staples according to family size. We pick up donations from Walmart, Whole Foods, and Panera Bread, sort and bag these, and donations from the Farmer's Market. Our workers unload our purchases from the Food Bank for Westchester truck. We sort and shelve food donations from individuals, and various organizations. Every other Thursday, we pack and deliver bags of food to our homebound clients. On Fridays at 7 AM, we set up the room, and display donated clothing and other items. We interview each first time client, checking their credentials for eligibility, and recording this information. Each client is given a bag of staples according to family size, and may choose clothing, shoes, books, toys, and household items. We fill and distribute supplemental bags with fresh fruit and vegetables, meat or fish, bread, cakes, cookies, chips, milk, juice, coffee and tea as available. At the end of each day, everything is moved into our storage room.

All the activities are run by 42 volunteers and the distribution center is located at the Slater Center and 100% of our goal and objective is to provide nutritious food to any White Plains resident who needs it.

Since hunger is ongoing, our project, by necessity is also ongoing. We try to meet the needs of each group, taking their age and dietary restrictions into account. We give each child food appropriate to their age and health situation.

Our other funding sources do not provide us with enough revenue to provide food to all who look to us for assistance, and pay for all the associated expenses incurred. CDBG funds will allow the program to expand or be enhanced.

Patti Wade Dozier – Passage to Excellence After School Program

Passage to Excellence is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit corporation whose purpose is to provide educational services and resources to meet the social, economic and educational needs of families within extremely low and low/moderate area community. It is dedicated to educating and developing lives for the future and strengthening families and the community. The major goal of our after school project is to enhance and extend our participant's learning outcomes. We will enhance and extend the children's learning outcomes by engaging in daily self-regulation processes critical to the development of effective homework skills.

We're requesting \$10,000 to serve boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 12 years old and entering 1st through 6th grade in the current school year. Our proposed project will provide a five week summer enrichment program for 25 extremely low and low/moderate income children who reside in Winbrook Public Housing and the surrounding area. Our population will be very diverse and representative of African American, Haitian and Hispanic community members, and other children who reside in extremely low and low/moderate income housing having difficulty accessing other summer enrichment programs.

Weekly we walk to the City of White Plains Kittrell Park to use the park recreational facility. These trips serve not only as a vehicle for fun but as a vehicle to demonstrate and improve our interaction skills with each other and within a larger recreational environment where the children come in to contact with other children from and out of the neighborhood. Our organization will also partner with the White Plains Public Library located within close walking distance to our program. Participation in library activities enables our students to learn how to use library resources, receive library cards so they can check out and return books and participate in story telling activities. The library books and storytelling serve to inform and develop written expression activities within the program. Participating in the Barnes and Noble Summer Reading Program serves as incentive for our students to read daily, develop comprehension and writing skills culminating in an enthusiastic walking trip to the store where our students proudly turn in the list of books read with a brief summary and choose a free book to add to their developing libraries. Our collaboration and partnering will provide educational support and opportunities for personal growth, development and sharing of community resources.

CDBG funding would allow us to better address priorities, serve our clientele and enhance our project availability. Each year our Board works tirelessly to raise funds to support not only our Summer Enrichment Program but also our After School Program, both targeting populations identified in the City's Five Year Plan. Not receiving CDBG funding would compromise our ability to continue to provide the programming and resources to our students, their families and the greater neighborhood whose lives are also enriched by our project and programs. Without CDBG funding we would have to reduce our number of participants as we would lack adequate funding to provide for the proposed number of participants.

The Public Hearing concluded at 9:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Corina Peralta
CD Assistant