PRIDE
COMMUNITY
SERVICES
ORGANIZATION

Response to Clarification Request for 2020 ESR Grant Applications

Organization: Lexington Gay Services Organization d/b/a Pride Community Services Organization

Program: PCSO Food Programs – People's Pantry and SIP

1. Is your proposal still viable for implementation as originally submitted?
Our proposal is still largely viable as submitted. We have made and will continue to make some simple operating changes that will allow for program delivery and community impact while ensuring safety measures in the face of COVID-19.

2. Please detail any modifications you will be making to the original submission in order to comply with the new service delivery requirements in the COVID- 19 environment? (i.e. social distancing, capacity requirements, group event restrictions, etc.)

- To ensure safe social distancing, we no longer allow food pantry clients to enter the pantry during the PCSO's open hours to shop and select their own food. Instead we prepackage boxes that are available for pick-up or delivery once every week on Wednesdays. This limits the number of people in the building at one time and allows us to control disinfecting and cleanliness of the facilities. All food pantry staff and volunteers are required to maintain 6' social distancing, to wear masks, and to wear gloves and engage in frequent hand washing and disinfecting. Food pantry clients are still able to indicate food preferences and restrictions, so they have a choice in the type of food they receive.

  We have found this model to be very effective and efficient in delivering food. We expect that we will continue this streamlined model of one day per week pick up and delivery through the end of August at the soonest earliest and then will explore a hybrid model that will allow more days for service delivery and more choice for pantry clients.

- Demand for food through the PCSO's Peoples Market Food pantry has more than doubled since the onset of the pandemic. Previously we served an average of 10 households per week, and now we are serving an average of 25 households each week. We have been able to meet this demand through private donations that have allowed us to purchase food from God's Pantry, invoice waivers from God's Pantry covered by grant funds and new partnerships with Nourish Lexington, and UK Research Farms to provide donated foods. We anticipate that need will continue to increase as financial results from the pandemic continue to be felt

throughout the coming year. We conservatively estimate that a minimum of 250 people will participate in this program, up from our original estimate of 100 people. This will impact the amount and cost of food needed.

- Other planned in person delivery components of our proposal will be converted to virtual, one-on-one, or small group activities. Educational nutrition workshops will be provided virtually until in person group events can meet safely. Client counseling and assistance will be provided either virtually or one-on-one with PPP and social distancing in place. Monthly SIP dinners have been postponed and a new model is being explored to offer prepared meals more frequently in smaller group settings rather than a buffet for a large group. SIP meetings may also take place virtually with food delivered to attendee's homes.

- Staffing has changed slightly. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PCSO's VISTA Service Member was able to elect to take an emergency leave. When the national VISTA office required members to return from leave our Service Member felt that because of health issues, he was not able to return to service with us. Unfortunately, the program has not been able to make a new placement with us at this time. Currently, community volunteers are covering the hours needed to operate the program and the PCSO will explore a new VISTA placement for the fall.

3. *Will these new modifications increase or decrease your proposed budget? Please detail any increases or decreases to your proposed budget including additional costs and/or other secured funding.*

Overall, modifications will increase the proposed budget. However, PCSO will be able to implement the program with no change to the request in ESR funding. We have developed additional partnerships for supplying needed food for the program, which accounts for most of the change.

Specific changes are detailed below:

Under "Operating Expenses" donated food costs have increased from $53,040 to $88,400 for a total increase of $35,360. This increased cost will be covered by new partners who will make food donations to the pantry. Partners will include God's Pantry, UK Agricultural Programs, Nourish Lexington, and local CSAs among other sources. No ESR funds have been requested to cover this increase.

As the PCSO is uncertain about whether we will have an Americorps VISTA member for the fall we have removed this cost from Scholarships and Stipends, reducing the amount from $1,020 to $0 for a total decrease of $1,020. This cost was attributed to Non-ESR funds. This work will be undertaken by existing staff, volunteers, and board members if a new Americorps VISTA member is not assigned.

The new total budget for the program is $121,550 including $30,450 requested in ESR funding. This represents a total budget increase of $34,340. Increase will be covered by non-ESR sources. Total number of estimated program participants has increased from 100 to 250, based on demand we have seen since the COVID-19 pandemic. This makes the new cost per program participant $486.