



**Aging Outside the Walls: Care for Older Adult Exonerated Survivors of Death Row
March 2022 Application**

Has the identified problem changed?

The identified problem has not changed. Witness to Innocence (WTI) seeks to serve between 22 and 25 death row exonerees who are over the age of 60. This program will supplement the DREAMS programs work to help address the lasting economic, physical, emotional, and social effects of incarceration on death row survivors through a focused effort on older adults.

The needs of our older adult members are changing as they age. Some exonerees are supporting spouses with age-related challenges and more are undergoing such changes themselves, for example, one long-time member who lives alone has been newly diagnosed with dementia.

Have your solution or goals changed? Our solution and goals have not changed.

Peer support provides validation and practical understanding of the issues faced by death row exonerees. Coupled with consistency of social services, we have found it to be the best way to help death row survivors overcome trust issues and connect to the resources they need.

Will your efforts/actions to impact the problem change? Describe.

This year, we will be adding a Family Peer Specialist to our social work team. The position is being funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT). They will assist exoneree family members, including those of the older adult exonerees who represent about half of those we serve.

We also seek to increase our skills in supporting death row exonerees experiencing dementia, death row exonerees caring for family members with dementia, and family members caring for exonerees. The Director of Social Work and Older Adult Peer Specialist will receive training for dementia support to improve our skills and resources.

The Director of Social Work, Cara Kovalovich, is being considered for a board position with The Innocence Network. This will strengthen our relationships with other Innocence Network organizations and expand the intellectual resources available to our members.

Are there changes in funding or program implementation partners?

As mentioned above, the UNVFVT has increased our funding for 2022 to include the Family Peer Specialist. We did not receive a hoped-for grant from one funder and we hope to make up for that through targeted fundraising for exoneree support. We are currently learning more about future funding from our largest supporter, the European Commission and while we are very optimistic about their commitment to continued support of our



work, we have been made aware that there will likely be several months gap in early 2023. That funding covers Peer Specialist and Peer Organizer salaries as well as many administrative and overhead costs. We are seeking other funding to cover any gaps and have asked for an increase in funding through Friends Foundation for the Aging to help us sustain the older adult services, specifically for a pro-rated amount for the work our Peer Organizer does in engaging older adult members. Another change that may be coming from the European Commission is that we may be working within a global coalition, while still focusing on our region and existing work. We look forward to sharing our model of support and care with other organizations worldwide should this come to fruition.

How will you know if your actions are having an impact?

The DREAMS program team will utilize clinical documentation to monitor activities, and evaluate impact based on limited qualitative self-report data. Units of contact are documented in encrypted, digital charts noting type of contact, date, and a summary of the content of the conversation or meeting. This data is typically only used internally or reported out for funding purposes but has occasionally been used by legal teams working on behalf of the victims to demonstrate positive progress and bolster cases for financial compensation post-release. The increase in our exonerees' abilities to connect digitally will hopefully allow us to gather additional data and develop a more accurate measure of success. While we are still challenged by limitations in our ability to collect data from our population, we are working toward solutions that will be of benefit to other exonerees and survivors of the criminal justice system.

How will you sustain the program after the grant period?

The UNVFVT has committed funding that covers the Director of Social Work salary and some social work travel until the end of 2022. Because of our long-term relationship with the UN, we are optimistic that they will continue to fund this work beyond 2022. WTI has stable funding. The European Commission (EC) has approved funding for WTI until mid-December 14, 2022 and we will be applying for another three-year grant that would begin in 2023. Recognizing that the work of exonerees in their advocacy against the death penalty is intertwined with their well-being, the EC grant also covers some DREAMS program expenses, specifically the Annual Gathering and Peer Specialist salaries. WTI will continue to seek funding from individual supporters and other sources for this work. Further, our advocacy work for criminal legal reform such as fair compensation for exonerees and government programs to address their needs will lessen the need for our support in the long term.

A project budget and amount of request- Attached.



Budget : Care for Older Adult Exonerated Survivors of Death Row- 2022 Grant Application FFA				
	Grant Request - Friends Foundation for the Aging	Other Revenue Sources Projected	Project Total Projected	Notes
Full Time Older Adult Peer Specialist Salary and Benefits	\$32,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$51,000.00	Estimated through FY 22. Added medicare supplemental insurance - underestimated taxes. EC increased funding for their portion of all Peer Specialists, allowing for more hours
Peer Specialist Hours (prorated Peer Organizer for this Project)	\$2,000.00	\$15,450.00	\$17,450.00	Commission covers about \$45,000/year/total for Peer Specialists (varies according to exchange rate). The addition of the 2000 requested in this grant would help us to
Family Peer Specialist January 1-June 30 2022, 25% time to older adult families		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Funding confirmed but not yet received- working on hiring, we estimate that at least 25% of their time will be for older adult family caregivers.
Director of Social Work - Training/Supervision Social Work Staff		\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Pro rated amount of salary and benefits to this project, covered by UNVFVT through 2022, application pending for 2023.
Travel- Older Adult Exonerees to Care	\$600.00		\$600.00	Not used so far in FY 22, but important if needed
Office Space/Administrative Overhead Cost		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	250/month Covered under EC grant.
Social Work Team Travel	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	Significant cost increases, and hope to be able to organize in-person training
Exoneree Direct Emergency Expenses		\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	estimated- pro-rated for older adults
Equipment/WiF/Etc & Training		\$700.00	\$700.00	Most outfitted already, some budget for new exonerees, replacements needed, etc.
Training for Dementia, PTSD for approximately 6 staff	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	Director of Social Work, Older Adult Peer Specialist, Possibly Family Peer Specialist
	Total Request		Project Total	
	Friends Foundation	Total Other Sources	Projected	
	\$40,600.00	\$88,150.00	\$128,750.00	

Notes on other sources of income: The UNVFVT has committed funding that covers the Director of Social Work salary, Family Peer Specialist and some social work travel until the end of 2022 and we have applied for 2023. WTI has a long-term relationship with the UN and we are optimistic that they will continue to fund this work. WTI as a whole has had stable funding. However, we are at the end of our three-year grant with the European Commission and have been made aware that there will likely be a gap before funding comes in 2023. Funding, as always, is subject to approval. The European Commission (EC) has approved funding for WTI of approximately \$500,000/year for the period December 15, 2019 to December 14, 2022 (the amount is subject to the currency exchange rate). The EC grant primarily covers advocacy work including most staff salaries, exoneree travel for speaking, honoraria, communications as well as rent and most administrative costs. Recognizing that the work of exonerees in their advocacy against the death penalty is intertwined with their well-being, the EC grant also covers some DREAMS program expenses, specifically the Annual Gathering and Peer Specialist salaries. Private donors and unrestricted funds will be used to cover exoneree emergency expenses. We will apply again to other sources, such as SC Ministry, for 2023.