



August 5, 2022

Susan W. Hoskins, LCSW  
Friends Foundation for the Aging (FFA)  
P.O. Box 1081  
Langhorne, PA 19047

Dear Susan:

Jewish Family Service of Atlantic County (JFS) requests \$30,000 to help Atlantic County older adults retain stable housing by launching new supportive housing case management services dedicated to serving community members aged 65+.

**Need/Target Population:** Older adults' changing circumstances as they age can undermine housing stability. They may be unable to keep up with rising cost of living on a fixed income; have new or increased health challenges, mobility limitations, or behavioral health concerns; or lose critical social support, such as when a spouse passes on or a younger family member moves away – all of which can change their housing needs or ability to pay housing costs. With funding from the Atlantic County Area Agency on Aging (AAA), JFS successfully provides older adults with short-term services to find, apply for, and obtain new housing that is more affordable and better suited to their needs. Through this work, however, JFS has identified an unmet need for additional services that go beyond receiving the keys to a new home. JFS estimates that roughly one out of three older adults who are referred to or served by the AAA-funded project need more intensive and/or longer-term services to successfully retain new or existing housing.

**Solution:** FFA funding will enable JFS to expand its work to newly offer supportive housing case management services that ensure older adults can stay sustainably housed – providing the financial, health care, aging-in-place, and social supports needed for long-term housing stability.

**Actions/Activities:** Services funded by FFA will include: 1) assessing financial standing and exploring ways to help older adults keep up with housing costs, such as public benefits, financing options, or improved health care coverage; 2) assisting with settling in and establishing sustainable routines and methods for meeting basic needs and sustaining well-being; 3) setting up needed services, such as transportation, grocery/meal delivery, or in-home health care; and 4) linking older adults to social activities or organizations to support community integration.

**Implementation & Funding Partners:** This project is housed in JFS' Atlantic Homeless Alliance (AHA), which leads the countywide Coordinated Entry system serving people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Referral and service partners will include the Atlantic County Board of Social Services; AtlantiCare HealthPlex; Atlantic City Housing Authority; and more. FFA funding will leverage existing AAA funding, enabling JFS to make whole the funds needed to cover a full-time housing case manager dedicated to older adults. The total budget is \$80,000, inclusive of 1 FTE of staff time, client assistance funds, and related program expenses.

**Impact:** Over 12 months, JFS will serve a total of 75 unduplicated older adults between the complementary housing services funded by the AAA and FFA. Of the total, 25 will receive FFA-funded supportive housing case management for 90 days. 95% of those served will retain housing for at least 90 days. After one year, 90% will have avoided eviction or homelessness.

**Competence:** JFS has served older adults since its founding over 100 years ago. Today, its older adult services include support for housing, mental health, health care access, and aging-in-place. Furthermore, because AHA is the countywide “front door” to housing services, this project is uniquely positioned to reach and serve housing-insecure older adults.

Sincerely,

Andrea Steinberg, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer  
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