



## **Executive Summary - amount requested, brief summary of problem, your proposed solution and plan.**

Center in the Park (CIP) promotes positive aging and fosters community connections for older adults whose voices are critical instruments in shaping its activities and direction. CIP respectfully requests a grant of \$30,000 to create an in-home services pilot program to help older adults age 60+ maintain their independence in the community. This pilot program, modeled after the recently ended In-Home Support Program, a program CIP delivered for 26 years, will help individuals age 60+ “get back on their feet” and remain independent in their homes through the provision of tailored information and quality referrals, assistance in applying for benefits and aging service programs, and brief service interventions such as home support and adaptive equipment.

### **Project Details**

#### **1. Amount of grant request.**

Center in the Park (CIP) respectfully requests \$30,000 for a pilot program offering in-home services to residents of Northwest Philadelphia who are age 60+.

#### **2. What is the problem you have identified? Who will be served?**

Due to recent changes in the Pennsylvania Department of Aging’s (PDA) Intra-state Funding Formula, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA), CIP’s major funder, is suffering a \$3.5 million per year loss in funding. This, compounded by other challenges, led to PCA’s decision to discontinue the IHSP city-wide.

Philadelphia is one of the poorest of the largest cities in the country, with over 24% of its residents living in poverty. Though there are home and community-based services available for those in need of long-term care, those programs have challenging enrollment processes and documentation requirements and, in our experience, many older adults who could benefit from those programs decline to participate, daunted by the complex application process. Those who needed only short-term interventions to help them regain independence benefited greatly from the brief services provided through the previously active IHSP at CIP. The loss of this program creates a gap in crucial services to aiding individuals 60+ to “get back on their feet” and continue to remain safely in the community, underscoring the urgent need to renew a version of the In-Home Program Support. CIP is keenly aware that the loss of this program negatively impacts the health and safety of the older adults we serve in our community.

This pilot program will provide information, referral, and services to 100 clients, residents 60+ in Northwest Philadelphia, fostering their ability to remain safely in their own homes rather than transitioning into a long-term care facility. This sudden loss in 2022 of the IHSP creates a service gap: many are not eligible for long-term care services and many more are overwhelmed by the application and assessment process and choose instead to go without needed services. Without our pilot, many older adults will go without needed services, compromising their safety and possibly losing their independence.

#### **3. What is the solution you propose to address the problem?**

CIP will address this gap with an IHSP pilot offering hands-on assistance with long-term care applications, guidance through the referral processes for other benefits and entitlements, and

when possible, assistance with temporary home support such as cleaning services and personal care assistance. There is a dearth of programs providing this support. We are confident our pilot will improve the safety, well-being, and quality of life for older adults in our community. CIP is a trusted provider and remains committed to supporting Northwest Philadelphia's older adults and in the coming months as we endeavor to service at least 100 individuals. We expect our pilot will prevent the occasion of many individuals age 60+ from needing long-term care. **Therefore, we believe there is urgency to provide this crucial intervention to help older adults through a short-term period when the need for support is timely and critical to quality of life, safety, and independence.**

#### 4. What actions will you take?

Primary support for our clients will be navigating participants through what can be a confusing bureaucracy of applications and referral processes. With the former IHSP as a guide, CIP's Director of Social Services and Housing will create the parameters of the program, intake and assessment protocols and documentation, hiring and supervision of the In-Home Services Outreach Worker, and gathering of outcomes data; the full-time Director will dedicate 40% of their time to this program. A Part-Time Outreach Worker will receive calls and referrals from internal sources (CIP's Center Counselor, Housing Counselors, Energy Assistance Coordinator) as well as existing external referral sources. We will conduct an intake over the phone and determine what information and services the caller may need. In some cases, we may provide information and referrals only. In other cases, we will conduct an assessment, determine what needs exist and provide either assistance navigating Aging programs and services, or arrange for brief interventions depending on client needs. Additional planning and administrative support will be provided by the staff Leadership Team including the Executive Director, who has extensive experience in providing in-home supportive service programs.

Financial assistance for brief services and emergency needs will be available and participants will be prioritized based on need and availability of funding. The need for emergency assistance is determined through the assessment processes of CIP's social services programs, and conducted either in-person, or remotely either by phone or Zoom. When a need for emergency assistance is determined and approved by a supervisor, CIP coordinates the appropriate services with the vendor directly. All requests for emergency assistance require the following:

- 1) an assessment of the older adult's situation by social services staff;
- 2) supervisory review to determine if all other potential resources/solutions have been exhausted; and,
- 3) final approval from the Director of Social Services & Housing.

CIP has long been able to assist older adults age 60+ in Northwest Philadelphia who do not fit into the stringent guidelines of existing programs. CIP's emergency assistance funds are often a last resort to prevent shut-off or reinstate utility services for older adults, and to prevent a client from falling into rental eviction or mortgage delinquency status. Emergency Assistance funds will also be used for necessities such as replacement of essential broken appliances, small home repairs, and items such as dentures, hearing aids, and eyeglasses that are not covered, or only partially covered, by insurance. All of these are critical to enabling the vulnerable older adults we serve to maintain their independence.

CIP will provide information, referral, and follow-up regardless of age or financial means. In some cases, older adults and their families may be able to private pay for services but are unsure of how to set them up and wish only to have reputable referrals. In this case we will explain various programs and their criteria, provide referrals to agencies CIP has worked with in the past, and help to coordinate, if needed. For those who are at or below 200% of the poverty level (\$27,465 individual, \$36,620 for a couple), we can offer assistance such as adaptive equipment, incontinence products, minor home repairs, short-term personal care assistance, short-term homemaker services, assistance with emergency heating oil and/or assistance with utility shut-off and reconnection. In all cases, we will work with clients to identify all outside resources, many of which already exist at CIP (e.g., LIHEAP, UESF, etc.) to minimize the reliance on emergency funds, ensuring we are able to help as many individuals as possible in a meaningful way. A qualifying individual will only be able to access CIP's emergency assistance funds received through the Foundation once per year and the amount will not exceed \$500. Grant funds will only be spent when it has been determined that an individual is in a short-term crisis with a clear plan for how they will maintain their status after our one-time grant. We believe our work to support individuals age 60+ further strengthens the overall fabric of Northwest Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

**5. Do you have other partners for implementation or funding?**

We will use grants received from other funders including Impact 100, Foundation for Health Equity (formerly Green Tree Community Health Foundation), and other diverse, unrestricted funding from individual donors to help with sustainability. In addition, we intend to explore the possibility of Medicare reimbursement for the services.

Regarding vendors with whom CIP might partner, we are exploring Marx Medical for adaptive equipment and incontinence products, a company we have worked with successfully for many years. We will continue to work with Always Best Care for personal care and home support. We would work with other trusted contractors, with whom we have positive experiences, such as Reliable Plumbing and Habitat for Humanity. We will partner with other well-known to CIP vendors as needed, drawing on the additional trusted pool of professionals that CIP collaborated during our more than 26 years administering the In-Home Support Program.

**6. How will you know your actions are having an impact?**

All Program participants will be tracked, noting what services were provided and participants will be contacted after service completion to ensure satisfaction. We will follow-up with clients after we have rendered a service including providing an information referral, safety grab bars, and home care, etc., to gauge their satisfaction and whether CIP's provided service aided them in living more safely and independently within the community. Data collected will include the number of people transitioning into desired long-term care options as well as the number of people who were able to remain in their own homes, preventing nursing home placement. We will also track the number of people for whom we provide short-term services and how these services improved their lives and helped them maintain their independence. Our focus is keeping older adults safe and secure in their own homes.

**7. Brief statement of organization history and competence for this project.**

Center in the Park (CIP) is a nationally accredited nonprofit senior community center located in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. Coined as a "Gem in Germantown," CIP has

a 54-year history as an anchor in the community through which we continue to realize our mission: **“to promote positive aging and foster community connections for older adults whose voices are critical instruments in shaping its activities and direction.”** CIP operates with an annual budget of just over \$2 million, 23 dedicated staff, a 14-member Board of Directors, and over 100 volunteers.

For 26 years CIP annually helped hundreds of older adults to navigate the complex Aging Services system. Our staff provided hands-on care and assistance with home safety to those who needed extra support to regain independence.

**8. Please also address how your organization is addressing DEI and how the project aligns with FFA values.**

After reviewing the mission, vision, and goals of the Friends Foundation for the Aging, we believe our project is very much aligned with the Foundation’s values, particularly related to serving diverse populations, creating change, collaboration, and integrated approaches that involve staff and participants. CIP serves Northwest Philadelphia’s older adults and our previous demographics for the IHSP were consistent year over year, with 69% identifying as women; 31% as men, 81% were African American; 17% white; 2% other races. We expect these demographics will be the same in the new pilot program. CIP intends to reach a total of 100 unduplicated older adults age 60+. Additionally, the diversity found within CIP’s staff leadership team and board of directors reflects the community we serve.

**9. Include a program budget.**

*Please see attached*

**10. Attach copies of your IRS determination letter. We may also look at your website, your Guidestar profile, and your IRS nonprofit status.**

- *Please see the attached IRS determination letter.*
- *Our website is <https://centerintheparkphila.org/>.*
- *Our Guidestar profile where we earned Candid’s 2022 Platinum Level for Transparency is found here: <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/23-1919016>*



**In-Home Support Program at CIP  
Project Budget**

Budget Category	Justification	Friends Foundation for the Aging	In-Kind
<b>Personnel</b>			
In-Home Services Outreach Worker	25% of salary and fringe for In-Home Services Outreach Worker	\$6,448	
Executive Director (project oversight)	2.5% effort for program design and oversight	\$2,625	
Director of Social Services and Housing	25% of salary and fringe for Director for program design, oversight, outputs and outcomes evaluation	\$13,427	
<b>Emergency Assistance</b>			
Emergency Assistance Funds for those in need as identified through the pilot program	Adaptive equipment, personal care, home support, utility assistance	\$7,500	
<b>Training</b>			
Staff Training	Seasoned former In-Home Support Program Outreach Social Worker is staffing the pilot. Her ongoing training and professional enhancement is In-Kind.		\$0
<b>Other Costs</b>			
Travel for home visits and meetings	\$0.55 per mile reimbursement		250
Overhead (Administration, IT, Utilities, Accounting, Maintenance)	10% of project budget (in-kind)		\$2,125
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$2,125</b>

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In reply refer to: 0248188029  
Mar. 09, 2018 LTR 4168C 0  
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CENTER IN THE PARK INC  
5818 GERMANTOWN AVE  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19144



006337

Employer ID Number: 23-1919016  
Form 990 required: YES

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your request dated Feb. 28, 2018, regarding your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in September 1974, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

Our records also indicate you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If a return is required, you must file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. IRC Section 6033(j) provides that, if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked on the filing due date of the third required return or notice.

For tax forms, instructions, and publications, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 1-877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time).