

FFA Request for 2nd year grant from YSOP

- Has the identified problem changed?

We see the same challenges now as last year. YSOP Connex facilitates group conversations and service projects between young people and seniors. YSOP created the Connex program in direct response to the isolation many faced during the pandemic. Both seniors and youth needed a sense of connectedness and community during the pandemic. Even though our society is gradually returning to pre pandemic activity, we see a continuing need for intergenerational activities.

- Have your solution or goals changed?

Originally, YSOP Connex outlined two main goals: Youth, with limited options for service activities due to the pandemic, could participate in outreach to a community that was one of the most affected by COVID-19; Seniors, with reduced connection, could socialize and help young people cope with the challenges from the pandemic. As the program evolved, our goals evolved. From the beginning the program demonstrated benefits for both students and seniors. Students talked to people with a range of experiences and interests beyond their immediate communities. Seniors passed along their experience and advice. We discovered both groups were mutually engaged in the program experience, providing a service to each other. Youth and seniors now come to the program with the expectation that Connex provides a safe, shared space for intergenerational participants to share their thoughts and feelings and learn from each other. We feel that crossing generational lines provides invaluable access to new perspectives and knowledge that we have seen can change lives in small and unexpected ways.

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

Our efforts will continue to foster intergenerational connections and community through Connex virtual and in-person program formats. We will remain flexible to adjust our specific programs as conditions change, especially as our society copes with the challenges of COVID variations. We will especially focus on engaging small groups of seniors and youth from underserved communities in the NY/PA/NJ area. We plan to offer more in-person Connex programs next year as people are more comfortable gathering in person. These in-person activities may include making birthday celebration boxes and no-sew blankets for children living in shelters. We will seek to hold the in-person programs in senior centers.

A FFA grant will allow us to hold 30 virtual (90 sessions) and 24 in person programs over the course of the grant cycle. Staff time will also be used for program planning – participant outreach and recruitment, marketing, and program evaluation. We will also spend a significant amount of time sharing the results of our Connex work with our network of schools and youth groups as well as senior centers and programs.

We will hold our annual workshop with Connex senior participants to gain valuable feedback about the program. During our previous two workshops we were able to create a series of new conversation topics and program formats.

- Are there changes in funding or program implementation partners?

We do want to continue to broaden financial support for Connex. We do not think trying to charge fees for our virtual programs will yield much. However, we will seek funds for our in-person intergeneration service projects from local businesses or organizations and schools. We will continue our requests for government support as described in our report on the FFA grant.

We want to continue the partnerships we have formed and expand them. We will expand the network of schools sending participants by reengaging schools that participated in YSOP in the past. We also will continue expanding our work with seniors to involve more lower income groups through senior centers that have computer access for their participants and places to hold in person service projects.

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

We will continue to evaluate our programs through surveys of participants, both youth and seniors, after they have participated in our virtual or in person projects. We will also seek feedback on the projects from school teachers and administrators as well as senior program professional staff.

- How will you sustain the program after the grant period?

We give sustaining the project our highest priority. We are seeking a divers funding stream to give us broad support. As described in our FFA report on the first year grant we are cultivating government sources to continue that area of support; continuing to appeal to our existing donors and seek new supporters; seeking local support for our in-person service projects; and where appropriate asking schools or youth organizations to contribute as they participate in our work.

- A project budget and amount of request.

See attached.

**Friends Foundation for the Aging Funding Proposal
YSOP January 2023-December 2023**

Item	Description	Amount
Program participant outreach, recruitment, coordination, planning and evaluation	senior staff @ \$50/hr. staff @ \$30/hr.	8500
Connex in person program staff Facilitators	1 staff/program @ \$150/program, 24 programs	7200
Connex Virtual program staff Facilitators	1 staff/program @ \$150 x 30 programs (90 virtual sessions)	4500
Staff Development	Staff trainings and monthly meetings, \$25/staff x 6 staff	1800
Supplies for in person service programs	materials for no sew blankets,celebration boxes for children, seniors and single mothers	3600
YSOP T shirts for participants in person programs		500
Travel		650
Copying, printing		300
Office supplies		100
Postage		150
Zoom service		600
Insurance		2000
Misc		100
Total		30000