

Friends Foundation for the Aging
Year-end Report & Reapplication Proposal Form

(limit 3 pages)

Date: September 13, 2024

Organization: Jewish Family Service of Atlantic & Cape May Counties

TIN & Formal organization name: 22-2119902, Jewish Family Service of Atlantic County, Inc.

Contact name, phone, email: Andrea Steinberg, CEO
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Amount requested: \$30,000

Project title: Supportive Housing Case Management

Please answer the following questions clearly and concisely:

1. What is the problem you identified? Has it changed?

This project helps older adults overcome barriers to long-term housing stability related to living independently, connecting to medical and mental health care, staying socially engaged, and mitigating financial constraints. The root problem has not changed but the staff do report seeing clients with more complicated medical needs to manage at the same time they are dealing with a housing stability crisis.

2. What actions did you take to address the problem?

JFS continued to implement its supportive housing case management services for a subset of older adult clients who initially receive short term housing navigation services. The housing crisis continues nationally and in the Atlantic City area with a negative impact on the ability of older adults to age in place.

To address each individual's needs, our case manager utilized a variety of interventions to increase housing stability. They assisted clients in applying for "senior housing", Medicaid Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS), and Assisted Living. Understanding that increasing social networks can help all of a client's aging in place related goals, the case manager connected clients to social supports like senior centers, community group, and Adult Day Health programs.

Additionally, clients were assisted to obtain other resources that result in minimizing household expenses; these resources are a game changer in stabilizing a current housing situation for those who are awaiting the availability of more affordable housing options. In assisting clients to reduce expenses, we frequently connected them to utility assistance and SNAP; walking them through the process from the initial application to enrollment. A trend to note from the most recent quarter is an increase in clients needing assistance with MLTSS and the Assisted Living application processes. There was also an increase in family reunifications. As clients discussed their housing crisis with the case manager, they identified feeling isolated while living far away from family. These

conversations lead to planning and organizing the supports needed to move closer or into the homes of their loved ones.

3. What did you learn? Will you make any changes in the coming year?

The need for individualized services is the biggest lesson. For example, helping clients with family reunification and relocation to living with them was unexpected. If our case managers were not tuned in to the specific goals and wishes of the client, they may have missed this as an opportunity for finding housing stability and renewed relationships. The plan is to respond to the evolving needs of clients, e.g. family reunification supports.

4. How have you engaged any partners/collaborators in implementation or funding? Have you considered how to sustain the program?

JFS collaborated closely with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and county social service programs to assist with moving expenses, security deposits and rent arrears for those behind in payments. We also established additional relationships with the MLTSS program team and with providers who assist with utility bills. As we prove out this model with current and hopefully renewed support from the Friends Foundation for the Aging, it allows us to prepare an advocacy rationale for our local Area Agency on Aging to increase funding in their housing services category.

5. How do you know your actions had an impact? Please describe those who participated, outputs and outcomes. Stories or photos are welcome.

We know we are having an impact by measuring the short-term stabilization of the housing crises of our clients as well as longer term stabilization such as obtaining a housing payment voucher or a unit in an affordable housing development. The program has served 26 participants since January 2024 with all but one successfully achieving housing stability.

Client story: Dominic was living with his adult daughter for several months before the landlord evicted him for not on the lease agreement. After moving to a homeless shelter in Atlantic City he called the JFS Atlantic Homeless Alliance for help. He was immediately connected to our case manager who guided him through the completion of applications for low-income and senior housing. During this process his health conditions became more complicated resulting in the case manager and Dominic pivoting the plan to an assisted living placement. Dominic moved into the assisted living facility last month with the help of his case manager and he is grateful for the safe and secure long-term housing solution.

6. Is there anything else you would like FFA to know about this project?

Adding case management time to our housing navigation work helps respond in this moment where more and more services require internet access and a printer to apply and finalize enrollment. Along with a barrier to securing internet access and computer equipment, many of the clients we serve find it difficult to navigate online application systems and they report a great appreciation for the help our case manager provides. Noting it would not be possible without the support and equipment the case manager provides.

7. Feedback on your interaction with FFA would be helpful. Are there ways we can help beyond the grant?

JFS appreciates the personal approach of the foundation which included phone check ins and a site visit last year. We also value the engaged support around problem solving the foundation staff provides. We appreciate the demonstrated understanding of the limitations of public funding and the need for policies to better serve the older adults with the lowest incomes and greatest barriers to age in place.

BUDGET:

Friends Foundation for the Aging Budget to Actual FY 2024

	Grant Request	Actual 1/1/24- 8/31/2024
<u>REVENUE:</u>		
Friends Foundation on Aging	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00
Total Revenue	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00

<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Supportive Housing Case Manager	\$18,000.00	\$12,000.00
Salaries & Wages	\$ 18,000.00	\$12,000.00
Taxes and Benefits	\$8,200.00	\$5,466.67
Total Personnel Costs	\$ 26,200.00	\$17,466.67
Program Related Expenses	\$3,800.00	\$2,533.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 30,000.00	\$20,000.00

Friends Foundation for the Aging Budget FY 2025

	Grant Request
<u>REVENUE:</u>	
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Total Revenue	\$30,000.00

<u>EXPENSES:</u>	
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Salaries & Wages	\$18,000.00
Taxes and Benefits	\$8,200.00
Total Personnel Costs	\$26,200.00
Program Related Expenses	\$3,800.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,000.00

Has your 501c3 status changed?

There is no change to the 501c3 status.