

Friends Foundation for the Aging

New Grant Proposal Form

Limit 4 pages

Date: 9/10/24

Organization: Kings Bay YM-YWHA

TIN & Formal organization name: Kings Bay YM-YWHA

Contact name, phone, email: Daniel Zeltser, 347-604-0305

Amount requested: \$50,000

Project title: Voices of Connection: Empowering Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Seniors

Summary Description (maximum 25 words): Kings Bay Y seeks a \$50,000 grant to provide tailored programs for deaf and hearing-impaired seniors, addressing social isolation, accessibility, and fostering community inclusion.

Please answer the following questions clearly and concisely.

1. What is the problem you have identified?

The problem identified is the lack of accessible and tailored programs for older adults who are deaf or hearing impaired. This gap leads to social isolation, reduced access to essential services, and a decreased quality of life. Feedback from the community and observations from staff and partners have highlighted these challenges and the absence of sufficient programs catering to this population.

2. What is the solution you propose to address the problem?

The proposed solution is to build capacity within Kings Bay Y's program to offer tailored social, educational, and recreational activities specifically designed for older adults who are deaf or hearing impaired. The program will include:

- Hiring specialized staff with expertise in working with deaf and hearing-impaired populations.
- Providing sign language interpretation and accessible communication tools.

- Developing programs such as social events, educational workshops, and support groups tailored to this population.
- Partnering with local organizations to offer services like health screenings and legal aid.
- Conducting outreach to ensure that the target population is aware of and can access the program.

This approach will foster inclusion and engagement and improve the quality of life for deaf and hearing-impaired seniors.

3. What actions will you take?

To address the problem, the following actions will be taken:

1. Hire Specialized Staff: Recruit staff with expertise working with deaf and hearing-impaired populations, including sign language interpreters and accessibility specialists.
2. Develop Tailored Programs: Create and implement social events, educational workshops, and support groups designed to engage older adults who are deaf or hearing impaired.
3. Partner with Local Organizations: Collaborate with local deaf advocacy groups, healthcare providers, and agencies such as the NYC Department for the Aging to offer additional services like health screenings, legal aid, and social support.
4. Conduct Outreach: Develop a targeted outreach plan to raise awareness of the program, ensuring that older adults who are deaf or hearing impaired, especially those in low-income or immigrant communities, are informed about and encouraged to participate.

These actions aim to foster social inclusion, improve access to services, and enhance the quality of life for the deaf and hearing-impaired seniors.

4. Describe the population to be served.

The program will serve older adults aged 65 and above who are deaf or hearing impaired. The focus will be on individuals who are socially isolated, low-income, and/or from immigrant backgrounds, particularly those who have limited access to resources and services. Many participants may face additional barriers due to language, economic challenges, or cultural differences, making engaging with existing community services harder. This program will prioritize those needing tailored support to improve their social connectedness, access to essential services, and overall quality of life.

5. Are there partners/collaborators for implementation or funding-who? Has the solution been tried by other organizations?

Yes, Kings Bay Y plans to partner with several key organizations to implement the program and potentially secure funding. These partners may include:

1. Local Deaf Advocacy Groups: Organizations that support the deaf and hearing-impaired community, helping with outreach, program development, and advocacy.
2. NYC Department for the Aging: To collaborate on resources for older adults and to help reach the target population through citywide programs.
3. Healthcare Providers: To offer health screenings, mental health support, and wellness programs for deaf and hearing-impaired seniors.
4. Legal Aid Organizations: To provide resources and support for navigating legal issues, particularly for those from immigrant and low-income backgrounds.

Regarding whether other organizations have tried the solution, Similar programs have been successfully implemented by other organizations serving the deaf and hearing-impaired community. However, Kings Bay Y's approach is unique in its focus on older adults, mainly from immigrant and underserved populations. This program also integrates broader social, educational, and health-focused services, aiming to create a holistic support system tailored to this demographic. Collaboration with local partners and a focus on tailored accessibility features and outreach will help ensure the solution is innovative and responsive to the needs of this population.

6. How will you know your actions are having an impact? How will you measure outputs and outcomes?

We will measure impact through both qualitative and quantitative methods. Outputs will include the number of participants served, the number of programs offered, etc. Outcomes will be measured by participant feedback, improvements in social connectedness, and access to resources. We will also track the long-term impact on participants' quality of life and engagement in community activities.

Include a simple program budget in the same pdf with expected income and expenses (eg. staff, program supplies, travel, etc)

Category	Amount	Description
Staffing	\$35,000	Hiring specialized staff (e.g., sign language interpreters, program coordinators)
Program Supplies & Materials	\$9,000	Equipment, educational materials, and workshop supplies tailored for participants
Outreach and Marketing	\$6,000	Outreach efforts to target the population, including advertising and materials

Total: \$50,000

Attach a copy of your IRS determination letter. We may also look at your website, your Guidestar (Candid) profile and your IRS Pub 78 non-profit status or plan a site visit. Please make sure these are up-to-date.