# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** NAMI Montgomery County 1 | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Health/Behavioral Health | **Amount Requested:** $15,900 |
| **Project Description:** Provide educational classes, support groups and outreach presentations to individuals living with mental illness in Montgomery County. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Prevalence of mental illness in Montgomery County is documented.<br>• Those living with mental illness are more likely to live below the poverty line, presenting especially great challenges for family/caregivers.<br>• Project contributes to County priorities of healthy and sustainable communities, safe streets and secure neighborhoods, and vital living for all residents; also serves Spanish-speaking residents. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• Established programs provide peer-to-peer 10-week classes, support groups 11 times per month and trained speakers.<br>• Emphasis is on 'lived experience;' program completers are the next generation of program leaders, simultaneously strengthening their resolve while being role models to those in need.<br>• Peer-led program is evidenced-based, thus more likely to lead to desired outcomes. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• The use of program completers as volunteer leaders, support group facilitators and trained speakers, while justified programmatically, actually multiplies program impact.<br>• Outcome evaluation would be strengthened by differentiating outcomes by program and by planned follow-up surveys.<br>• Multiple source funding means that the impact of County funding is magnified. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• A County fixture since 1978, this organization operates with a mix of funding sources and has a new plan for further diversification.<br>• Organization uses evidence-based programs where possible and participates with researchers to evaluate its own programs.<br>• Organization has appropriate relationships with relevant organizations.<br>• Board of directors is diversified and has a number of individuals with business/financial backgrounds. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** NAMI Montgomery County 2 | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Health/Behavioral Health | **Amount Requested:** $19,800 |
| **Project Description:** Provide educational classes, support groups and outreach presentations to family members of individuals living with mental illness in Montgomery County. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Prevalence of mental illness in Montgomery County is documented.
- Those living with mental illness are more likely to live below the poverty line, presenting especially great challenges for families/caregivers.
- Project contributes to county priorities of healthy and sustainable communities, safe streets and secure neighborhoods, and vital living for all residents.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Program is listed on National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- NAMI Homefront is 10 week class for veterans; NAMI Basics is a 6 week class for families and Family-to-Family is a 12 week class.
- Emphasis is on 'lived experience,' program completers are the next generation of program leaders, strengthening resolve while serving as role models.
- Proposal would be stronger if discussed total number of participants served in each program.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The use of program completers as volunteer leaders, support group facilitators and trained speakers, while justified programmatically, actually multiplies program impact at no additional cost to County.
- Outcome evaluations will be strengthened by differentiating outcomes by program and by planned follow up surveys.
- Multiple funding sources mean that the impact of County funding is magnified.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- A County fixture since 1978, this organization operates with a mix of funding sources and has a new plan for further diversification.
- Organization uses evidence-based programs where possible and participates with researchers to evaluate its own programs.
- Organization has appropriate relationships with relevant organizations.
- Board of directors is diversified and has a number of individuals with business/financial backgrounds.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** NAMI Montgomery County 3 | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established/ Health/Behavioral Health | **Amount Requested:** $36,250 |
| **Project Description:** Provide suicide-prevention program, Sources of Strength, and outreach program Ending the Silence, for low-income Montgomery County Public School students. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Suicide is the second leading cause of death among those ages 12 to 17.<br>• It is estimated that 20,963 Montgomery County Public School students live with mental illness, including 9,689 with severe mental disorders.<br>• The County school demand for these programs is on the rise.<br>• Organization plans to expand to schools with highest number of students receiving FARMS. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• Sources of Strength is an evidence-based, peer-led suicide prevention program proven to reduce the prevalence of suicide, bullying, substance abuse and violence in the schools.<br>• Ending the Silence is an interactive presentation in which a recovering young adults share their stories.<br>• Programs are designed to increase student hope and well-being, increase student engagement, and increase student connectedness to peers and adults. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• Program cost can be measured though the benefit is difficult to calculate because clearly reducing suicide is hard to measure.<br>• Appropriate proximate measures are used to assess outcomes of increased hope, engagement and connectedness.<br>• These measures will be improved by dis-aggregating programs and a planned new approach to measuring outcomes more long-term. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• A County fixture since 1978, this organization operates with a mix of funding sources and has a plan for further diversification.<br>• Organization uses evidence-based programs where possible and participates with researchers to evaluate its own programs.<br>• Organization has appropriate relationships with relevant organizations.<br>• Board of directors is diversified and has a number of individuals with business/financial backgrounds. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** National Center for Children and Families 1 | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Children and Families | **Amount Requested:** $32,400 |
| **Project Description:** Betty's House transitional housing for low-income immigrant women and their U.S. born children who are survivors of domestic violence. Request is for child care worker. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Provides safe, stable housing and support to families with children where domestic violence in the family has been identified.
- Serves a very vulnerable population.
- Quality child care is important and consistent child care can allow adults to keep employment and appointments.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Complements other programs such as the Betty Ann Krahnke Center and Montgomery County's Abused Persons Program.
- Important to help mothers with U.S. born children to obtain legal status.
- Funding requested is for a child care worker. The proposal does not describe how child care is being provided now and the hours this worker would be available.
- Outcomes include locating housing, obtaining legal status and employment, and maintaining employment.
- Program is not a part of the Continuum of Care and prioritization process.
- Unclear whether other partnerships or sponsorships were pursued for this specific item.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Program is a partnership of NCCF, Catholic Charities, and Montgomery County.
- Leverages support from other community organizations.
- In FY15, served 12 women and 24 children. Two women received Permanent Residency; two became U.S. Citizens. Two families obtained housing with rental assistance. One family secured housing independently.
- Child care assists in allowing adult to go to work, keep appointments, and attend classes.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Organizations has over 100 years of experience in providing services to youth and families.
- Has a network of programs in Montgomery County, District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.
- Volunteer network includes local high schools and colleges, community organizations, and corporate employee groups.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** National Center for Children and Families 2 | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Needs | **Amount Requested:** $35,000 |
| **Project Description:** Future bound transitional housing, case management, and life skills development for young adults. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Provides housing and support for unaccompanied homeless young adults aged 18 to 24. Often these young adults do not receive appropriate support. Cohort often has children who have aged out of foster care.
- National estimates are that between 11% and 37% of youth aging our of foster care experience homelessness.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Describes the need for housing for the cohort of people.
- Describes the expectations for someone to participate and successfully graduate from the program.
- Outcomes include acquiring stable housing in 12 to 18 months, securing or maintaining employment, savings 30% of their income.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Requested funding is to assist with rent payments.
- Midway through FY16 have served 12 youth, four have transitioned to stable housing within 12 months of entry. Seven of the remaining 8 youth have secured/maintained employment and are saving 30% of income.
- Leverages funding from foundations and community organizations.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Organizations has over 100 years of experience in providing services to youth and families.
- Has a network of programs in Montgomery County, District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.
- Volunteer network includes local high schools and colleges, community organizations, and corporate employee groups.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** National Center for Children and Families 3 | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Needs | **Amount Requested:** $33,000 |
| **Project Description:** Family Stabilization Program for transitional housing and support services for homeless families. | |

**Public Benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Provides housing and support services to homeless families.
- Subsidized apartments for up to 24 months to 35 homeless families in Montgomery County.
- Assists families with employment, healthcare, parent education, mental health services, drug treatment, and child cares assistance.
- Making families self-sufficient and having children in stable housing can help address two-generation poverty and academic achievement.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Funding is for case management services and client assistance.
- Program is always at capacity and serves a continuing need.
- Referrals come from emergency shelters, motels placements, and drug treatment programs.
- Program partners with the Family Justice Center, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Police Department (mentors), MontgomeryWorks, and Mobile Med.
- Proposal could be clearer regarding the need for this specific amount of funding and the impact of its loss on delivery of support services.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Program leverages funding and support from community donations.
- Leverages funding from US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Outcomes include obtaining employment and having employed families reduce their debt by a minimum of 15%.
- In FY15 of 35 families, 19 acquired permanent housing, 25 maintained/obtained employment and 10 of the employed families reduced their debt by at least 15%
- Children who are in stable housing have better educational, health, and social outcomes.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Organizations has over 100 years of experience in providing services to youth and families.
- Has a network of programs in Montgomery County, District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.
- Volunteer network includes local high schools and colleges, community organizations, and corporate employee groups.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** National Center for Children and Families 4 | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $283,000 |
| **Project Description:** Support case management, support, and parent education for homeless families transitioning to stable housing through the Greentree Shelter. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Transitional home for homeless families; primarily children with single mothers.
- Provides trauma specific needs assessments, individualized case planning, integrated case management services including counseling, parent education, life skills, tutoring, substance abuse education, and on-site child care.
- Serves 13 families and a total of 42 individuals at one time.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Extensive list of partnerships with groups like Catholic Charities, Bethesda Cares, Manna Food Center, Women Empowered Against Domestic Violence, National Institutes of Health, and DHHS community-based services.
- Outcomes include families finding stable housing within 12 months of entry, saving 30% of income, and reducing debt by 10%.
- Of 41 families served midway through FY16, 29 families have exited the shelter with 26 of those acquiring stable housing.
- Funding would be used for parent educator, Therapist, residential assistance, and volunteer coordinator.
- Proposal would benefit from additional information on how the additional services help people move from shelter program to permanent housing more quickly which is a goal for shelters in the Continuum of Care.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Leverages funding from Community Foundation, Maryland Department of Education, and community donations.
- Leverages in kind donations including help setting up new households.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Organizations has over 100 years of experience in providing services to youth and families.
- Has a network of programs in Montgomery County, District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.
- Volunteer network includes local high schools and colleges, community organizations, and corporate employee groups.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Nourish Now Foundation, Inc. 1 | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $30,000 |
| **Project Description:** Support for Nourish Now's Family Food Distribution Program, which provides direct food assistance to families and individuals. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Nourish Now's Family Distribution Program currently provides approximately 500 families a 5-day supply of food each month, with a stated goal of growing the number of recipients by 30%. Most of the food is donated through the organization's food recovery program.
- Nourish Now works with 26 social service agencies that refer families for food assistance and has set up satellite distributions with the Housing Opportunities Commission. The organization plans to expand its reach by creating more off-site distribution points, including sites that will serve at-risk seniors.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal clearly describes the impact Nourish Now is making on food insecurity in Montgomery County. The organization stated clear and measureable outcomes that will be impactful for the communities served.
- This is one of two proposals submitted – the second is for the food recovery program. Both applications would be strengthened if there was a clearer delineation of how expenses are allocated to each program, and more detail on collaboration with other agencies and organizations. More detailed financial statements (including a balance sheet) are needed to support the proposal.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Nourish Now effectively leverages public funds to provide donated food that would otherwise go to waste to at-risk families. (see below)

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- In its 5 years of operation, Nourish Now has grown substantially in the breadth of its funding base, its operations and its impact. The majority of the organizations total funding ($323,000) comes from private sources – 33% from foundations, 31% from fundraising events, and 21% from direct public support. Only $20,000 came from MC last year.
- Nourish Now partners with 60 organizations to distribute food to their target populations. It has 7 employees and a large corps of volunteers.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Nourish Now Foundation, Inc. 2 | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $30,000 |
| **Project Description:** Funding for the Food Rescue Program, including support for salary and related expenses for recovery operations. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Nourish Now's Food Rescue Program receives food from approximately 120 donors, which it distributes through its Family Food Distribution (500 families/month) and Organizational Distribution Programs (60).
- Last year it distributed about 248,000 pounds of food, which would otherwise have been wasted.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal clearly describes the impact Nourish Now is making on food insecurity in Montgomery County. The organization stated clear and measureable outcomes that will be impactful for the communities served.
- This is one of two proposals submitted – the second is for the family food distribution program. Both applications would be strengthened if there was a clearer delineation of how expenses are allocated to each program, and more detail on collaboration with other agencies and organizations. More detailed financial statements (including a balance sheet) and a clearer itemization of other sources of funding are needed to support the proposal.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Nourish Now effectively leverages public funds to provide donated food that would otherwise go to waste to at-risk families. (see below)

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- In its 5 years of operation, Nourish Now has grown substantially in the breadth of its funding base, its operations and its impact. The majority of the organizations total funding ($323,000) comes from private sources – 33% from foundations, 31% from fundraising events, and 21% from direct public support. Only $20,000 came from MC last year.
- Nourish Now partners with 60 organizations to distribute food to their target populations. It has 7 employees and a large corps of volunteers.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Olney Help, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $20,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide emergency food and financial assistance for households in the greater Olney area. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Proposal identifies needs and target populations in the Olney area.
- Data around those served is presented but lacks data on Olney area's potential target populations.
- Project justification is clear and compelling.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Could improve definition of outcomes and ways to measure. Follow-up would help and might be something that a college student might undertake as a project.
- Proposal is clear and justifies support.
- Clear budget description and on-going funding sources identified.
- Clear coordination with other nonprofits and government services.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Cost of assistance is worth expenditure. Negative outcomes cost more.
- Benefit to recipient is great.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Organization began in 1969; long track record of providing assistance.
- Has received Executive grant for at least the past 3 years.
- There are no paid dedicated staff; use of volunteers is strong.
- Obvious collaborations to expand efforts.
- Fulfilled 100% of requests in 2015.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Olney Home For Life Inc. | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $17,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide free transportation and Friendly Daily Calls and Weekly Visits to seniors in Olney and surrounding areas. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Anyone age 60+ living in the targeted area qualifies for the free services provided, based on the Village concept of neighbors assisting neighbors
- The target community has approximately 4,000 senior residents including 6.5% with incomes below the poverty level

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal, including outcomes, budget and results achieved to date is clearly presented
- The organization coordinates extensively with other nonprofits and County services including MC Mental Health Association, Olney Library, Jewish Council on Aging, MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, Senior Connection and Village Rides
- The proposal would have been stronger with information on the number of: (i) moderate- to low-income clients served, (ii) clients who donate funds to the organization, (iii) clients to whom rides were provided; and (iv) volunteers working for the organization

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The requested amount is 40% of total Program costs ($42,438)
- 59% of total program costs are for the salary of the Program Manager position added in 2016
- In 2015, the program received and fulfilled 1,152 transportation requests (of these, 90% were related to medical appointments), made 632 Friendly Calls to 5 clients, and piloted a Friendly Visit program of 260 home visits to 5 clients

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project*

- The organization has been successful in obtaining funding from corporations and foundations and expects $13,000 (30% of Program costs) from these sources in 2016. Aside from 2% of costs which are expected to be met from individual donations, the organization is relying on County sources for the remaining 68% funding. The proposal would have been stronger if it included a plan for increasing fundraising from other sources and/or reducing costs.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Organization for Advancement of & Services for Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS) | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $20,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide training and jobs for special needs disabled individuals (e.g., Autism, Asperger's, Down Syndrome). Also, provide educational and recreational activities. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):*

- Proposal states there is a significant need for employment training and structured activities for young adults with developmental disabilities who are aging out of the mandated school services.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):*

- The plan is for an organic sustainable agriculture farm that provides training and jobs to special needs disabled individuals, modeled after similar farms in the County and the US.
- The 14 acre farm is being leased to the organization by one of the organization founders, documented in a recently (March 2016) executed lease arrangement. Whether or not there is ADA compliance in the buildings to be used is unclear.
- There will be after school and weekend activities that provide educational and recreational activities and will at the same time provide respite time for parents and caregivers.
- Stated collaborations with several organizations would be improved by specifics indicating how such collaborations will translate into actual staffed programming at the farm.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):*

- The information available to the review team did not give enough detail to determine the cost effectiveness of the proposal or the impact on recipients relative to cost. The majority of the grant request is to purchase farm equipment for starting the farm and to purchase and install insulation and HVAC in a garage and attic area for participant use.
- The financial strength of the organization needs more clarity based on the limited information available in the application, when considering the operation of a large farm and the proposed project with its attendant activities. Clarity is needed around the organization's finances, such as, an organizational budget, and a projected 2016 budget (the team was originally given a budget to support the acquisition and sale of vegetables). Better financial information would help support an assessment of financial stability of this relatively new organization.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):*

- The organization presents an interesting project vision that will benefit from additional planning and specificity around programming and finances, allowing them to eventually grow into an effective operation. Currently, more clarity around the operation of the organization is needed, such as, how it is staffed, what actual services it will provided, what its true costs of operation are, how they will account for funds received, etc. Obtaining other foundation and grant funds on a consistent basis would be a helpful indicator of organizational stability and promise.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Our House, Inc. | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Economic/Workforce Development; Large Capital | **Amount Requested:** $75,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide vocational and mentoring skills to adjudicated male youth, referred by the Department of Juvenile Services, reducing Maryland's recidivism rate. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):*<br>• Provides vocational training and residential services to youth under court supervision<br>• Positive impact on youth in program<br>• 98% of youths' families are below the poverty line<br>• Serves 50 male youth annually from the District of Columbia and Maryland<br>• Licensed for 16 youth at one time<br>• Unclear the number of youth from Montgomery County though it is the majority | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):*<br>• 76% of graduates are employed<br>• Partners with many Montgomery county nonprofits and agencies<br>• Actual impact of construction on program costs is unclear<br>• Proposal and materials were confusing on purpose of grant funds and financials. Expenses and revenue figures were inconsistent. For example, narrative states donations at 10%, operating budget indicates it's 2%. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):*<br>• 76% of graduates are employed<br>• Reduces recidivism rate, currently at 28%<br>• Proposal would be strengthened by stating what other alternatives exist for these youth and the impact of other arrangements on the youth's outcomes<br>• Unable to determine cost benefit because the information in the proposal and clarification is confusing and not clearly stated. Appears to be request for construction support yet proposal discusses primarily program activities. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):*<br>• Have been located in Montgomery County since 2002<br>• Receives significant funding from the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia on a per diem contract basis. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Passion for Learning, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $16,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide two summer college readiness day camps for low income middle school youth. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*: Giving middle school students' information, and exposing them to the importance of college and how to get ready for it, is important as many college track classes begin in middle school. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*: The outcomes stated were clear and measurable via pre and post surveys. This is laudable given that the camps are meant to create an awareness of the importance of college, which is difficult to measure. It would be interesting if the applicant could somehow track their participants and discover if the involvement in the camps led to being on a college track in middle school by taking advanced classes, etc., but these initial surveys and outcomes do indicate awareness of the importance of measuring the program's work and impact.<br>The proposal would have been stronger if there had been more information on the camps themselves; the time frame, activities, etc., in order to have a better understanding of what the program entails. This information was provided in the applicant interview but should have been more detailed in the application itself. Updated MCPS data (the data used was from 2012) to support the need for the program also would have strengthened the proposal. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*: The program is relatively inexpensive and could have a strong benefit to participants. It is a long-term investment as the real outcomes of the program will not be evident until the participant begins to enroll in middle school and high school classes that put them on a college-bound track. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*: The organization appears to be quite small as far as full-time staff but does appear to have the ability to provide the services outlined using consultants. They have existing arrangements with the sites where the camps will be held, which indicates strong partnerships, and a history of successfully providing these services. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Passion for Learning, Inc. – County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $22,090 |
| **Project Description:** Provide digital technology and high school/college readiness skills for low-income middle school students. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Per Scholas, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Economic/Workforce Development | **Amount Requested:** $40,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide capital support for construction of classroom space to provide tuition-free cyber security training to County unemployed and underemployed veterans. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):*

- Per Scholas provides 8 week, free, "boot camp" style computer training for unemployed and under-employed people.
- Graduates of the program are prepared for entry-level jobs in the high growth cyber security field.
- The majority of Per Scholas' students are under 25 years old, minority and/or female, and are at or below 200% of federal poverty levels.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):*

- Per Scholas has a grant from Symantec to create a dedicated classroom to provide training for 50 un/under-employed veterans. Per Scholas estimates that half of the students will be County residents. It is seeking additional funds to furnish the classroom with office furniture, computers, and lab equipment.
- The proposal would be stronger if it showed funding from the other jurisdictions whose residents would participate in and benefit from the program.
- Additionally, providing information about how Per Scholas plans to sustain the classroom in the future would strengthen the proposal.
- Proposal would be stronger if outcome measurements were clearer.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):*

- Since its establishment in the County in 2014, Per Scholas has served 120 individuals; 86% their graduates have secured employment at an average hourly wage of $18.36.
- Per Scholas training programs are free to students.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):*

- Per Scholas is a national organization; their National Capitol Region is applying for this grant. The program will be available to individuals who live within 70 miles of their classroom in Silver Spring. Per Scholas provides referrals to other agencies that can provide additional services that students may need.
- Over 2 dozen individuals volunteer with Per Scholas serving as guest teachers, providing mock interviews, "lunch & learn" sessions, and soft-skills training.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Poolesville Green , Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Community Development | **Amount Requested:** $5,000 |
| **Project Description:** The program provides environmental education and outreach program and support for the Poolesville Community Garden and PHS Green projects. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• The main focus area of the program is the Electric vehicle education to the people of Poolesville.<br>• The way the larger community benefits from the Electric Vehicle education and information on how conservation and sustainable use of natural resources is used by the community would add useful detail to the proposal. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• The proposal identified areas of services and collaboration. Apart from the Electric Vehicle program which extends to Washington DC, the program is concentrated in Poolesville. Additional information on the Community Garden and the Poolesville High School projects would have given a broader understanding on the grant request. For example, for the community garden, it would be useful to understand the process used to allocate plots to community members. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• The total cost of the program is $9,450 and seeking $5,000 from the county. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• The program is community supported and seeks a relatively small grant of County funds. It is anticipated that as such, the program can survive and continue to grow. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Potomac Community Resources, Inc. | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $50,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide respite care programs for Montgomery County teens and adults with profound to moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- This well-established program provides free respite for caregivers and services to persons with disabilities, one-to-one for those with profound disabilities and one-to-four for those with moderate disabilities.
- For some caregivers, this respite may provide sufficient relief to prevent institutionalization of those to whom they provide care.
- Formal study by MCDHHSPAC awarded highest ratings and recognized PCR as 'the only program of its kind in the County.'

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Exceptionally clearly-stated goals. The program provides respite care, therapeutic intervention, and, by training and using a large number of volunteers, exposes the problems and solutions of serving the profoundly disabled to the broader community.
- By providing its service free of charge to participants, PRC ensures that it serves a wide range of clientele.
- Proposal would be strengthened by organizing and presenting therapist-measured outcomes and family satisfaction surveys.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The program costs an average of about $95 per hour per client (in total) and full county funding would cost about $35 per hour. Given the profound medical, psychological and physical need of the population, the cost is reasonable, especially compared to the cost of institutionalization for even a few clients

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Organization has a significant track record in raising funds from all sources. About three-fourths of its over-all funding is from private foundations and individuals.
- It has an appropriately-sized, varied and strong board of directors.
- The organization is connected to a range of related organizations and its outreach for volunteers is commendable.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Potomac Community Resources, Inc. – County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $30,000 |
| **Project Description:** Operating support for Potomac Community Resources' programs, which ensure 'vital living' for Montgomery County Residents with disabilities. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Potomac Community Resources, Inc. – County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities; Large Capital | **Amount Requested:** $50,000 |
| **Project Description:** Partially fund construction costs of a house for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>- See HHS Committee Packet of April 19, 2016 | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*: | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*: | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*: | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Health/Behavioral Health | **Amount Requested:** $10,000 |
| **Project Description:** Vision loss to glaucoma cannot be reversed, but with early screenings treatment slows the disease's progression | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness among African Americans and Hispanics. Since it is asymptomatic in its early stages, increasing screenings to diagnose and treat early will save the vision of many county residents.
- Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the general population.
- Screening and treatment of glaucoma maintains people's independence and employment status

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Of 1200 people screened, 20-25% (240-300) county residents tested positive. Thus the screening has the potential to save sight as well as county funds that would go to services that people with decreased or no vision would require.
- Program has stated goal of extending services to the northern and western areas of the county which they believe are underserved. A further explanation of why these areas have been targeted for expansion would help strengthen proposal.
- Proposal could be strengthened by indicating numbers of volunteers engaged with program and their cultural backgrounds.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Screenings are free to county residents
- If patient has a positive result, they are referred to ophthalmologists that perform tests and medications, often at reduced or no cost.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Established in 1936, the organization is now the largest local prevention of blindness agency in the US.
- Glaucoma screenings are held at Senior Centers; churches; at the County offices in Rockville and many HOC sites as well as at health fairs throughout the County. They also partner with Jewish Community Center of Rockville at a health program held at Shady Grove Hospital.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Pride Youth Services, Inc. | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $30,862 |
| **Project Description:** Help African-American youth develop resiliency and self-efficacy skills necessary to live productive lives. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- The target population is low-income African-American youth living in the Damascus Gardens Apartments. Programs working with youth in the Damascus area are limited and there is significant need.
- Services would be offered through two programs – the AMEN program working with African-American young men (14-18), and the AFFIRM program working with similarly aged girls.
- The programs would be offered in the community, in tandem with a similar effort reaching out to Latino youth.
- The goal of the program is to provide a supportive environment for young people to meet regularly with trained leaders, interact safely with peers and positive role models and promote leadership.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The program meets weekly for 15 weeks and will accommodate 15 young men and 15 young women. Twice during the program the youth go on field trips and the final week is an awards dinner.
- In addition to working in tandem with Identity, which serves the Latino population, Pride Youth Services works with several other non-profits including Faith Connections and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.
- Outcomes include regular attendance at group activities and expected higher post-survey responses related to anger control, healthier attitudes and optimism.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- This is an expansion of an existing program to an additional site. The cost is approximately $1000 per participant for the 15 weeks. The request is for the entire amount of the cost, although the organization is attempting to expand its fundraising to sustain this programming in the future.
- The program benefits from sharing space and case managers within the Wellness Centers.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- This program has been in operation since 2006 in Takoma Park. It established its first high school program in 2008 at Northwood High, expanding to Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill high schools in 2013.
- Working within the Wellness Centers allows access to holistic programming including mental health counseling, health screenings and case management.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

**Name of Organization:** Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, MD, Inc. - County Executive

**Category/Program Area:** Established; Health/Behavioral Health

**Amount Requested:** $22,650

**Project Description:** Promote better access to dental care and provide training/exercise to prevent falls for low-income seniors in subsidized housing

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- To enhance senior health and decrease costly hospitalizations, Primary Care Coalition is proposing 2 pilot programs aimed at enhancing seniors' health and safety at one HOC residence.
- Many HOC seniors lack access to dental care and knowledge of correct oral hygiene procedures which can lead to an increased risk of heart disease
- More than 1/3 of seniors fall each yr. with 20% of them experiencing serious injury such as broken bones or head trauma.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- As part of the Hospitals Effectively Assisting Lasting Transition to Home (HEALTH) Partners program, Primary Care Coalition will bring a mobile dental service to the HOC residence to deliver subsidized, reduced fee basic dental services to 90 seniors. In addition, for the second program, Primary Care Coalition will arrange for MOCO Fire and Rescue to conduct presentations about fall prevention as well as do in-home safety inspections for 75-120 seniors.
- Proposal was well vetted with partner agencies.
- Program budget supports financial needs.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Eligible seniors at the HOC residence will only have to pay $25 for the dental services
- Home safety checks and fall prevention programs will be at no cost.
- Spending minimal funds to reduce avoidable hospital use should save the 6 county hospitals funds that could then be used for other health improvement projects.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Primary Care Coalition has been working in the County since 1993 with a mission of improving access and quality of health care for low income, vulnerable county residents. They have served 25,000 adults in the past year. To be eligible, patients must have family incomes below 250% of the federal poverty level. Most patients are racially and ethnically diverse and often face cultural and language barriers when accessing health care or other services.
- The HEALTH partners project (started 2011) collaborates with numerous other County non-profits and HOC staff identified the priority areas of need for this proposal.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Project Change | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $23,000 |
| **Project Description:** Improve the social climate in schools by teaching students that they have the power to decrease incidences of bullying. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:
Nationwide, bullying, harassment and threats - in school and online - are a serious public health issue. Project Change (PC) reports that significant numbers of students stay home from school for fear of bullying, and that 97% of middle schoolers have been bullied on-line while 35% of students have been threatened. In 2005, at the initiative of Sherwood High School students, PC implemented in that high school's cluster an after school program (You Have the Power [YHTP]) to teach younger students to understand and act to reduce in-school and online bullying. High school volunteers play an active role as peer educators and mentors and develop valuable leadership skills. PC is now implementing the ten session after-school program in the elementary and middle schools in the Gaithersburg High School cluster. It requests funding for the dedicated salary of 2 teacher/trainers and a Program Director.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:
The program is clearly described and the requested amount modest and justified. PC has effectively collaborated with MCPS in its Sherwood program. It will continue to do so at Gaithersburg, involving the nonprofit National Alliance for Mental Health of MC. PC cites supportive results from the Sherwood cluster program, stating, e.g., that 93% of participants *understood* the role of an ally in a bullying situation and that 100% now *knew how* to safely stand up to bullying. The application would be stronger if the extent to which understanding and knowledge translated into appropriate action by victims or potential allies or any decrease in bullying behavior in the catchment area was reported.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:
PC states that return on investment for the existing program has been calculated at $3.36 per dollar spent, but does not give the basis for that calculation.
The proposal projects that 100 students in the Gaithersburg cluster will attend the after school sessions and be mentored by 10 high school students, at a grant request cost of $209 per student involved (attendees and mentors). A school-wide anti-bullying presentation by participants will increase the program's reach. Meaningful cost-benefit analysis is difficult absent more tangible evidence of the results of the existing program and because the total program cost is greatly inflated by the inclusion in "Other Funds" of the cost-free use of MCPS facilities.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:
PC was established in 2002. It has a very small paid staff and a modest budget and relies heavily on volunteers, including its Board. Its programs are supported primarily by foundation grants and government grants and contracts, supplemented by corporate and individual donations, fundraisers and program income. The no fee YHTP program has existed at Sherwood since 2005 and has not previously received County funding. PC expects that the program's expansion will result in increased foundation and donor support. In addition, YHTP is developing a replicable curriculum to be marketed for a fee to schools.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Raba Leadership Initiative | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $38,360 |
| **Project Description:** Provide leadership development through student mentoring in East County. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- This program seeks to provide a student-mentoring program for children attending Greencastle Elementary School who receive Free and Reduced Meals, or are in need of academic enrichment.
- This program is intended to provide a system of high school mentors from Paint Branch High School, paired with Greencastle Elementary School students at a 1:1 ratio for 35 sessions, to engage mentees in an array of recreational and academic enrichment activities including team building trips.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal makes a strong case for providing leadership development services to underserved and underprivileged students residing in East County.
- This proposal would have been strengthened by a clearer description of how high school students would apply the proper tools and knowledge to properly interact with Elementary School mentees.
- This proposal would have been strengthened by identifying an outcome for staff training and development.
- This proposal would have been strengthened by providing details of the specific benefits for assigned elementary school children to be mentored by high school students who themselves are being mentored.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The total grant request to fund this program is $38,360. The total program cost is $63,510
- The Outcome section of the application indicated that 30 students are to be served by this program.
- The proposal makes a case of creating a sustainable program by continuing to increase their private donor base, executing fundraisers, applying for addition grants from other county, state, federal and foundation sources, seeking corporate sponsorships, leveraging in-kind and volunteer resources, among others.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- This organization seeks to recruit volunteers and leverage community resources by actively reaching out to Board networks, creating college internship programs for credit to recruit staff from local colleges and universities, partnering with other youth serving non-profits and county agencies, partnering with local businesses, as well as soliciting parent volunteers, among other strategies.
- This organization has many community partners, including counselors at Paint Branch High School, Administrators of Greencastle Elementary School, Montgomery County Recreation Department, East County Community Center Director, among others.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Raba Leadership Initiative – County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $30,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide leadership development for students to address vital community issues. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Rainbow Community Development Center, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $10,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide emergency assistance for rent, utilities and temporary homelessness | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- The need for services is clear and data around targets is presented (not the potential need)
- The target population is well served by the proposal which recognizes the potential for multiple needs
- The project justification is clear and compelling.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal is clear and measurable outcomes are identified.
- Results to date are included with honest assessment of lack of ability due to funding to provide for all potential clients in past year.
- Budget is clear and reasonable.
- Multiple funding sources including Combined Federal Campaign.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Cost of providing assistance is clearly less than having to deal with negative outcomes if no assistance is provided.
- Impact on recipients is large—these are basic needs.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- The organization began in 2004 and has a track record of providing services.
- There is an Executive Director paid by the church and a Pantry Director for food programs; there are a number of volunteers (this was an all-volunteer agency prior to 2015).
- There are multiple funding sources.
- There is clearly a pattern of coordination with other agencies, both public and private.
- Capacity to carry out project is obvious.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Rebuilding Together Montgomery County 1 | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $75,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide critical home repairs to low-income homeowners in Montgomery County. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Average annual income of households served is below $22,000.
- Provides free critical home repairs, energy efficiency upgrades, and accessibility modifications.
- Prevents homelessness and family separations by making critical home repairs.
- Provides great opportunity for students and adults to volunteer and serve others.
- Categories of assisted households described, e.g., the elderly, persons with disabilities, and families with young children, but no racial/ethnic data is provided to help demonstrate how Rebuilding Together Montgomery County (RTMC) is meeting the needs of its overall diverse population.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- In FY 2017, RTMC will serve about 100 households (250 projects).
- Goals, outcomes, and impact to the community are clearly defined, doable, and demonstrated.
- Successfully obtains the collaboration of skilled trade professionals, including roofers, electricians, plumbers, and structural engineers who provide free or discounted services.
- Leveraging both skilled and unskilled volunteers enable RTMC to deliver tangible home repair benefits as well as provide better quality and highly cost-effective services to needy households.
- Responds effectively to client-base needs and county government priorities and successfully coordinates with county departments and services to expand services in a cost-effective fashion.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The request for FY 2017 is $75,000, almost one third of its program budget of $230,732.
- The request will pay for purchase of materials and for increasing capacity to meet critical needs.
- In FY 2015, RTMC completed 101 critical repair projects for 63 homeowners.
- RTMC indicates that it leverages every $1 received three times over.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Proven record and success in serving and repairing homes for low income families, and for leveraging and coordinating resources with other service-oriented organizations since 1991.
- Successfully managed funding from various sources, while growing as an organization and expanding the reach of its services.
- Has established multiple funding streams, corporate sponsorships, and fund raising events, thus demonstrating clear commitment and plans to ensure sustainability and longevity.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Rebuilding Together Montgomery County 2 | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $20,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide handyman services that address smaller yet vital home repair needs to low-income homeowners in Montgomery County. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Average annual income of households served is below $22,000.
- Provides free critical home repairs before they escalate into larger, costlier issues.
- Targets low-income elderly homeowners unable to perform or afford home repair needs.
- Provides great opportunity for students and adults to volunteer and serve others.
- Assisted households are mainly elderly homeowners. However, no racial/ethnic data is provided to help demonstrate how Rebuilding Together Montgomery County (RTMC) is meeting the needs of its overall diverse population.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- In FY 2017, RTMC's new handyman program will serve about 80 households.
- Goals, outcomes, and impact to the community are clearly defined, doable, and demonstrated.
- Has over the past 25 years successfully established partnerships and the collaboration of skilled trade professionals who provide free or discounted services.
- Leveraging both skilled and unskilled volunteers enable RTMC to deliver tangible home repair benefits as well as provide better quality and highly cost-effective services to needy households.
- Has established multiple funding streams, corporate sponsorships, and fund raising events, thus demonstrating clear commitment and plans to ensure sustainability and longevity.
- Responds effectively to client-base needs and county government priorities and successfully coordinates with county departments and services to expand services in a cost-effective fashion.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The request for FY 2017 is $20,000, one fourth of its program budget of $80,000.
- The request will pay for purchase of materials and for increasing capacity to meet critical needs.
- RTMC indicates that it leverages every $1 received three times over.
- Provides precise accounting to reduce waiting times for repairs, thus reducing home damage and need for costlier and higher-skilled home repair professionals.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Initiating a thorough review of program operations and a strategic plan to address RTMC's financial and programmatic needs as well as to develop long-term objectives and activities.
- Proven record and success in serving and repairing homes for low income families, and for leveraging and coordinating resources with other service-oriented organizations since 1991.
- Successfully managed funding from various sources, while growing as an organization and expanding the reach of its services.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Rebuilding Together – County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $30,920 |
| **Project Description:** Provide free critical home repairs, energy efficiency upgrades, and accessibility modifications to low-income homeowners throughout Montgomery County. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• See evaluation on prior page | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Red Wiggler Foundation, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $70,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide opportunities for youth and adults with and without disabilities to work, learn, and grow healthy food. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*: The Grower Program trains adults with disabilities and youth with and without disabilities to farm healthy foods on land leased from the County, teaches healthy eating, and makes the food available to those in need throughout the county. The program has multiple benefits: it provides paid employment to disabled adults (such as those living in group homes), trains adults and youth in growing healthy foods in a manner that promotes environmental sustainability, and supplies healthy food to individuals, institutions and food distributors (e.g. MANNA) for low-income residents. As an added benefit, many youths are exposed to – and trained by - adults with disabilities. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*: The proposal was clear and thorough. The organization coordinates with many agencies and nonprofits, including The ARC of MC, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (for referrals) MANNA (for food distribution) among others. Red Wiggler has diverse funding sources, such as foundations, corporations, individual donors and fundraising events. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*: The program has a tremendous impact on many segments of Montgomery County: the disabled, students, and the recipients of the healthy food. Red Wiggler will continue to employ 16 adults with disabilities to grow healthy food. The largest portion of the budget request is to compensate growers. It also provides fresh food for distribution to low-income residents who had previously only received packaged food. Applicant expects another 600 Student Service Learning volunteers in FY17. The majority of the request – approximately $40,000 – will pay growers' salaries. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*: The organization has a strong track record of accomplishment. Volunteers are a critical component of Red Wiggler's operation. Hundreds of students volunteer and receive SSL credit. While funding from diverse sources appears to be strong, according to Red Wiggler's Executive Director, continued funding by the county is integral to its ability to attract private funds. The county has provided funding for this program for the past three years. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Rising Sun Cultural and Educational Programs, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $63,320 |
| **Project Description:** Support for The Wealth Club -a program teaching financial literacy to youth and families. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- The Wealth Club Program was established in 2007 and utilizes evidenced-based practice to educate youth and their families regarding finances in order to sustain themselves.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal provides a clear description of the Wealth Club Program which administers 12 – 15 content hours of instruction that can be delivered in sessions of various lengths; youth who complete the program are then eligible to return as peer educators, for which they receive a stipend.
- Outcomes described are relevant and measurable; the Wealth Club Program has served over 950 youth since its inception; FY15 survey data demonstrates that ¾ of participants created and utilized savings accounts as well as another financial tools that they were educated about through the Program.
- The Wealth Club collaborates with The Saturday School education program and the County Recreation Department's teen education program.
- The budget is appropriate and a clear sustainability plan is documented, although roughly 60% of expected funding for the Wealth Club has not yet been committed.
- The application would be stronger if it documented the need for the Program and defined the target population with more specificity. The Program says it will serve 150 County youth.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- A total of $63,320 in funding is requested to provide partial support for salaries, stipends, materials, and indirect costs.
- Funding to cover 50% of the total program budget of $126,640 is requested at a rate of roughly $844/youth.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Founded in 2000, Rising Sun Cultural and Educational Programs provides life skills initiatives for youth and families in Montgomery County and Washington, DC.
- The organization recruits peer mentors and volunteers to provide financial expertise through relationships with MCPS and other non-profits. Information on the total number of volunteers who dedicate time to Rising Sun annually, as well as the proportion dedicated directly to The Wealth Club Program, is not specified in the application, but would have been helpful in understanding the organization as a whole, and specifically the operation of The Wealth Club programs.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Rockville Economic Development, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Economic/Workforce Development | **Amount Requested:** $50,000 |
| **Project Description:** To provide business counseling, training and technical assistance to start up, and existing women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):*

- The program would help more than 1,500 female participants gain the skills, confidence and connections to build sustainable small businesses.
- Half the participants have incomes under $35,000, while others have low to moderate incomes.
- A special component, is the program to assist child care providers so they can successfully navigate the certification and safety requirements of the county and maintain a good business model, while providing quality child care in the county.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):*

- Outcomes are clearly stated with a target of 600 clients to receive counseling and training and 150 to have had positive business gains.
- They have reported extremely successful outcomes from previous years, with their Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) assisting over 1,500 individuals in its first three years.
- In 2013 they won a competitive five year grant and designation as an official SBA resource.
- They have already secured a significant amount of the total program funding from other sources.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):*

- The organization is requesting $50,000 (9.8%) of their total cost, $509,790 for this program.
- Their model includes charging participants fees to attend some of the workshops and special events they organize, so they are not wholly dependent on government funding.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):*

- The organization has been providing services since 2010 and is successfully meeting the growing need for business services for entrepreneurs and other business owners.
- They have reported extremely successful outcomes from previous years, with their Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) assisting over 1,500 individuals in its first three years.
- In 2013 they won a competitive five year grant and designation as an official SBA resource.
- They have leveraged their connections with business professionals such as accountants, attorneys, etc., by having them volunteer their services.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Rockville Help Incorporated | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $10,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide emergency financial assistance for rent, security deposits, utilities and prescriptions to families in need in Rockville, MD. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Target population is people in crisis in Rockville, MD—specific data not provided but need is clear<br>• Provides food and financial assistance, basic needs for clients<br>• Project justification is compelling | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• The proposal is clear and outcomes are both measurable and relevant<br>• The program could benefit from follow up to understand true impact of its work; perhaps a college student might undertake this as a project<br>• Budget is clear and reasonable<br>• Fundraising includes foundation, private, church, and government funding<br>• Good coordination with other nonprofits and County services | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• Cost of assistance is clearly worth the avoided negative costs if assistance were not available<br>• Recipients benefit greatly through avoidance of negative impacts | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• Organization has been operating for 45 years; good track record of service<br>• Has 35 volunteers and continually recruits them<br>• Is collaborating with many organizations and the City of Rockville and Montgomery County<br>• Obvious capacity to carry out project | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Rockville Presbyterian Church dba Rainbow Place | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $35,000 |
| **Project Description**: Provide overnight emergency shelter and supports to homeless women from November through March and support their transition from homelessness. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Provides safe shelter for homeless women during the coldest months of the year.<br>• Provides access to showers, laundry, clothing, toiletries.<br>• Serves clients that often have a history of domestic violence.<br>• Provide assessments, housing referrals, connection to community-based services. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• Organization is part of the Continuum of Care and County referral system.<br>• Clear that the funding will be used for a case manager and staff training.<br>• Outcomes are appropriate for a seasonal emergency shelter: engagement in case management, seeking stable housing, access community services.<br>• Organization says that hiring of a case manager with FY16 grant funding has allowed them to make a significant change in providing services. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• Being part of the Continuum of Care with other homeless providers helps avoid duplication of services.<br>• Partners with Mobile Med and Kaseman Clinic to address clients' health issues.<br>• In addition to County, receives funding from Rockville, Gaithersburg. foundations, churches, organizations, and individuals. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• Strong community connections and active pool of volunteers.<br>• Shelter has been open since 1982. Rockville Presbyterian Church has been active for many decades. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Rosaria Communities Foundation, Inc.- County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $20,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provides professional staff to oversee and grow the operations to ensure housing for people with physical and intellectual disabilities. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• The proposal addresses a compelling need to care for disabled children of aging parents.<br>• The needs of this population are great and the costs can be high. This proposal combines faith community, foundations, private funds and public funds to meet these needs. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• Rosaria has 3 sites, each housing 3 clients. The proposal is to add another site with 3 clients. This is an easily measured outcome.<br>• The target population is identified, but the specific source of clients is not clear.<br>• The proposal identifies some nonprofits that provide support to clients and is clear about faith community involvement, but doesn't indicate a collaboration with county aging and disability services.<br>• The project relies on a wide variety of funds and the organization is adept at fundraising. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• The cost of serving this population is high, but the proposal is for a small portion from the county. It is cost effective for the county.<br>• The county funds will partially fund professional staff to oversee the operation.<br>• The impact on residents and their aging parents is alluded to but not described in detail. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• Rosaria Communities has been developing similar projects for over ten years.<br>• Rosaria Communities Foundation received county funds in FY 15 and FY 16.<br>• This funding will support the capacity of the organization to oversee and grow the project.<br>• The total funding for these projects is a mix of private, foundation, and public funds and the combination is working well. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Scotland Storm Community Development, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $80,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide free educational and athletic after school activities to underserved youth from the historic Scotland Community in Potomac, Maryland. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- The organization provides free after school academic and sports programs Mondays-Thursdays from 2:45 – 6:15p.m for underserved youth from the historic Scotland Community.
- Currently 50 kids are enrolled and attendance averages over 40 students per day.
- The organization also runs a six-week summer program Monday-Fridays from 8:30-3:30.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal is very strong and recognizes the challenges confronting the youth, the school system, and other community partners, in reaching this particular low income community of color.
- Unique program both in its location and creation; serving unmet need in a community (Scotland) that has many indicators for at-risk youth, within a much higher income community (Potomac).
- The proposal would be stronger with a clear explanation of outcomes and measurements. While further explanation was made during the Question and Answer session with the Review Team, it would be helpful to include the detail in the proposal.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The total budget for the program is $210,000; seeking $80,000 from the County Council.
- Much of the budget is provided by the family that founded the organization.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- The organization has been operating since fall 2013, working towards closing the achievement gap for their participant students.
- The organization has bought 30 Chromebook computers to assist with homework and have taken kids on fieldtrips to expand their environment.
- The organization collaborates with county agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as, Leveling the Playing (has provided free sports equipment); BCC Baseball (has provided equipment and waived league fees for the Scotland Storm teams); Montgomery County Tennis Foundation (has provided assistance for part-time instructors); and So What Else (has provided several tutors).

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Seven Locks Jewish Community, Inc | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Other; Capital | **Amount Requested:** $50,000 |
| **Project Description:** Upgrade the current surveillance system and improve security including cameras, locks, sprinklers, etc. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>- See HHS Committee Packet of April 19, 2016 | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*: | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*: | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*: | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Silver Spring Green 1 | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Community Development | **Amount Requested:** $15,000 |
| **Project Description:** The program supports Silver Spring Green's Green and sustainability-related programs, focusing on those that help diverse communities achieve their goals and fulfill Silver Spring Green's mission. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*: The program describes the geographic area of service and the plan. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*: The proposal mentioned collaboration with other "Greens" in the county which are working to provide the same services. The 2016 grant report does discuss joint projects between Silver Spring Green and GreenWheaton which was useful information. Although working together on several matters, the proposal would have been strengthened by explaining its need for being an independent program instead of consolidating with another "Green" that exists within much of the same geographical location to reduce cost. Additional information and clarification on sustainability and its projected impact on the community at large would help the proposal. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*: The total cost of the program is $30,000 and requesting $15,000. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*: As noted above, there is not enough clarification of how future funding to sustain the program will be obtained. The organization does have a volunteer cadre and solicits volunteers through social media and at community events, being mindful that overreliance on social media to seek volunteers may lead to limitation of who is involved since many residents are not, for various reasons, engaged in social media. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Silver Spring Green 2 | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Community Development | **Amount Requested:** $50,000 |
| **Project Description:** Seed funding to create a sustainability location in Silver Spring | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Funding would enable organization to continue in its effort to build sustainability location for which it is seeking a State Bond Bill for $250,000
- Organization is negotiating with consultant who will develop a business plan that includes needs assessment, marketing and financial scenarios, and identifies potential tenants
- The organization works to expand economic development and entrepreneurship while focusing on green, sustainable goals.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The organization has several partners that it is already working with including growingSoul, Green Wheaton and the Will Allen Policy Institute.
- Completion of the business plan for the sustainability site will assist the organization in marketing its approach and raising funds.
- The proposal is not specific in describing the use of county funds. Unclear if funds will be used to pay for the business plan or for other expenses.
- The organization plans for the sustainability site to host the Will Allen policy institute. The organization will need to ensure that County funds are not used to support lobbying activities.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The organization plans to seek a State Bond Bill, but appears to have not raised external funds for this project to date.
- The organization is new and has had a very small operating budget. This is an enormous undertaking for a small young organization.
- Until the business plan is complete it will be hard to judge the potential long term value of the effort.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- Silver Spring Green has done a solid job of reaching out to organizations that share a passion for the environment.
- Its dedication to growing the local economy while growing and strengthening green, sustainable practices is commendable.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Silver Spring Saints, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $20,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide funds for needs-based scholarships, new helmets and reconditioning of existing helmets. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- The Silver Spring Football and Cheer Program serves boys and girls aged 5-14 in the Silver Spring area. It offers youth from a broad socioeconomic background a safe environment after school to participate in sport.
- The program fosters lessons on respect for the individual and positive contributions each team member can make to the Saints regardless of skill level. Coaches act as mentors and seek to "coach boys into men".
- The families of the football and cheering (added last year) youth are encouraged to participate and give their time to the Saints program.
- Coaches are being trained to encourage reduced violence and domestic abuse in participant families.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Although there is no formal scholarship program for youth from low income families, the Saints turn no one away. Fees are adjusted to ensure all can afford to participate.
- The football helmets are reconditioned annually to ensure safety. The Saints provide training to coaches to demonstrate and apply appropriate techniques and behavior to reduce head injuries.
- The coaches all receive heads-up concussion training.
- A thorough background check and annual evaluations of coach effectiveness as a youth leader are completed.
- The Saints require a significant number of volunteer hours from each participant family.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- The total program cost of the program is projected to be $65,000 of which the county grant request is $20,000. Participant fees, fund raising and concession income raised $65,000 in 2014.
- The program budget request is for equipment costs.
- Regular participant fees range from $180 to $260 depending on sign-up dates (earlier the lower). These fees cover equipment use and nearly all other costs. They are very reasonable.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- The Saints have strong linkages and regularly interact with local schools and nonprofits as well as County recreation organizations.
- The Saints have been operational since 1952 and are on the third generation of participants. This is their first year to apply for grant assistance to supplement player fees.
- The number and extent of family volunteers for the program are significant.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Silver Spring Town Center Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Community Development | **Amount Requested:** $80,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide 130+ free arts and entertainment programs and events for the community, activating public spaces throughout downtown Silver Spring. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification.*

- Free arts and entertainment programs allow all members of society to access a variety of programs.
- Provides venue for youth to showcase their artistic talents - 150 youth participate annually.
- Area businesses see value in the programming and noted an increase in their revenues.
- Greater outdoor activity in the area may help to contribute to a safer community.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- Silver Spring Town Center Inc. (SSTCi) has shown it can achieve its goal of providing a vibrant community space through it's free programs and events.
- It has worked collaboratively with other County agencies, various not-for-profits and the community.
- It has reported buy-in from the local business community which can help support future activity.
- The proposal would have been stronger if the rationale for increasing the number of programs by about 50% had been spelled out.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Funding requested ($80,000) is 63% of the total budget of $125,400. In previous years, County grants were 30% of the total budget.
- Funding would cover 130+ free programs as against 80 + last year and help them manage the programs more effectively.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- SSTCi has succeeded in initiating/growing their offering of free public performances in the area.
- They have applied for, and received County funds for the past 3 years.
- They collaborate with a range of nonprofits and county agencies including MCPS, Silver Spring Village, the Smithsonian, National Center for Children and Families and others.
- The majority of their performers volunteer their services.
- They have raised close to $20,000 in corporate sponsorships and have buy-in from local businesses who could be tapped to provide additional support.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Silver Spring Village, Inc. | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $34,400 |
| **Project Description:** General operating support for permanent staff to build and sustain Village activities to help older residents live independently. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Serving the ethnically and economically diverse elderly community of Silver Spring (20910)<br>• Desire to build a network of "neighbors helping neighbors" to remain in their homes and remain engaged in community life as they age<br>• Successful outreach in Lyttonsville, increasing the diversity of the Village members | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• The county grant from FY 2015 helped Silver Spring Village increase membership by 150%<br>• Volunteers increased 131% in the past year<br>• Well documented outcomes of rides, check in calls/visits and maintenance repairs.<br>• A robust roster of programs (educational and social) for members and the community. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• Funds are requested to pay PT Executive Director and PT Program Administrator.<br>• They are in the midst of a 4-year plan to achieve sustainable financing, based on member retention. 94% of members renewed in the past year. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• In operation for 3 years, showing growth in membership<br>• 85 volunteers who donated 10,825 hours<br>• Villages are becoming more popular and well known with new Villages being started in different parts of the county. As the median age in the County increases in the future, Villages will play an important role in cooperation with Montgomery County in achieving the county goal of "A community for a Lifetime" | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** So What Else | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $25,000 |
| **Project Description:** The program is to provide enriching summer day camp activities to underserved youth populations aged 7-17 throughout Montgomery County. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• The organization targets it services to areas where most children attend Title 1 schools with large FARMS-eligible populations.<br>• The organization focuses on positive youth development and on addressing the "summer achievement gap" by infusing activities with both fun and educational components. | |
| • **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• Proposal is well written.<br>• So What Else takes the summer camp as an opportunity to provide its youth with new experiences, knowledge, and perspectives. By infusing programming with the Ten Pillars of SWE (Youth Empowerment, Constant Growth, Be True to Yourself, Leave No Trace, Compassion, Creativity, Non-Violence, Pay it Forward/Civic Responsibility, Positivity, and Teamwork/Sportsmanship), it hopes to create a value system and sense of community with and among its participants.<br>• The organization collaborates with the Community Service Foundation and provides camps at several of their sites. Other camps are provided at independently cultivated partnership sites, such as apartment complexes and county recreation centers. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• The total budget for the program is $ 43,875; seeking $25,000 from the County Council.<br>• This project will deliver free summer camp activities to underprivileged Montgomery County youth. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• Program has been in operation since 2011 and reports that it has reached over 300 Montgomery County youth each summer.<br>• So What Else partners with Excel beyond the Bell, One Dream Academy, and White Oak and East County Community Recreation Centers. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Spirit Club Foundation, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $48,000 |
| **Project Description:** Create greater access to health-related opportunities for people with disabilities of low income to promote health and independence. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):*<br>• Proposal notes that there is an enormous disconnect between the disability community and the fitness industry.<br>• Goal is to create collaborative opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in fitness programs in integrated settings with nondisabled people. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):*<br>• The goal of the project is to support low income disabled people by providing scholarships and fitness equipment to participate in health club activities as a means of both socialization and fitness.<br>• The fitness activities will occur in Kensington, Brookville, Takoma Park, Rockville, Silver Spring Chevy Chase, Germantown, Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village.<br>• The project also will support attainment of certified health/fitness instructor status for a minimum of 3 program participants.<br>• The proposed outcomes measurement uses a CDC recognized assessment tool to calculate participants' progress from participation in fitness activities. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):*<br>• Partial scholarships will be given to 60 participants to reduce the cost of weekly fitness sessions for one year. Transportation partial scholarships will be available for 10 participants each month.<br>• Other grant funds will support rental and equipment costs to host integrated health programs.<br>• The organization is seeking approximately one-third of the project costs in this grant request. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):*<br>• Spirit Club Foundation grew out of Jubilee seeing a need for integrated health/fitness participation by persons within the disability community.<br>• The proposal is clearly written, sets meaningful outcomes targets and measurements, and meets a need in an underserved target community. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Sports Plus Group, Inc. | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $20,000 |

**Project Description:** Provide increased social and sports program opportunities for children and teens aged 5-25 with autism, with an eye toward independent adult life.

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Since there continues to be wait lists for all of the programs supported by Sports Plus, there is evidence of a need for this type of programming in the County.
- Interesting additional benefit is to the volunteers who are increasingly able to gain understanding of autism/disabilities, helping to diminish stigma and further inclusionary behavior overall.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- It would have been helpful if Outcomes included the number of youth participating in (transitioning to) mainstream activities, since funding is requested for that purpose specifically.
- Proposal would have benefited from additional clarity on addition of workforce/employment training to overall program and clarification on partnership with jobsites.
- There is a clear plan for future funding.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- Less than 10% of participants do not pay any fees to attend, so majority of Program cost is borne by families.
- No information on demographics, though orally we were assured participation reflects the County demographics overall.
- Overall, 250 students served annually so cost/student is reasonable.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- The Board of Directors would benefit from strengthening its governance framework.
- Sports Plus has been in existence for over 10 years and has received County funds previously. It appears to be a very well-established and cost-effective organization; able to carry out the Program.
- Works with local schools and other nonprofits on a regular basis. Strong volunteer engagement.
- Selected as a demonstration project by The Aspen Institute.
- Good support from a variety of private funding sources.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families – County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $25,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide operating support to organization which provides services for Montgomery County pregnant or parenting teens and their children. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- This program provides parenting, life skills and financial literacy programs as well as providing a safe-haven to pregnant teens and teen mothers.
- The program also provides the infants and young children of these teen mothers with child care, developmental assessments and referrals for additional services.
- It offers an opportunity for teen mothers to become productive members of the community when they have few other options.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal requests funding utility costs for a program that provides teen mothers with health care, education toward high school graduation, and child care in a safe residential environment.
- The program has been operating for 33 years and in that time has served about 1340 mothers and babies. It would be helpful to know the number of Montgomery County residents served.
- In FY 2015 there were 26 mothers and 24 children in the program.
- The program outcomes are clear and measurable for both mothers and babies.
- St Ann's partners with service providers, local colleges, and the faith community.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- This funding request is specifically for utilities for the program.
- The funding will be a small but crucial portion of total program costs.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- St Ann's Teen-Mother program has been operating for 33 years.
- It draws an extensive volunteer base and works cooperatively with private sector, nonprofit organizations and governments to meet the needs of these vulnerable clients.
- The organization is well established and has developed a strong funding stream for the program.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** St. Camillus Church | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Basic Need | **Amount Requested:** $25,000 |
| **Project Description:** Provide emergency food distribution through the St. Camillus Church Food Pantry. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:

- Provided about 11,300 food packages in 2015, an increase of 13% over the prior year. Demand continues to grow; 10-15 new clients register each weekend. The program also provides books to children who come to the pantry.
- Program serves a diverse group of clients, most of whom are recent immigrants from Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and French-speaking Africa.
- The pantry is an entirely volunteer-run organization with a group of 150 multi-cultural and multi-lingual volunteers.
- Through its registration process, pantry volunteers provide clients with referrals and information about other resources.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:

- The proposal is well-written and presents a compelling case for the project. Services performed are clearly described and quantified.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:

- St. Camillus is requesting a small part of the total cost of providing 11,300 emergency food packages that support a family of 4 for 2-3 days. ($25,000 = 8% of the project cost, 30% of the out-of-pocket cost).
- County funds would be leveraged with cash and in-kind donations from a diverse group of other sources, including other grants, churches, individuals and businesses.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:

- St. Camillus Church is a well-established organization and community. The Food Pantry has been operating for more than 11 years and has consistently met its goal of annually increasing its distribution of emergency food packages. The program has broad community support from volunteers, donors and public entities.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** St. Joseph's House, LTD – County Executive | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $15,000 |
| **Project Description:** Operational funding for home-based day-care and respite provider for students with multiple and severe disabilities | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Program serves high need families in a vulnerable population.<br>• The proposal would be stronger if it documented the extent of this population and their needs. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• The program has been providing care for over 30 years in a residential setting.<br>• Outcomes are based on measures of satisfaction of families.<br>• The organization is working with faith organizations and several nonprofits that work with the same target population.<br>• The program is in the process of searching for additional sources of funding. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cos*<br>• The program provides residentially- based day care and respite care for a vulnerable population.<br>• The county funds will provide about 12% of the cost of care. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• The organization has provided services for over 30 years.<br>• The organization is in transition from being highly dependent on its founder to being one with an executive director and a long term plan for the continuation of the project. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** STEMaction, Inc. | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Newer; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $123,750 |
| **Project Description:** Strengthen Montgomery County students' science technology, engineering, and mathematics skills through robotics competitions. | |

**Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):*

- Proposal would support the 100 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics teams in Montgomery County by providing registration and practice facilities access to teams unable to afford those costs. The proposal seeks to support growth to 120 teams (200 additional students) within 2 years.
- Access to STEM activities is an important educational supplement supported by participation in these clubs; there are over 1000 K-12 students participating in FIRST robotics clubs in the County.

**Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):*

- FIRST is a worldwide competition in operation for over 25 years, designed to engage youth in skills development in technology, engineering, leadership, communications, project management, marketing, and other business skills. It has a strong volunteer component.
- The proposal seeks funds to support clubs unable to pay the registration fees, equipment and facilities expenses, necessary to full participation by the clubs in the local and regional competitions.
- The facilities aspect of the proposal was also not fully developed so it was unclear where these would be, how access would be assigned to various clubs, what facilities are needed, etc.
- Outcomes measures, other than anecdotal evidence of individual student success would also strengthen the proposal.

**Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):*

- Total program cost is $275,000; organization has significant other funds already committed ($129,000) from effective corporate fundraising.
- It is not known how many of the clubs might fit into a category of needing support.
- With 100 clubs already in the County, the rationale for starting more clubs was not clearly stated.

**Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):*

- STEMaction is a relatively new organization (2012) that is bringing and supporting STEM activities through an organized club structure to Maryland. The proposal would benefit from more clarity on how it will target grant funds to support those clubs most in need of financial support, what facilities it needs to develop, and how it plans to provide facilities support to clubs.

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Stepping Stones Shelter | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Economic/Workforce Development | **Amount Requested:** $42,005 |
| **Project Description:** Provide employment counseling to homeless and formerly homeless families to enable them to find jobs and increase their income. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification):*<br>• As the cost of housing has outpaced wages in the County, the number of residents in need of assistance has increased. Families at the shelter typically earn under $20,000 with some having no income at all, and many have some barrier to employment. Since some income is required to qualify for housing programs/subsidies, it is imperative to enable the residents to get, or upgrade their employment prospects. | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding):*<br>• Stepping Stones Shelter has received County funds for employment counseling services for the past 6 years and has succeeded in meeting or exceeding their set goals.<br>• They have partnered with the Dwelling Place and Career Catchers in order to effectively meet their common goals.<br>• Former shelter residents can continue to receive employment services, as needed.<br>• The project has good outcomes and results are effectively documented.<br>• They are requesting 56% of the program funds from the County. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost):*<br>• Stepping Stones aims to provide employment counseling to the approximately 50 families who are at the shelter, or were former residents. The cost per family would work out to $1498 with $840 of that from grant funds.<br>• Their aim is for 45-50% of the 50 families to get a job and become eligible for housing assistance. | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project):*<br>• The shelter has operated for over 30 years and has partnered with The Dwelling Place and with Career Catchers to provide safe, transitional housing, and employment counseling to their residents.<br>• They have a strong volunteer base of approximately 340 volunteers that are drawn from schools, mothers' groups, community and religious organizations, and others. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Organization:** Stop Drop and Play Children's Museum Corporation | |
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Youth Development | **Amount Requested:** $55,000 |
| **Project Description:** Funding to complete renovations to meet needs of the museum and ensure building meets county occupancy code requirements and is ADA compliant. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Will provide a children's museum and stimulating indoor play space for children from birth to age 7.<br>• Organization will provide free entrance for participants in the County's Infants and Toddlers program and to their caregivers<br>• Location in Damascus | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• This is a brand new organization, just incorporated in October of 2015.<br>• Organization has completed and submitted a clearly thought out business plan.<br>• Space would provide a stimulating space for young children to play indoors. More information on the type of exhibits/activities would have enhanced the proposal.<br>• While the organization plans to connect with schools, DHHS programs and others, the proposal does not present evidence that those partnerships are yet in place. | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• County funds would be used to build out space, providing $55,000 or reported $133,000 cost (41%).<br>• In first year, organization will have no paid staff | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• New organization with limited funds<br>• Only 3 members on the organization's Board of Directors.<br>• While the organization has no track record, it did submit a clear business plan that indicates that it could break even in most years based on admission fees, and sponsorships. | |

# Montgomery County Council
# FY17 Evaluative Comments Information Sheet

| **Name of Organization:** Sunflower Bakery, Inc. | |
|---|---|
| **Category/Program Area:** Established; Older Adults/Disabilities | **Amount Requested:** $32,181 |
| **Project Description:** Expand Sunflower's engagement to secure employment or paid internships for graduates, provide 6 months in-house employment, and increase employer partnerships. | |
| **Public benefit** *(identified and demonstrated need; target population well served by proposal; project justification)*:<br>• Sunflower bakery operates an baking and related industries employment training program for adults over 18<br>• Has achieved an 80% job retention rate | |
| **Strength of Proposal** *(clear description; measurable and relevant outcomes, including results achieved to date; achieved outcomes; integration/coordination with other nonprofits and County services; clear budget description; plan for future funding)*:<br>• Good detailed proposal which explained changes to the program based on a study and evaluation of prior project outcomes, i.e., training period has expanded from 20 weeks to 4-6 months and follow-up period been extended to 18 months to permit students to achieve additional mastery over job tasks<br>• Outcomes are clearly stated<br>• Good collaboration with other nonprofits<br>• Targets appear reasonable<br>• Intends to serve 12-14 new individuals in revamped program | |
| **Cost-benefit analysis** *(cost of service or activities; impact on recipient relative to cost)*:<br>• Fund request is for staff salaries<br>• Grant will finance half of total cost of these staff<br>• Grant will be spent on existing and new trainees | |
| **Strength of organization** *(organizational capacity; how long has agency delivered proposed or similar services and/or received public funds; number of staff, volunteers and partner organizations in program; how have they leveraged non-county government funding; capacity to carry out project)*:<br>• Program has existed for 6 years<br>• Over 30 employers provide internships<br>• Broad diversity of foundation support | |