

FY22 FRCoC Cover Letter for VHSP Funding

A separate cover sheet is required for each project application.

Applicant

Legal Name:

Type of Applicant (select one): Non-Profit Housing Authority PDC Unit of Local Government

EIN/TIN: 52-1142547

Address: P.O. Box 1007 Fredericksburg, VA 22402 * 150 Olde Greenwich Dr. Ste 101 Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Application Contact

Name: Kathy Anderson

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 540-373-9372

Email: kathya@empowerhouseva.org

Project Name: Domestic Violence Shelter

Project Type (select one):

- Coordinated Assessment Outreach Emergency Shelter Operations
 Rapid Re-Housing Targeted Prevention Housing Location
 CoC Planning (*Only the CoC Lead Agency is eligible to apply for CoC Planning VHSP funding.*)

Type of Application (select one):

- Renewal (requesting level or reduced funding for existing project)
 Renewal with Expansion (requesting increased funding for existing project)

Renewal Amount Requested: \$44,076

Expansion Amount Requested:

Approximate number of people this program will serve: 300

The applicant organization's governing board discussed and/or approved this application for funding at a meeting held on _____ (date). If this application has not yet been discussed, it will be discussed at the next meeting of the governing board, which will be held on May 10, 2021 (date).

The applicant organization named above will act as the responsible fiscal agent for any funds received and will comply with applicable tax laws, regulations, and CoC policies. By signing this application, we agree that we have read and approve of the content of this application.

Board Chair:

Laura Thessin

4/19/2021

Signature

Date

Executive Director:

Signature

4/19/21
Date

FY22 FRCoC Application for VHSP Funding
Outreach; Emergency Shelter Operations; Rapid Re-Housing;
Targeted Prevention

Please complete a separate application form for each outreach, emergency shelter operations, rapid re-housing, and targeted prevention project.

Application Information

Type of Application (select one):

- Renewal** (requesting level or reduced funding for existing project)
- Renewal with Expansion** (requesting increased funding for existing project)

Applicant

Applicant Name: **Empowerhouse**
 Project Name: **Domestic Violence Shelter**

Line-Item Budget

Please complete line-item budget below. Budget amounts should reflect the VHSP request only.

Note: Renewal projects can apply for renewal HMIS and Administration amounts up to the grantee’s total FY21 HMIS and Administration amounts regardless of 5% and 3% caps. HMIS and Administration amounts across all FY22 project applications will not exceed allowable 5% and 3% caps across the community.

Expansion projects can apply for an HMIS expansion up to the amount where the combined renewal/expansion HMIS request is 5% of the combined renewal/expansion project subtotal and an Administration expansion up to the amount where the combined renewal/expansion Administration request is 3% of the combined renewal/expansion project subtotal.

	Renewal Amount	Expansion Amount
Emergency Shelter Operations		
Case Management	\$36,192	
Limited Support Services		
Maintenance	\$3,000	
Rent		
Security		
Supplies		
Utilities	\$4,884	
Other (specify)		
Subtotal	\$44,076	
HMIS (up to 5% of subtotal)		
Computer Costs		
Fees and Licenses		

HMIS Staffing		
Training		
Other (specify)		
Administration (up to 3% of subtotal)		
Administration		
Total	\$44,076	

Match

Please indicate sources of match. Match must equal 25% of requested amount and must be spent on eligible VHSP expenses, but does not need to be of the same VHSP Category as the request. Match must be from local or private sources. If the project is requesting partial or full waiver of the match requirement, please explain. (See Page 19 of the Virginia Homeless and Special Needs Housing Funding Guidelines 2020-2022 for full explanation of the match requirement.)

Type	Source	VHSP Category	Amount
	Stafford County	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$6,000
	Spotsylvania County	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$6,000

Narrative Responses

Provide a description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project. (Character Limit: 3,000)

Empowerhouse's Shelter provides a safe place for individuals fleeing domestic abuse to reside short term. Domestic violence (DV) victims may be referred to Empowerhouse through the FRCoC Coordinated Entry or reach out for services directly to (Victim entry) Empowerhouse's 24 hour hotline. As the only DV shelter serving PD16 (for 42 years), victims enter a 24/7/365 welcoming and trauma informed facility (10,000 sq. ft.) specifically designed for their safety and well-being. A survivor and her children (272 last year) start in our crisis DV shelter (fully AD; all on one level) which includes a bedroom (of 15) or multiple in a suite (of 9) with one or two bathrooms (of 12) depending on family size. Immediate physical and emotional crisis needs are met through safety, secured entrances, shelter, food, children's school stabilization (.75 FTE Children's services), risk assessment, and safety planning including legal remedies. Legal Aid Works has staffed regular office hours at shelter. There is a pantry, multiple kitchens opening to large dining areas, suite kitchenettes with multiple food storage areas, individuals' locking storage, a co-located playroom, laundry, and computer job help center, and a secured playground (5,000 sq. ft.) with privacy walls. Children usually outnumber adults in the DV shelter and last year numbered 136, exactly half of the population. Staff provide services throughout the building, in offices and the on-site victim services center. Residents access (within sight) public transportation, groceries, and pharmacy.

Victims often enter shelter with feelings of hopelessness and nil self-worth. Shelter day staff trained in the dynamics of DV, trauma informed care, and motivation work to help them realize they deserve a life of dignity and respect, with safety and hope. Clients begin to open up; and staff (.575 FTE

VHSP funded case management out of 2 FTE) help them develop safety plans and identify housing goals they pursue while in shelter.

Once housing plans and other goals are established, personal strengths are assessed; and needed supportive services or assistance is discussed. Staff provide referrals to community resources and advocacy with those referrals as appropriate. This may include connection to resources for benefits (e.g., TANF, Childcare Support, WIC, and SSDI), documentation/IDs, health and mental health and substance abuse services, legal services, and school systems. Residents utilize generously donated items from the community (e.g., paper goods, clothing, personal hygiene supplies, diapers, food). Empowerhouse may provide financial resources to help clients work toward their goals (e.g., driver's license fees, birth certificates, bus passes) to help them overcome barriers to obtain housing, retaining jobs, and mainstream benefits. Some move home safely with help obtaining protective orders. Shelter staff meet regularly with clients during their stay to support them in preparing for their chosen next steps.

If renewal funding is being requested, explain how the project continues to meet a community need. (N/A: If expansion funding is being requested, explain how the additional funds will increase system capacity and justify the community need for additional capacity.) Additionally, please use the table below to provide data that supports your response. (Character Limit: 3,000)

If renewal funding is being requested, explain how the project continues to meet a community need:

Empowerhouse assists over 3,500 people annually through DV programming additionally reaching over 12,000 youth in area classrooms last year with education. Area law enforcement respond to over 6,500 DV calls annually. The DV shelter serves victims and their children who become homeless as a result of DV in PD16. Services are voluntary, trauma-informed, aim to increase safety, and seek permanent housing solutions safe for each sheltered victim as desired per their individualized self-driven plans.

In FY20, it sheltered 272 people, a significant drop (experienced by the entire system) in entries for the final quarter due to the pandemic. In 2015, Empowerhouse sheltered 25% of the FRCoC sheltered people. Empowerhouse continues receiving 17-34% of quarterly system shelter household entries, on average 24% among the 4 main shelter providers over the past 3 CYs including the CY20 pandemic year. The largest shelter (TBC) received 60-65% of household entries pre-pandemic and split that number with Micah in CY20.

Empowerhouse relocated the Empowerhouse DV shelter in FY17 after much needed expansion of a 30 year aging home. The former no longer kept pace for the quantity of people who needed it (per high rate growth of area population) and its heavy duty use. Children are sheltered with adults as DV victims are forced to uproot their children when confronted with violence and abuse. Per FRCoC system goals, Empowerhouse attempts to divert anyone requesting shelter from becoming homeless. 24-hour DV hotline callers (2,050 FY20) have a number of needs; as part of their safety planning our DV shelter is explored. If they seek quick exit from the abusive situation or wish to leave their residence, we explore all safe options including social supports of family, friends, FRCoC prevention, and protective orders.

A major criterion for requesting shelter and becoming homeless for our population is leaving an unsafe DV situation. If the only step that will increase their safety is coming in, every effort is made to shelter them. With the new (4 years) shelter, no unsafe DV households were denied shelter due to space. The average daily census was 25 and we attempt to not exceed 30 at one time due to limited staffing capacity. The new shelter opened with added 1.3 FTE staff (including overnight and after hours)

thanks to other funding to ensure 24-hour coverage and to aid in responding to, at times, 50-100% increased census over the past. Our goal continues to shelter all unsafe DV survivors and their children needing it and supporting them in a trauma informed manner with the case management needed to help them move to permanent housing quickly. In FY20, 132 households (HH) (44% unaccompanied singles) resided temporarily (average 26 days) in the Empowerhouse shelter. Of the 123 HH (247 people) that exited, 67 households went to permanent housing (42 were families with children); 196 people exited in 71 family HH. 54% shelter HH exits to permanent housing.

	Relevant data, metrics and/or cost analysis
Current Need	270-340 people per year (130-175 households per year)
How Renewal/Expansion Funding Will Meet Need	Empowerhouse will continue to meet the need through this renewal project, last year supporting 272 DV homeless victims and children (132 households; 58 single HH and 74 family HH)

Please indicate the breakdown of household types targeted by this project:

	Renewal	Expansion
Households with Children	50%	X
Households without Children	50%	X
Total	100%	X

Certify that the project will adhere to the *FRCoC Coordinated Entry Policies & Procedures*, including the following requirements of the document:

- Follow the Housing First model
- Participate in the FRCoC Coordinated Entry Process and/or the Victim Service Coordinated Entry Process (including coordinated assessment for shelter/prevention and prioritization for rapid re-housing)
- Adhere to established project standards (including *FRCoC Rapid Re-Housing Policies & Procedures*)
- Collect data through HMIS or a comparable database

What percentage of households will be served through the Victim Service Coordinated Entry Process (including coordinated assessment for shelter/prevention and prioritization for rapid re-housing)?

	Renewal	Expansion
Households Served through Victim Service Coordinated Entry Process	100%	N/A

Provide the following data. These numbers will be used to calculate anticipated number of households served by the project.

	Renewal	Expansion
Number of FTE Case Managers Dedicated to Project (could be fraction)	.575	N/A

Ideal Caseload for 1 FTE Case Manager	15
Average Length of Stay for Project Participants	28
Average Financial Assistance Cost per Household (RRH/Prevention Only)	N/A
Shelter Beds for Households without Children (Shelter Operations Only)	7
Shelter Beds for Households with Children (Shelter Operations Only)	23
Shelter Units for Households with Children (Shelter Operations Only)	7

Are there any unresolved monitoring or audit findings for any grants operated by the applicant or potential subrecipients? If yes, please explain. (Character Limit: 1,000)

Yes No

Attachments

Organizational Certifications and Assurances (once per agency; template provided)
 DV Renewal Projects ONLY: FRCoC Data Form (each project; template provided)