

Proposal

To: Vermont Legal Aid, Burlington, Vermont

From: Association of Africans Living in Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

Bilingual / Bicultural Support for Refugee and Immigrant Renters and Home Owners Impacted by COVID-19

Please accept this proposal from the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV) to Vermont Legal Aid for grant funds to support refugee and immigrant renters and home owners affected by COVID-19.

Greater Burlington is home to the large majority of Vermont's resettled refugees and other immigrants, 80% of whom are classified as low-income. AALV is an ethnic community-based organization that addresses the social and economic self-sufficiency of these communities with linguistically and culturally appropriate direct services. AALV operates Vermont's largest interpreter services program, which provides professional in-person interpretation in more than 30 languages for a variety of professional and direct service settings, including health care, social services, public benefits programs, and legal services.

Throughout the pandemic, AALV has received many requests from its served community members about emergency financial assistance available for home owners and renters. AALV interpreters recently completed training delivered by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency regarding the Vermont COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. The training covered eligibility, application process, and benefit terms. AALV has also worked with Vermont Legal Aid to better understand emergency rental support program requirements and application process.

This proposed project would enable AALV's AALV direct service staff to (1) identify those community members in greatest need for assistance, (2) assemble necessary documentation, (3) prepare household assistance applications, and (4) address any related support service needs that a household may require to fully comply with program requirements (e.g., communication with landlord, or rental management company). A Project Coordinator will facilitate the scheduling of interpreters and staff with limited English proficient applicants, including with application documentation and processing support and liaising with other supportive services as may be necessary.

Even though most families accessing AALV's services live in the greater Chittenden County area, case managers and program coordinator will assist client calling within the State limits. Case managers cell phone number and AALV main line will be made available to individuals and families for telephonic assistance with rental assistance application.

Budget

Item	Cost	
Associate Director/Programs Coordinator	\$21,250	25% of \$85,000.00 per year salary for 10 months
Case Managers (5)	\$53,750	5 x 25% of \$43,000 per year for 10 months
Interpretation (for other languages that could access program)	\$8,250	\$55 per hour X 150 hours for 10 months
Fringe Benefits	\$18,315	22% of salaries
Local Mileage Reimbursement	\$1,960	\$0.56 per mile x 3,500 miles
Print and Copy	\$8,359	\$0.30 per piece x 2,000 pieces
Office Space	\$4,480	\$14 per sf x 80 sf per FTE
Cell Phone	\$2,825	\$70 per month x 12 months per FTE
Indirect	\$11,918.90	10% di minimis
	\$131,107.90	