

GRANT REQUEST: \$361.96 to \$497.51 to assist with utility payments for Maria's family. Referred and vetted by JUMP.

Maria is a single parent in her mid-30's living in Burlington. Her family includes her 17 year-old son, 9 year-old son, and 6 year-old daughter.

Maria lives in a complex with government funded "project based" housing subsidies. Maria's budget includes modest rent (due to the housing subsidy), food, gas, electricity, water, phone, internet, a \$300 car payment, car insurance, fuel for the car, and household necessities. She works 15 hours a week as a personal care aid to disabled adults, young adults and youth. Maria is assigned clients through a care service – one of her clients is her younger brother who has severe autism, a seizure disorder and mobility limitations. Her income also includes child support for her 6 year-old daughter and Three Squares Vermont (food stamps). Because she receives Three Squares – she also receives fuel assistance in the winter months. As Maria experienced domestic-violence she fears filing for child support – as a result she is ineligible for Reach Up funding.

Maria would work more hours a week if she could. Her time is often focused on her 9 year-old son who has several challenging health concerns. He is currently in a diagnostic process, monitoring and being treated both in Burlington and at a hospital in Boston for digestive and swallowing issues (ARFID Syndrome is the hypothesis) – and severe food allergies - an esophageal biopsy is scheduled for mid- September in Boston.

The grant request - \$497.51

The grant will give Maria a real opportunity as it will zero out both utility balances and give her the opportunity to establish. year-round budget plans for her gas and utility bills – this could help

prevent her from getting behind in the future. There are currently shut-off notices so time is of the essence

As there are currently shut-off notices on both Maria's gas and electricity accounts for next week – there is some time pressure

