

MLK Reviewer Comments

Program Description

- Clear alignment with the program and organization.
- Good strategies and partnerships in place. Strong, diverse partners to provide housing, social capital, and other wraparound supports. Most partners already working together.
- Clear description of the partners and services. Concern there is a significant amount of dependence on outside providers to assure the services are in place.
- Clear overview of program management structure. Would like better clarification of how all the contractors and staff will come together to share information and strategize.
- Strong outcomes for the CWF program but still relatively new. Would like to see outcomes for ECE programs.
- Provides clear understanding of the community and environment. Thorough knowledge of the geographic area and the partners that may be available to assist in delivering services.
- Strong logic model with clear alignment of activities and outcomes. Will expand mental health and social capital services through this grant.
- The agency has been through organization renewal. Numerous program and services reconnection have occurred and a comprehensive set of services is now available.
- Plan to contract with local partners for behavioral health services. Some of these services are already in place.
- Plan to contract with programs that are aligned with high quality standards for ECE component. They are working with local providers who are high quality or working to advance in Paths to Quality.
- Leadership is experienced and knowledgeable and the staffing plan appears to be adequate to carry out the proposed project.
- Recruitment strategy could be elaborated. Neighborhood outreach mentioned.

Evaluation Capacity

- “Committed to the learning process” based on development of programming based on need in previous program outcomes.
- They seem to have a good understanding of what is involved with evaluation and have demonstrated success with the UWCI evaluation process.
- Committed to using data for decision-making but could have provided descriptions of the volume of data collected or available based on the current center programs and services.
- Data Coordinator will be the data point person but it is not clear how program staff are held accountable for collecting client-level data; described as a “requirement for program staff”. Concern about capacity of data staff person to manage all timely data collection.
- E.D. has extensive experience with the CWF model and program development strategies.
- There is rebuilding occurring in this area, however all staff have been trained in ETO and its procedures and use.

Organizational Capacity

- Still rebuilding and programs are fairly new.

- Leadership is noted to have the experience to implement the project. ED is strong in human services planning and delivery and understands CWF model quite well. Re-engaged MLK in community collaboration and with local and national funders.
- They have experience managing a variety of federal grants.
- They shared a renewal of the 21st CCLC program and expanding partnerships.
- They note commitment of the leadership and ongoing investment. They are committed to raising the match funds and provided initial match plan. Could use additional details.
- Current leadership will need to continue to rebuild relationships with funders to assure match can be secured.
- Deputy is brand new and will be overseeing much of this work.

Partnerships and Coalitions

- MLK not involved in original creation of Quality of Life Plan but now are more actively involved.
- Highly engaged and hoping to capitalize on 38th & Illinois area development
- Active engagement with IMPD in the northwest area as part of the planning effort

Budget and Budget Narrative

- Contracting needs with ECE providers could be more specific
- 1:1 Match funds are noted
- 10% match is in place
- Overall, budget items meet the criteria.
- What is stated in the narrative is included in the budget