

**2019 STAFF REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR
COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT RESERVE FUNDS**
(Housing Development Funds, Affordable Housing Trust Funds, Facility Acquisition/Rehab Funds, Futures Funds)

Project Name/Title: Transitional Literacy Program

Agency Name: African Center for Community Development, Inc

Requested Amount: \$25,000

Project Type: New Continuing

Framework Plan Objective Most Directly Addressed by Proposed Activity:

Futures Fund Reserve- Projects that help a non-profit community agency develop a prototype or new approach of supporting low-to-moderate income households, while also addressing one of the Community Development objectives.

Product/Service Description:

African Center for Community Development (ACCD) aims to create a pilot program that will reduce fissures that develop within the African immigrant community as children and parents encounter an array of societal issues in a new environment. The Transitional Literacy Program (TLP) will bring children and adults together to create an exchange of cultural activities designed to impart a stronger sense of identity to African children and a better understanding of American culture to the adults. TLP is the first African-based program that strategically assesses and targets a specific community's holistic needs and takes the initiative to provide services that target specific demographics within its base. It aims to employ new approaches to the integration of African immigrant children and gradually of adults into the larger Madison community. The program is designed to foster cohesive inter-and cross-cultural co-existence that builds stronger communities.

TLP will target African immigrant children between 5-10 years of age. The children will learn about their cultures of origin and more generally about a variety of African cultures. The goal is to affirm their identities first to make learning about other cultures, including majority culture of Madison, much easier. Adult volunteers from the African community will facilitate the classes with expectations that these interactions between child and adult will reduce barriers between them. The program will run twice a week for six months with a review conducted at mid-point.

ACCD submitted a development proposal to Community Development Division in 2018 (via RFP 8754-2018) requesting CDBG funds for the acquisition of a property to create a community space dedicated to programming focused on Madison's African population. ACCD withdrew the application because of environmental issues associated with the location that would have caused barriers for the use of federal funds. ACCD will use the Futures Funds to develop their programming metrics and build a volunteer base as they continue to search for another property to establish a permanent center for African Center for Community Development.

Anticipated Accomplishments (Numbers/Type/Outcome):

The program will target low-to-moderate income households with children between the ages of 5-10 years old. Throughout the six-month pilot program, approximately 15 households will participate in the program. The expected outcomes include a more meaningful engagement with the mainstream community and a supportive family life.

ACCD will expand programming for the African community in Madison and will use this pilot program to help guide that endeavor. Beyond general program costs, Futures Funds will be used to support a new LTE position for ACCD to coordinate program logistics and ensure contract compliance. ACCD will also use Futures Funds to hire a consultant to create ongoing curriculum for this population.

Staff Review:

Futures Funds are available for this type of project and the budget appears reasonable. Through this funding ACCD is creating this pilot program to demonstrate its capability to function and sustain itself over a longer term as a community-based organization. The pilot program will service an unmet need among low-income communities around the City, especially the immigrant community from Africa.

Total Cost/Total Beneficiaries Equals: \$25,924/ 15 Households= \$1,728/household
CD Office Funds/CD-Eligible Beneficiaries Equals: \$25,000/ 15 Households = \$1,666/household
CD Office Funds as Percentage of Total Budget: 96%

Staff recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to provide up to \$25,000 in CDBG Futures Funds to African Center for Community Development for Transitional Literacy Program (TLP) under the terms of the existing CDD Goals and Objectives.