

## City of Aurora 2022 CDBG Applicant Summary

1. **Applicant:** Aurora Fire Station Preservation Corps.

**Agency Background:** Housed in Aurora's old Central Fire Station, the Aurora Regional Fire Museum actively serves the Aurora community to teach and preserve the history of the Aurora Fire Department and our region as well as through fire safety programs. The Museum serves the community as a unique historical, educational, landmark and is a destination for local, regional, and international visitors. The Aurora Regional Fire Museum is open to the public Wednesday – Saturday from 10am-4pm and during the summer months, we are open on Tuesdays. We are actively involved in all events happening in Downtown Aurora and open our doors for First Fridays and other community events. We have two floors of exhibits, provide educational programming and outreach in the museum, virtually, and in the community. We are a stakeholder in Downtown Aurora, Aurora, and the Region. We are actively engaging in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility work to ensure we are open and available to all Aurora residents.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Summer Fire & Life Safety Camp and Community Safety Expo*

*The Aurora Regional Fire Museum seeks to create a community safety expo to better protect families in our community, showing how to create a safer living environment and to create a hands-on learning experience for children via a summer camp.*

2. **Applicant:** 360 Youth Services

**Agency Background:** For over 50 years, 360 Youth Services (360YS), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has been an agent for positive change in the North and Northwest suburbs and beyond, identifying and responding to the needs of youth. Our mission is to provide life-changing services to youth through: (1) Substance Use Prevention; (2) Housing programs and wrap-around services for youth experiencing homelessness; and (3) professional, accessible, community-based Youth Counseling services for youth and their families regardless of ability to pay. Our Youth Counseling Program – specifically an initiative entitled “Moving Forward” serving Aurora students -is the focus of this grant request. As an organization, we strive to be trauma-informed, anti-racist, culturally inclusive, and affirming of all marginalized youth including all gender identities and sexual orientations. For the last 2 years, we have earned the Human Rights Campaign's Inclusion Innovation Seal -their highest tier of recognition - for our inclusive practices of LGBTQ+ youth and families.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Homelessness Response and Prevention for Aurora Youth*

*This program will provide youth-specific shelter and support services and homelessness prevention for Aurora youth in partnership with Aurora-based organizations.*

3. **Applicant:** Aurora Housing Authority

**Agency Background:** The Aurora Housing Authority is a Public Housing agency that manages Public Housing and Housing Choice Vouchers. The agency manages five public housing sites that consists of 502 units of housing. In addition, the agency administers 1,428 Housing Choice Vouchers. The agency also provides services to our senior and family residents through our Resident and Opportunity Self-Sufficiency Program.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *AHA's Enhanced Security and Safety, Energy Efficiency and Social Distancing Project*

*This project will enhance the lives of our AHA families by providing them a safe and healthy environment for which to live.*

4. **Applicant:** Center for Neighborhood Technology

**Agency Background:** CNT delivers innovative analysis and solutions that support community-based organizations and local governments to create neighborhoods that are equitable, sustainable, and resilient. Founded in 1978, CNT works where urban form – the built environment and infrastructure of our cities – intersects with disparities by race and income. We work across sectors, on topics including climate change, water, the natural environment, energy, transportation, housing, and community development. CNT serves communities across the U.S. and is nationally recognized as an innovator and leader in the field of innovative analytics and creative sustainable development. Recent accomplishments include conducting nationally significant research on the link between green stormwater infrastructure and nearby property values; calculating the contributions of public transit to greenhouse gas emissions reductions; launching the Transportation Equity Network, a coalition of community groups; and conceptualizing a new program for comprehensive housing rehabilitation for climate resilience that preserves affordability.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Comprehensive Rehab Program Structure: Partner Coordination*

*CNT will identify at least two home rehab/retrofit funding sources and recommend a program structure in which COA-funded rehab programs leverage those funds to expand their existing scopes to deliver more comprehensive, resilient, affordable rehab to LMI households in Aurora.*

5. **Applicant:** City of Aurora

**Agency Background:** The City of Aurora provides a number of community and public services to its over 200,000 residents. These services include education, senior services, youth training leadership development, workforce development, snow removal, financial empowerment and safety, and more.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Aurora Financial Empowerment Center (FEC)*

*The Aurora Financial Empowerment Center provides area residents financial counseling services at no cost to become more financially stable through debt reduction, increased savings, improved credit, banking access, and access to public support programs.*

6. **Applicant:** City of Aurora Engineering Division

**Agency Background:** The City of Aurora Engineering Division maintains and rehabilitates local streets throughout the City of Aurora

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Street Resurfacing Program*

*Removal and replacement of surface asphalt pavement, sidewalk, and curb/gutter on City streets in low/moderate income areas.*

7. **Applicant:** Loaves & Fishes Community Services

**Agency Background:** Loaves & Fishes Community Services is an anti-poverty, hunger-relief organization that has served the community since 1984. Our mission is to provide healthy food and impactful programs to promote self-sufficiency. We believe to eliminate hunger we must address its root causes. We provide access to nutritious food and resources that help families overcome the barriers that prevent them from living healthy, economically stable lives. Our grocery assistance program provides access to nutritious foods through a client-choice market, and offsite deliveries. Targeted programs provide extra nutrition for infants, children, and seniors. Integrated with our mission are our core values: compassion, dignity, health, hope, and service. We believe in the power of community to change lives; that by working together we can accomplish great things; that each person possesses inherent dignity; the opportunity to serve is a gift; and food is a right and not a privilege. In addition to food assistance, Loaves & Fishes CARES programs help families stay housed and employed and include the following agency-run programs: emergency financial assistance, car donations, resource meetings, public benefits applications, tax return preparation, and job search assistance. Through community

partners, Loaves & Fishes is also a site for financial literacy, legal assistance, emotional counseling, and health screenings.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Loaves & Fishes Reroof & HVAC Rooftop Unit Project*

*Loaves & Fishes seeks CDBG funding to reroof over the existing roof and replace the HVAC rooftop units at 580 Exchange Court, Aurora.*

8. **Applicant:** Mutual Ground, Inc

**Agency Background:** Mutual Ground, Inc. (MGI) is a not-for-profit social service organization, established in 1975, that operates one of the oldest and largest domestic and sexual violence programs in Illinois. Services are provided across these three programs (Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Substance Use) and six departments within those programs (Hotline, Shelter, Counseling, Legal Advocacy, Family Services, and Prevention). MGI provides services at its main office in Aurora and five satellite offices throughout the service area, which includes Southern Kane and all of Kendall Counties. MGI also provide services directly at local schools, hospitals and law enforcement offices. In April 2020, MGI developed the infrastructure to support telehealth services for victims who are unable to access services in-person. The mission of Mutual Ground is to empower individuals, families, and communities to eliminate domestic and sexual violence and the harms of substance use through education, awareness, and life-changing services. MGI is the only provider of comprehensive domestic and sexual violence resources in its service area. Our 24-hour shelter services are located in the central portion of our service district.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter*

*MGI's 24-hour Emergency Domestic Violence shelter program exists to be a beacon of hope for those seeking a path away from violence, and continually works to meet the needs of adults and children at risk.*

9. **Applicant:** Prairie State Legal Services

**Agency Background:** Prairie State Legal Services is a civil legal aid organization serving 36 counties in northern and central Illinois outside of Cook County. All legal services are provided without charge to eligible persons. We provide services from 11 offices located in Bloomington, Galesburg, Joliet, Kankakee, Ottawa, Peoria, Rockford, Rock Island, Waukegan, West Chicago and Woodstock. We offer other services including criminal records relief, a low income tax clinic, and legal advice by telephone.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Housing Advocacy Project*

*Legal services to aid low-income households with housing issues that may result in homelessness if not addressed.*

10. **Applicant:** Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc. dba Hesed House

**Agency Background:** Hesed House began in the early 1980s when the Aurora Clergy Association noticed that people were beginning to knock on their church doors asking for food and clothing. It was decided that it was vital that the churches band together to help solve the problem. On February 23, 1983, Hesed House was opened. In addition to providing food and shelter as unconditionally as possible, volunteers and staff strive to affirm the dignity of each client, thus enabling her or him to regain self-respect and a sense of personal worth. Hesed House serves the very poorest residents of the Aurora and surrounding areas. Clients must be homeless and include the unemployed, mentally ill, physically disabled, victims of domestic violence, the chronically homeless, veterans, displaced families, senior citizens, alcohol and substance abusers and those experiencing homelessness due to severe economic duress. In addition, in 2010, we opened the Hesed Comprehensive Resource Center (CRC) directly across the street from our shelter programs. Besides our own case managers, there are several local service agencies - with specialized knowledge of the homeless population - that have offices at the CRC.

This includes a legal clinic, a medical clinic, a mental health counselor, an addictions counselor and a children's counselor, in addition to others.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *SEEDS Case Management*

*SEEDS case managers work with homeless clients of Hased House, addressing the issues that made them homeless in order to return them to independent living.*

11. **Applicant:** Quad County Urban League, Inc.

**Agency Background:** Quad County Urban League provides services to individuals who are members of the targeted populations in this application. Our organization works with all populations who live in low-income communities. We understand the needs of the community from young adult ex-offenders and at-risk youth to single mothers trying to make ends meet on a low-wage job, to seniors who are struggling on fixed incomes. Our programs consistently reach and help residents that other programs cannot or do not - those with multiple barriers to employment and financial stability. QCUL addresses needs of young people who are in poverty, exposed to crime (including gun violence), and are un/underemployed through its various programs including: (1) The Excel Academy (EA2) and (2) Strengthen Communities - Ready to Work Program. QCUL also operates an Emergency Assistance and Relief center, connecting older youth, adults, and families to Stimulus, Families First, CARES, and other government and private sector resources and supportive services, training, and re-employment. We are an Economic First Responder and Economic Relief Community Navigator for the Aurora community, which needs our help now more than ever to address financial, basic needs, health, and emotional hardships, during this COVID-19 emergency.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Community Empowerment Program - Adults*

*The Community Empowerment Program will accomplish workforce development outcomes by providing occupational/job and customized training to increase access to skilled workers that meet the workforce needs of local businesses who are industry partners.*

12. **Applicant:** Rebuilding Together Aurora, Inc.

**Agency Background:** Rebuilding Together Aurora (RTA) provides critical home repair and modification services to low-income, owner occupied, homes in Aurora and the surrounding areas.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Safe at Home: To provide ADA compliant accessibility modifications to qualified low-income, owner-occupied, households in which at least one person has an independently verified disability that can be aided through home modification.*

13. **Applicant:** Senior Services Associates, Inc.

**Agency Background:** Senior Services Associates, Inc. is a non-profit agency dedicated to sustaining and improving the quality of life for individuals age 60 and older, the disabled age 18 to 59 and their caregivers, by providing access to the social services they need. We are dedicated to preserving their independence, promoting mental and physical well being, and protecting their rights and dignity. Preserving independence since 1973. Our focus is on the frail, vulnerable elderly and their caregivers including grandparents raising grandchildren. No one is denied services because of their ability to pay. In pursuit of our mission we provide case management, assessing seniors needs and linking them with in home services; also information and assistance, accessing the benefits they qualify for, assisting with the application and follow up to determine proper services are in place and remain relevant. We provide the following services to promote health and wellness and prevent social isolation; evidence based wellness programs, educational and recreation programs, Friendly Visiting, Transportation and volunteer opportunities. Additional services include Adult Protective Services, abuse investigation; nursing home Ombudsman, Volunteer Transportation and Outreach to the homebound. Senior

Services primary objective is to provide the support that will allow our clients to live safely with improved health and dignity in their homes and community as long as possible.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *Community Connection Center*

*Provide services for seniors and persons with disabilities age 18 to 59 that will allow them to live safely with improved health, security and dignity in their homes and community as long as possible.*

14. **Applicant:** The Neighbor Project

**Agency Background:** The Neighbor Project (TNP) is a nonprofit, HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agency dedicated to helping low to moderate income families reduce debt, build credit, save and ultimately buy their first homes. TNP not only provides financial and homebuyer education, but post-purchase counseling, foreclosure prevention and emergency home-repairs. Moreover, TNP strives to harness existing resources in the community through a unique savings model that can involve directing rent dollars already being spent by lower-income families back into their hands, eliminating one of the largest barriers to financial growth and stability - savings. TNP Programs help position working families to be the primary drivers of neighborhood revitalization by educating and preparing families to reduce their debt and begin building wealth. At The Neighbor Project, clients always do the work to change their own financial situation. But that work is leveraged, powerfully, through innovative savings programs that help clients reach their goals more quickly and effectively than they ever would alone. Volunteers, churches and donors multiply their neighbors' efforts - opening the path to true financial freedom.

**2022 Project Proposal 1:** *Safety-First Program: Fund urgent or safety-related repairs in the homes of income-eligible homeowners including: HVAC/mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems; roof repairs/replacements; porch repairs; mold/radon mitigation; and more.*

**2022 Project Proposal 2:** *Matched Savings - Individual Development Accounts: TNP will expand its pilot program through the "Use of (CDBG) to Assist Individual Development Accounts [IDAs]" per HUD Notice CPD-17-07 to help Aurora residents accelerate savings for homeownership, education or small business start-up.*

15. **Applicant:** North Island Apartments LP

**Agency Background:** North Island Apartments provide housing to 56 vulnerable seniors.

**2022 Project Proposal:** *HVAC / Roof Replacement Project*

*The unit hvac systems will be replaced offering a long term solution to current heating and a/c issues for 56 income eligible households.*