

ANC 1C Grant Application

Applicants can download, print, or view a full-text version of the grant application at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/ANC1C-grants-full-text>

This form will be reviewed by ANC 1C to determine:

- a. whether the grant funds would be used primarily to aid residents or organizations in the Adams Morgan ANC's geographic area;
- b. whether funding is available to the applicant from other sources or if the grant seeks to duplicate existing public or private services in the neighborhood or the District of Columbia;
- c. whether the applicant has sought funding from private sources;
- d. whether the persons served by the grant have limited income or opportunity to obtain the services or goods provided for in the grant as individuals;
- e. the number of persons and the diversity of groups to be served by the grant;
- f. whether the grant will serve the population as a whole or a limited number of persons;
- g. whether the grant funds will be used to purchase items that will have a greater frequency of use and/or longevity of use;
- h. whether the applicant will use Adams Morgan and/or District of Columbia vendors and or services to implement the purpose of the grant, unless those resources are unavailable in the neighborhood or District of Columbia;
- i. whether or not the grant funds will be used to purchase green products and services;
- j. whether the grant will serve to better human well-being.

Email address *

jwsun@lighthousewdc.org

About the Organization

Organization Name *

LightHouse DC

Organization Address *

1850 Wyoming Ave NW

Website *

www.lighthousewdc.org

Contact Name *

Jingwen Sun

Contact Title *

Co-founder

Contact Phone *

2027254772

Grant Request

Amount Requested *

\$4,000

Name of project *

ANC 1C Program

Date funds will be used by: *

MM DD YYYY

12 / 31 / 2020

Does your organization currently receive funding from the DC government? *

Yes

No

DC Government Funding

How much funding does your organization receive annually from the DC government? *

.....

From what agency or office? *

.....

What is your organization's annual budget? *

\$283,209

.....

Is the organization located in the Adams Morgan area as defined by the boundaries of ANC 1C? The map can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/ANC1C-map> *

Yes

No

Please upload proof of non-profit status (e.g., attach a copy of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or DC Office of Tax & Revenue tax exemption letter or similar disclosure documentation to the application). *

 LightHouse DC I...

Grant Application

Please provide a detailed description of what the grant will be used for. *

Funding Request - The number of persons served, and our footprint in Adams Morgan and ANC 1C:

LightHouse DC humbly requests \$4,000 to support our ability to serve Jubilee Housing and Joseph's House and to overall improve ANC 1C residents' quality of life. Based on LightHouse's past records, we anticipate \$6,066 to \$8,666 in furniture expenses in 2020 to meet ANC 1C residents' needs. LightHouse also anticipates making over 20 free furniture pickups from ANC 1C's catchment area.

About LightHouse DC - An Adams Morgan community partner:

Lighthouse DC was founded in 2017 in response to the DC Metro Region's mounting homelessness crisis. According to the District of Columbia 2019 homeless point-in-time count, 6,521 individuals and children are homeless – living in emergency shelters, on the streets, or places not intended for human habitation. And we know this is likely an undercount.

While our region has made steady gains in providing immediate shelter to chronically homeless adults, families, and children, access to stable housing and the social safety net that facilitates ending homelessness remain fragmented. This challenging reality led to our founding.

Between 2012 and 2016, our founder Brian Hart, served as an active board member, volunteer, and community advocate for a variety of local housing and social service nonprofits. In these varied roles, Brian was struck by the gaps in our housing and social safety net for our neighbors struggling to find stable housing. In particular, he was troubled by the reality that even when individuals and families were leaving the streets or a shelter for permanent housing, too often they arrived to empty apartments; and they did not receive assistance moving their belongings or furnishing their new residence.

These gaps in the system deprive families of a real home, leaving them to live in an empty space; eat, sleep, or do homework on the floor; or, in worst case scenarios, delaying their ability to move in and forcing them to re-enter shelters. The end result of these gaps is stark: a continued denial of the basic human need for a safe and stable home. Brian and Co-Founder Jingwen Sun saw these systematic failures as unconscionable. But they were also problems that had a solution. This is why LightHouse DC was founded.

We believe that an unfurnished living room, an empty bedroom, or a bare kitchen are more like a shelter than a home. Our mission now: One family at a time, we help formerly homeless and low-income residents in our community transform their empty houses into homes – striving to restore dignity, create stability, and make sure every person has a chance to enjoy a life free of poverty.

Today, from our headquarters in Adams Morgan (in ANC 1C), we work closely with DC government, local community-based nonprofits, shelters, and emergency housing providers, to help formerly homeless and low-income residents in our community consistently move and furnish their homes. The gently used donations we collect and distribute will provide the households that we serve with the necessary goods and furniture needed to maintain their home in the long-term.

Through an innovative blend of moving and furnishing assistance, combined with a robust array of volunteers and pro bono partners, LightHouse DC has helped 174 households, totaling 423 individuals, break the cycle of homelessness and create stable, dignified homes. We do this work because we know that a

place to call home is the foundation necessary to move our most vulnerable neighbors from the cycle of poverty to self-sufficiency.

Our Program Approach - The longevity of our donations and our environmentally friendly approach: Using cutting-edge supply chain and logistics practices, we collaborate with 46 DC based nonprofits, government, and businesses in a community-based model to provide three unique service elements:

(1) Collect gently used furniture and household goods from donors on a continuous basis. Through strong pro bono partnerships and a robust volunteer corps, LightHouse DC regularly collects high-quality donated goods from individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community. By removing wait-time and transportation burdens, we make the donating process of even large household goods (often the hardest to come by) easy for donors.

Our donation-based approach has two additional benefits. First, because we ensure donated items are high-quality, suitable for long-term use, and go far towards ensuring our clients have comfortable homes with furnishings they need for the future. Second, by upcycling gently used goods, we are minimizing the disposal of otherwise usable household goods and furnishings, an approach that has environmentally friendly benefits.

(2) Maintain a lean, hybrid inventory model to cut costs and ensure speedy delivery of household goods. Our innovative private-public partnership with the DC Housing Authority affords us a clean and accessible warehouse space to store donated furniture and household goods. This storage facility allows us to maintain a robust stock that we can efficiently – saving time and cost – distribute to our clients.

(3) Deliver only specific furniture to meet the requests of residents. We know that “one size does not fit all” when it comes to creating a home. Every household we serve has unique needs, and we respect that. LightHouse DC responds to our clients the way we would friends, neighbors, or family; we strive to make sure that our services and furnishings fulfill each family’s distinct needs. This nimble, human-centered response is a big part of our proven success turning houses into homes for each household we serve.

Despite our growing footprint, demand for our services remains vast. We maintain an average of 30 households on our waitlist at any given time, and receive ongoing requests for moving and transportation services from residents receiving donations from partner nonprofits that do not provide moving assistance. This is why we are humbly requesting support from ANC 1C. Additional funding this year will help us further expand and deepen our local footprint and get even more of our most vulnerable neighbors off the street, into stable housing, and on the path to self-sufficiency.

What Funds Will Be Used For - A detailed description:

Funds will be applied to two core program activities, each of which is managed by Jingwen Sun, our Co-Founder and Director of Operations.

(1) Furniture expense

LightHouse anticipates \$6,066 to \$8,666 in furniture expenses in 2020 to meet ANC 1C residents’ need. Based on LightHouse records in 2019, our organizational furniture expense was \$56,329, and approximately, 10% of the expense was allocated to ANC 1C’s residents through Jubilee Housing and Joseph’s House.

In order to maximize the impact of ANC 1C’s grant, furniture provided to these two organizations will serve

its residents at-large and individual residents from these two organizations who are assigned furniture items. These organizations can use the furniture items in their common areas or reassign furniture as needed.

\$3,000 of ANC 1C's grant will be used on LightHouse's furniture program to improve ANC 1C residents' quality of life and community.

(2) LightHouse DC COVID-19 Program

LightHouse is in the process of gathering information from its partners to identify needs from the community during the COVID-19 period.

At this time of acute crisis, LightHouse is furthering its partnership with DC Department of Human Services (DHS) beyond furniture delivery services. Among other collaborations between the two organizations, DHS is poised to receive a massive amount of PPE at their centralized location. LightHouse will jump in and provide its supply chain expertise to help deliver this vital equipment to DHS funded facilities, including shelters and hotels, across the city, which will likely include ANC 1C.

LightHouse has also identified several needs from its partners, including needs in grocery gift cards, PPE, and grocery drop off services. We anticipate the needs to be extremely massive and LightHouse will try our best to fill the gap. \$1,000 of the ANC 1C grant will be used on our COVID-19 program, restricted to serving residents and organizations within the ANC 1C catchment area.

Our Target Population - Low income, resource constricted, racially and ethnically diverse individuals and families:

Our target population includes individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Washington, DC. We take a low-barrier, housing-first approach with zero participation or entry requirements. This means the basic demographics of our program participants closely mirror those in the larger homelessness system, and we typically serve the highest need, most vulnerable of our neighbors.

The vast majority of clients are people of color, with most identifying as African American. Of the single individuals we serve, most are male and tend to be slightly older with a median age of 58. In contrast, the majority of families we serve are headed by a single female parent with a median age of 37. Of families, most households have multiple children ranging in age from birth-18 years of age, with the median age of children served by our program being 7 years of age. Across all of our clients, the depth and degree of economic insecurity is acute. The average annual income of program beneficiaries is just over \$7,000. This is well below even the lowest income threshold (0-30% of average median income, or \$32,760) used by government agencies to determine access to services.

In sum, our clients are the individuals and families who have been most disproportionately impacted by systemic racism, and more recently, by gentrification and the economic and housing push-out occurring in the historically African American communities of Washington, DC.

Our Impact- Partnering to better serve our neighbors wellbeing today, and tomorrow:

We define success and monitor impact in two primary ways:

First: We define success in the stability and well-being of a home that we bring to client's lives. Therefore, the most immediate outcome/impact metric we track is the number of households that we can provide the stability of a home. In 2020, we will provide 70-80 households and more than 250 neighbors with the home

environment needed to maximize their opportunity for lasting stability.

It's important to note that we know that our impact does not end with just the number of residents we serve, or the time and dollars we save our partner nonprofits. For us, the greatest impact is education, job training, employment, and community connections our clients are able to foster because they have a place to call home.

This impact takes time to assess. In 2020, we aim to increase our capacity to monitor our long-term lasting impact on these metrics by building post-participation outreach surveys for those residents we serve. With initial year-one data, we anticipate seeing improved quality of life scores among 90% of participating households.

Second: We also define success by our capacity to reduce redundancies and duplicative efforts, which saves time and money for our nonprofit and government partners. Local shelters and housing providers in ANC 1C, like Jubilee Housing, Joseph's House, and Housing Counseling Services Inc, already carry significant responsibilities in providing direct human services, case management, and housing search services to our most vulnerable residents.

We reduce their already heavy load by partnering effectively to provide moving services and household furnishings to their clients as they identify housing. With this in mind, we assess impact by the time and resource burden that we lift from our partners in meeting household needs. We monitor this impact by tracking the value of donated goods and services provided to each household's shelter or housing partner. In 2020, we anticipate saving our >40 partner agencies \$120,000 by providing household furnishings and moving services to 250 vulnerable neighbors.

Why Your Support Matters- Diverse funding for a unique impact:

As a small but mighty Adams Morgan based nonprofit, LightHouse DC pursues a variety of funding sources to support our mission. This includes a blend of private foundations, individual donations, and both governmental and private service probono partnerships.

We currently have applications pending with a variety of local and national foundations including: the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the Rapoport Foundation, PNC Bank, and Big Lots. On an annual basis, we raise \$50,000 through individual donations. Finally, partnerships with local businesses including Unwind Wellness Center and Piersol Design (both located in Adams Morgan) provide us with in-kind and probono services integral to mission. While we continuously seek new and diverse funding streams, the reality is that DC's philanthropic community is highly competitive.

\$4,000 in funding from ANC 1C will serve to compliment these other funding sources, helping to ensure LightHouse DC can continue to offer our unique services to the residents of the District of Columbia, including Adams Morgan and in particular, ANC 1C.

Please upload relevant supporting documentation, which should include an itemized budget, written estimates, bids, or pre-invoices. *



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Agreement and Signature

The undersigned affirms under penalties of perjury that the responses to this Grant Application are true and correct to the best of their knowledge. On behalf of the Applicant (organization name), the undersigned acknowledges that this Grant Application may not be approved or that the Commission's grant budget may be insufficient to fund this Application even if approved. The Applicant's sole recourse to such non-approval or failure to fund is to submit another Application to the Commission.

The undersigned acknowledges familiarity with ANC 1C's Grant Guidelines and Policy Statement (<http://bit.ly/ANC1C-grant-guidelines>) and specifically agrees to comply with the provisions concerning Grantee Compliance/Accountability.

Contact Name *

Jingwen Sun

Contact Title *

Co-founder

Signature (please write your full name below to indicate compliance with the above statement)

*

Jingwen Sun

Date *

MM DD YYYY

04 / 14 / 2020

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