

VT Community Health Equity Partnership Community Project Funding to Address Health Inequities: Funding Application

Deadline: Midnight on September 9, 2022

Funding is intended to assist **NEK Prosper! Caledonia + Southern Essex Accountable Health Community** to address health inequity(s) experienced in the St. Johnsbury District which were exacerbated during COVID-19, and which are described in a Data Driven Problem Statement as: *Due to stigma, marginalization and systemic inequalities, not everyone in Caledonia and Southern Essex Counties has fair and just opportunity to prosper (be financially secure, mentally healthy, physically healthy, well-housed and well-nourished), nor safe, accessible and inclusive opportunities to participate in planning and decision-making about the health and well-being of themselves, their families and their communities. This is true particularly for those experiencing stigma, marginalization and avoidable systemic inequalities associated with socioeconomic status; race, ethnicity and culture; sexual orientation and gender identity; visible and invisible disabilities; trauma, mental health and substance misuse disorders, and justice-involvement.*

NEK Prosper! is interested in supporting projects which help us achieve a Vision of prosperity for *all* and our Aspiration to build our collective and community capacity to dismantle systemic inequality and marginalization, foster community leadership and community-driven solutions and ensure fair and just opportunity to health and prosperity.

1. Type of Applicant:

Non-profit Organization Group/Association^ Individual* Other (please describe):

2. Name of Applicant (organization, group, individual):

Umbrella, Inc

3. Applicant's (organization or fiscal sponsor as applicable) Street Address (Street/Road, City, State, Zip Code):

1216 Railroad St, Suite C
St Johnsbury, VT
05819

4. Primary Contact Person Name (for project):

Olivia Plunkett, Director of Innovation

5. Primary Contact Person (for project) Email Address:

olivia@umbrellanek.org

6. Primary Contact Person (for project) Preferred Phone Number:

802-748-1992, ext. 314

7. Tax Identification Number (organization or fiscal sponsor as applicable):

03-0268884

8. Amount Requested (no less than \$2,500 or more than \$50,000):

\$27,780

9. Schedule of Work:

- Start Date: **October 1, 2022**
- End Date (no later than May 31, 2023): **May 31, 2023**

10. Project Name – Provide a one-line name for your project:

NEK Domestic Violence Prevention Warm Line

11. Project Purpose Summary – Provide a short three to four sentence summary of the purpose of your project:

The purpose of this project is to create and provide a prevention-oriented, confidential warm line service specifically designed to be as accessible as possible to any member of the NEK impacted by domestic violence (DV), no matter their physical location (rurality), criminal location (where they are at in a criminal proceeding), or social location (marginalization or stigmatization). Typically, interrupting domestic violence means involving the criminal justice system and oftentimes takes place after acts of violence have already happened. For marginalized and stigmatized individuals in our community, such as those who misuse substances or People of Color, involving the criminal justice system is not a safe or realistic option and so instances of violence go uninterrupted and cycles of violence remain unbroken. This project is supported by a 3 month NEK accountability needs assessment in which we gathered feedback that speaks to the desire and demand for this kind of service, and it centers the participation and feedback of POC and those with lived experience of DV, and accountability via their participation on the project's Advisory Committee.

12. What Vermont town(s) will be directly served by your project?

Umbrella has offices in St Johnsbury and in Newport, and services the entire Northeast Kingdom. The warm line aims to service all towns in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties.

****Please Note:** Umbrella would like this application to be reviewed by both NEKPropser! and Vibrant ONE reviewers, as the project intends to serve the NEK in its entirety.

13. Describe the Project - the work you'll do, the overall timeline and how you'll use the requested funds (will also need to attach a Project Budget – see example on Page 3) (funded portion must be complete by May 31, 2023) (no more than 1,500 characters):

Overall Goal: Create and offer a community-informed, confidential, violence prevention warm line in the NEK accessible to all, including those most marginalized, to interrupt and prevent domestic violence.

Objective 1: Develop an Advisory Committee of a diverse group of community stakeholders, prioritizing those with lived experience and POC, to form, rollout and evaluate the warm line. Anticipated timing is October-May. Funds used for staffing.

Objective 2: Train Advisory Committee in Growing a New Heart's (GANH) non-clinical, non-coercive toolkit, to inform creation and roll out of a safe, responsive and accessible warm line. Anticipated timing is November-January. Funds used for training, staffing, and consultant stipends.

Objective 3: Create warm line protocols and implementation plan by working collaboratively with the Advisory Committee and GANH's technical support team. Anticipated timing is November-January. Funds used for consultant stipends, community forums, marketing materials, handbooks and staffing.

Objective 4: Pilot the warm line. Anticipated timing is February 1-May 31. Funds used for warm line responder stipend and staffing.

Objective 5: Evaluate the warm line by engaging the Advisory Committee, community members, and the GANH tech team to ensure and adjust for effectiveness, safety and accessibility. Center feedback of those with lived experience and POC. Anticipated timing is February-May. Funds used for consultant stipends, community forums and staffing.

14. Describe the Focus Population (who will benefit?) (no more than 500 characters):

Anyone *causing or who could cause* harm in relationships. The expected VT response to interrupt DV is punitive, utilized after violence has taken place, making anyone who has caused harm reluctant to access support. In VT, People of Color (POC) are more likely to be convicted for domestic violence offenses and they are twice as likely as white individuals to be sentenced to incarceration vs supervision. This makes involving the criminal justice system even less of an option for POC causing harm.

15. Describe how this project was identified or designed by the intended beneficiaries (no more than 500 characters):

In the spring of 2022, Umbrella led a DV accountability needs assessment in the NEK. We heard from 41 individuals currently enrolled in a VT DV Accountability Program. Participants confirmed they would benefit from access to a neutral outlet to utilize accountability support. Participants emphasized the need for a service offering disconnected from the criminal justice system, as justice connected support would not and could not be genuinely utilized for fear of criminalization.

16. Describe the Project Goals and Desired Results (what will success look like?) (no more than 500 characters):

The comprehensive creation and launch of a community supported, confidential warm line, offered to people who have or could cause harm in their intimate partnerships, which is safely and abundantly utilized by NEK community members, including POC. This includes organizing and training a diverse Advisory Committee, collaboratively creating a set of protocols and procedures to inform the formation and roll out of a warm line, piloting the warm line and evaluating it on a monthly basis post launch.

17. Identifying milestones provides a way to monitor the progress of your project and make course corrections, if needed. When and how will you identify milestones for this project? (no more than 1,500 characters):

Creation of Advisory Committee. Specific focus dedicated to recruiting individuals who have lived experience with domestic violence and accountability, as well as People of Color, to be on Advisory Committee. (November 1, 2022)

Engagement in Training (December 2022)

Compilation of protocols and handbook (January 2023)

Tech support sessions with nationally recognized training entity (December 2022-February 2023)

Community Awareness and Q&A Forums (December 2022, February & April 2023)

Execution of Marketing Plan (January & May 2023)

Launch of warm line (February 2023)

Post launch evaluation sessions. Center feedback of those with lived experience and People of Color. (Last day of each month, February, March, April, and May 2023)

18. Describe your team (the project champions and any community partners you are working with / intend to work with to achieve these results). If not yet working with these partners, please describe your plan to outreach and engage these partners (no more than 1,500 characters):

Umbrella: Executive Director, Amanda Cochrane & Director of Innovation, Olivia Plunkett, project leadership

Partner organizations & individuals already involved in this initiative via Umbrella's needs assessment, participation on Advisory Committee (AC):

- NEK Human Services
- St Johnsbury & Orleans County Community Restorative Justice Centers (CRJC)
- Department of Corrections, Diversion & Probation/Parole
- VT Network Against DV & Sexual Violence
- VT DV Council
- Department of Children & Families
- Center for Court Innovation
- VT Agency of Human Services, Field Director
- AWARE
- Alma Center
- Free Cross (accountability facilitator and POC)
- Greg McDonald (retired St J P&P Field Director)

Partner orgs we plan to outreach to regarding involvement:

- Kingdom Recovery Center: outreach includes potential AC membership
- Journey to Recovery: outreach includes potential AC membership
- Police Department: outreach includes potential AC membership & partnership in marketing warm line.

Community partners we'd like to involve:

Persons in NEK who have caused harm: outreach includes connecting with NEK Counseling & CRJCs for referrals & assistance with confidential, consensual outreach

DV survivor: outreach includes reaching back out to Umbrella-associated survivors who were part of the needs assessment, as consent was given to follow up with them

Community members who are POC: outreach includes reaching out, via board & staff connections, to POC in the NEK with interested in serving on AC

19. Please explain how the intended work may positively impact the data driven problem statement and/or help NEK Prosper! achieve our Vision and Aspiration described above (no more than 1,500 characters):

The proposed project helps to build community capacity to dismantle systemic inequality and marginalization, putting forward a transformative justice offering - a warm line aimed at interrupting and preventing DV in the NEK. The project is directly informed by a community needs assessment conducted earlier this year that included voices of survivors of DV, those who have caused harm in their relationships, as well as community members, community organizations & state agencies.

The project's aim is to offer a confidential resource to those in the NEK who are interested in no longer causing harm in their close relationships and are unable to otherwise access violence intervention support. The typical response to someone who has caused harm in an intimate relationship is to involve the criminal justice system (CJS). For many individuals, particularly those most marginalized and stigmatized, involving the CJS is not a safe or effective option. People of Color in Vermont are twice as likely as white individuals to be sentenced to incarceration upon conviction.

Additionally, there is only one program throughout the entire NEK that formally offers accountability support to those who have caused harm to their intimate partner, and is often only offered once someone has been convicted and gone through a criminal process. Due to the restrictive

acceptance requirements and the program's enormous service area, many individuals in our community are left underserved or entirely unsupported.

20. (Optional) Feel free to provide additional information you think may be useful to the reviewers in evaluating this application. What else should we know about the project that we didn't ask? (no more than 1,500 characters):

The idea for this warm line comes as a result of a three month needs assessment led by Umbrella earlier this year. A review of the project's report may be helpful in understanding the significant effort that has gone into connecting with NEK community members as well as the conclusion that a warm line is an appropriate intervention. The report can be find here:

https://www.umbrellanek.org/files/ugd/adfbd1_aa7f8c9b60ec413e8c6ba0188b5eadb2.pdf

Umbrella has been working with A Call for Change, a warm line available to people who have caused harm in their intimate partnerships that is based out of Massachusetts, since early September, 2022. Umbrella went through a warm line orientation session with the training entity behind A Call for Change helpline, called Growing A New Heart. The orientation involved multiple local stakeholders, including Northeast Kingdom Human Services, St Johnsbury Community Restorative Justice Center and Department of Children and Families, who have expressed their support and interest in advancing the effort to establish a warm line locally. The training we are asking for support with is provided by Growing a New Heart.

The link to an intro video to A Call for Change's helpline can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xDQ8Vi5hZU&t=2s

The link to Growing a New Heart's website can be found here: <https://growinganewheart.org/>

**VT Community Health Equity Partnership
Community Project Funding to Address Health Inequities:
Project Budget**

Organization/Group/Grantee Name: Umbrella, Inc			
Title of Project: NEK Domestic Violence Accountability Warm Line			
Expense Category*	Description	Request	Please note any other secured funding or in-kind donation toward expenses for Project
Staffing	Project Coordinator - 5 hours/week @\$28/hour for 32 weeks = \$4,480		Additional project coordinator staff time supported in-kind
	Lived Experience Expertise Consultant Stipend x 3 @ \$500 each = \$1500	\$ 11,580	
	Warm Line Respondent Stipend @ \$50 per day x 7 days a week x 4 months (Jan 1-May 31) = \$5600		
Consultants (legal fees, trainers, graphic design, etc.)	Graphic designer for outreach materials - \$500	\$ 500	
Materials & Supplies (printing, books, art supplies, building materials, etc.)	Handbook supplies - \$200		
	Marketing supplies - \$200	\$ 700	
	Community Forum Refreshments - \$100/per forum x 3 = \$300		
Travel		\$ 0	
Other (fees for conferences, trainings etc.)	GANH Training, 40 hours, plus tech support and launch consultation @ \$15,000	\$ 15,000	
	Total Request	\$ 27,780	

*If a category is not applicable, please leave it blank

Referenced Report Citation:

Weber, JD, PhD, Robin, and Crime Research Group. 2015. *Race and Sentencing in Vermont*.

<https://justiceforallvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Race-Sent-Rpt-2015.pdf>.