

Town of Richmond

Request for Special Appropriations

Request for Fiscal Year: 2019

Organization's Name: VT Center for Independent Living

Address: 11 East State Street

City, State, Zip: Montpelier, VT 05602

Website address: www.vcil.org

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Program Name: N/A
2. Contact Person/Title: Linda Meleady, Development Coordinator
Telephone Number: 802-224-1819 E-mail address: lindam@vcil.org
3. Total number of individuals served in the last complete fiscal year by this program: ~3,700.
4. Total number of the above individuals who are Town residents: 6.
Please attach any documentation that supports this number. *Please see attached summary report.*
Percent of people served who are Town residents: <1%
5. Amount of Request: \$375.00
6. Total Program Budget: \$2,762,166.00
Percent of total program budget you are requesting from the Town of Richmond: <.01%
7. Please state or attach the mission of your agency: *Please see attached.*
8. Will the funding be used to:
 X Maintain an existing program Expand an Existing Program
 Start a new program
9. Has your organization received funds from the Town in the past for this or a similar program? Yes.
If yes, please answer the following:
 - a. Does the amount of your request represent an increase over your previous appropriation? If yes, explain the reason(s) for the increase. N/A
 - b. Were any conditions or restrictions placed on the funds by the Selectboard? If yes, describe how those conditions or restrictions have been met. N/A

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. Statement of Need: Identify the issue or need that the program will address (use statistical data to justify the need for the program). To what extent does this need or problem exist in the Town of Richmond?

VCIL has specific programs that benefit the residents of Richmond, including the Sue Williams Freedom Fund, which provides grant dollars for assistive technology not otherwise covered by insurance, Meals on Wheels for people under the age of 60 and who have a disability (the Council on Aging serves people over the age of 60) and the Home Access Program, providing ramps and bathroom modifications to residents. VCIL also offers peer-to-peer services for people seeking assistance because of barriers they are experiencing.

In addition to people served, VCIL offers technical assistance to the business community on the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.

According to the U.S. Census, 20 percent of Vermonters have a disability. The programs offered at VCIL to residents of Richmond afford them greater independence.

2. Program Summary:

- a. Identify the target/recipients of program services. Specify the number of Town residents your program will serve during the fiscal year and explain the basis upon which this number is calculated. Indicate any eligibility requirements your program has with respect to age, gender, income or residence.

In the previous year, VCIL served six residents of Richmond. Considering that 20 percent of the population has a disability, this number can vary greatly from year to year depending on the needs of the residents.

In addition to the number of residents, the type of service will vary. Some business owners needing technical assistance can reach out for a quick phone call, while another resident may need a home modification which can cost up to \$15,000.

Eligibility varies from program to program. For the business community, anyone that has a question about disability-related laws can contact us.

For the Home Access Program and Sue Williams Freedom Fund there are income limits (must not exceed 80 percent of the HUD median income), and one must have a disability that directly relates to the need requested (home modification or assistive technology).

The Peer Advocate Counseling Program is offered to anyone who has a significant disability and wants to work on specific independent living goals. The peer must be engaged in the process of working on goals identified.

- b. Identify what is to be accomplished or what change will occur from participating in the program. How will people be better off as a result of participating in the program? Describe the steps you take to make the project known to the public, and make the program accessible and inclusive?

VCIL staff work with program participants to develop an Independent Living plan and that plan addresses specific goals to living independently and the steps needed to obtain the goals. The peer advocate counseling staff work with peers to achieve those goals. One resident has just started on our Meals on Wheels program assuring they get one hot and nutritious meal a day which they do not feel they are able to do on their own in their current living situation. Another resident worked with one of our Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) to set a goal of obtaining hearing aids. The peer and our PAC did some research and it was found that the peers insurance would cover this. Our outreach team continues to work to let more people know who VCIL is and what we do. We are currently doing a mailing to all speech pathologists, audiologists and senior centers about our Equipment Distribution Program (EDP). This program has funds available and provides assistive technology to the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and individuals with physical disabilities to enable them to communicate by phone. We have a PSA about VCIL and are working on additional PSA's about a particular program and details about connecting with VCIL are also planned. We are also in the process of updating our website to be more accessible and user friendly in addition to having a translate option for people who speak other languages.

Other outreach techniques include social media (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube), VCIL's website, and outreach to community organizations, the state and other partners about our services/programs.

VCIL strives to be accessible and inclusive. We have policies and procedures for reasonable accommodations. We complete cultural competency assessments and continuously work to be more inclusive of our programming.

3. Program Funding:

- a. Identify how Town funds, specifically, will be used (i.e., funds will provide "X" amount of units of service.)

VCIL will use the funding for our Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC) and for Information, Referral and Assistance (IR&A). These programs are at the heart of VCIL's work and allow residents to access information about disability-related laws, services and programs. The PAC program provides residents one-on-one support when overcoming barriers they are experiencing because of disability. We work with residents to develop an Independent Living Plan and set goals. We then work one on one in helping residents achieve those goals. Our peer counselors all have disabilities themselves and understand through personal experience and training how to overcome obstacles that people with disabilities often face, especially when seeking housing, employment and transportation services.

- b. List the other agencies to whom you are submitting a request for funds for this program and the amount requested. How would this program be modified should revenues be lost? VCIL appreciates the assistance from the town and these funds, combined with grants received from other organizations, cities/towns and private donations, enable us to offer the services when needed to individuals with disabilities. (please see attached budget and FY'19 Towns Requesting allocations from)

C. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

1. Describe your agency's capability to provide the program including its history, previous experience providing this service, management structure and staff expertise.

Since 1979, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has provided services to enhance the lives of people with disabilities with a vision of people with disabilities living independently and staying where they choose, in their Richmond home.

VCIL evaluates the needs of individuals with disabilities through an annual survey. The need of individuals range from getting and understanding information to access programs/services, accessing transportation, needs for meals on wheels and accessibility modifications in the home. Many of the individuals VCIL works with are considered "vulnerable" and through support and other services residents are less exposed to vulnerabilities. VCIL employs people who have disabilities and they work 1:1 with residents who have disabilities and use their personal experience as an individual who has a disability to help others navigate complicated systems, and teach the skills that allow individuals to be more confident and advocate for their own needs.

VCIL provides technical assistance to business owners and municipalities on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability related laws. This allows for businesses to be less exposed to complaints and litigation and allows people with disabilities to have access to goods, services and employment opportunities.

VCIL provides home access modifications to those who have physical disabilities and need a ramp or bathroom access, Meals on Wheels to people with disabilities under the age of 60 who cannot prepare their own meal, assistive technology grants and farm assessments. VCIL also helps individuals access American Sign Language interpreter services through the VT Interpreter Referral Service, a program of VCIL's after the closing of the Austine School for the Deaf in Brattleboro. VCIL is now home to the VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which provides telecommunications equipment to enable low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, and hard of hearing individuals to communicate by telephone.

These services all make a difference in individual lives and allow individuals with disabilities to achieve personal goals of living in their own home, raising children, going to community outings, employment and volunteerism.

2. How will you assess whether/how program participants are better off? Describe how you will assess program outcomes. Your description should include: what (what kind of data), how (method/tool for collecting the data), from whom (source of data) and when (timing of data collection).

Every January, VCIL sends out a survey to over 1,000 peers statewide that measures overall satisfaction with VCIL, what has improved in their life as a result of working with VCIL, advocacy issues peers would like to see us focus on and satisfaction within the particular program peer was enrolled in. Based on the results of last years survey, VCIL held three "Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 101" trainings throughout the state which is what peers told us in the survey that they wanted to know more about. As an organization, VCIL uses Results Based Accountability as the tool for evaluation and planning. We also see the direct result of skills training and social interaction in the increase in peer leaders who are conducting workshops, facilitating meetings, and talking to their legislators about advocacy issues that affect them. An audit at the end of a fiscal year to determine how many of our peers have reached their set goal is also a way for our Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) to measure success or to follow-up with said peer to find out what else needs to be done.

3. Summarize or attach program and or service assessments conducted in the past two years.

Please find peer survey attached. In addition, programs within VCIL have evaluation procedures.

4. Does your organization have a strategic plan and a strategic planning process in place? If yes, please attach your plan.

The strategic plan should include a mission statement, goals, and action steps to achieve the goals, and measures that assess the accomplishments of the goals.

Please find our strategic plan attached.

5. What is the authorized size of your board of directors? Up to 15 members.

How many meetings were held by the board last year?

Full board meetings are held quarterly, in addition we have Program, Development, Executive and Finance Committees made up of board members, and the committees meet six times a year.

6. Does your organization have an audit performed? If yes, the audit must be provided to the Town Manager upon request. Yes.

I, the undersigned, confirm the information contained herein is accurate and can be verified as such. I understand and agree that if the requested funds are approved, the disbursement of funds are subject to all conditions established by the Richmond Selectboard.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: 10/24/18

Print Name of Applicant and Title: Sarah Launderville, Executive Director