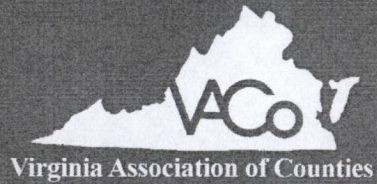
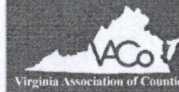


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2014 Achievement Awards



2014 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline: June 2, 2014

Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2014.**

Program Information

Locality Chesterfield County
Program Title Ettrick Community Medication Assistance
Program Category Health and Human Services

Contact Information

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Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name James J. L. Stegmaier
Title County Administrator
Signature *James J. L. Stegmaier*

Call for Entries

Name of the Program: Ettrick Community Medication Assistance
County and State: Chesterfield County, Virginia

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OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The Ettrick Community Medication Assistance Program is a public sector/private sector partnership that provides assistance to purchase prescription medications for low income individuals and families in the Ettrick community of Chesterfield County, Virginia. Funding for this program is provided by the Ettrick Neighborhood and Business Foundation (ENBF). Administration of the program is provided by the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Department of Social Services. Prescriptions are purchased at Appomattox Drugs located in the historic Old Ettrick Post Office building in the community of Ettrick. Communities in Schools (CIS) staff in Ettrick Elementary School refer families in need to the program. The program is designed to achieve two outcomes: 1) Assist low income families to obtain medications that improve health so that adults can work and children can attend school and reach educational goals; and 2) Develop a model of partnership with the private sector that can be replicated to meet other needs.

THE PROBLEM/NEED FOR THE PROGRAM

Low income families and individuals often must make choices about expenditures for family needs because income is not sufficient to meet all needs. Choices about whether to buy food, pay the electric bill, repair the car, or buy medication is a constant juggling act with something always falling through the cracks. The Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Dept. of Social Services receives many requests from citizens each day for help with basic human needs. The Department administers several federal and state public assistance programs that are regulated by strict eligibility criteria. For many families, the need can be met by a government program or a referral to another organization. However, there are cases where assistance cannot be provided because the family does not meet the eligibility criteria threshold, but the family still needs help. In other cases, the government program is limited to a specific purpose, for example food assistance only.

One of the gaps in services identified by the Department is medication. The Department began to collect data on emergency requests. There were 257 requests for medication assistance in FY12. This number is exclusive of the large number of citizens eligible for Medicaid. The Department is limited in the assistance given to medicine requests because the Department depends upon a combination of community donations and limited local government funding.

In early 2013, the Department Director was contacted by a representative of the Ettrick Neighborhood and Business Foundation (ENBF) with a desire to partner with the Department in meeting a need in the Ettrick Community. The Foundation could bring funds to the table, and the Department could bring the expertise of service delivery to the table.

HOW THE PROGRAM WAS CARRIED OUT

Program Development: A representative of the Foundation and a representative of the Department met in February 2013 to begin the planning process of developing a partnership to meet identified needs in the Ettrick community. An informal needs assessment was conducted. While the Department does not collect data specific to Ettrick, information was collected from both supervisory and frontline staff familiar with the area because of working with families over time. Information emerged from these conversations that indicated consistent themes that included lack of food resources, medicine resources, and the need of assistance with housing, rapid re-housing and utilities. Interviews were also conducted with the Communities in Schools (CIS) staff located at Ettrick Elementary School. These program staff work closely with the children, families, and community of Ettrick Elementary. Needs identified in these interviews included: food (additional weekend backpacks needed), medicine, computers and internet access. Lack of transportation to the Department office to access services was also identified as a need for some residents. While all of these needs should be addressed, it was decided by the planners that medication assistance would be the first priority for the new partnership. It is hoped that this model of partnership can be replicated to meet other needs.

Financing and Staffing: The Foundation agreed to provide a charitable grant of \$10,000 to the Department for the specific and sole purpose of assisting residents of the Ettrick community with medication costs/needs. No new operating or capital costs were incurred in developing or implementing this Program. The partnership model incorporates the existing resources of the parties. The Integrated Intake Team of the Department administers this Program as one of several resources for citizens, and no additional staff is required. The existing county technology accounting infrastructure is used for tracking the grant expenditures and for issuing payments. An Excel spreadsheet is used to store data on case specific information. Data is then extracted from the spreadsheet to create monthly reports on totals

and expenditures. No new technology had to be purchased or created. A three-party Memorandum of Agreement was drafted to describe the purpose, operations, process, roles and responsibilities of the parties, and eligibility criteria. The draft was reviewed by the County Attorney's office, and the final agreement was signed in August 2013 by the Director of the Foundation, the Director of the Department, and the Administrator of Communities in Schools.

Operations are handled within the existing infrastructure. Operations, processes and roles of the parties follow:

A. The Foundation agrees to:

1. Provide the funding for the Program by making a grant to the Department in the amount of \$10,000.
2. Participate in meetings related to administration of the Program and ensure attendance by a representative authorized to bind the Foundation.

B. Communities in Schools agree to:

1. Act as a liaison and conduit of information between the Ettrick individuals/families and the Department. This may include: identifying individuals who need assistance, facilitating application and forms completion, faxing applications/forms to the Department, and facilitating assessment phone calls/interviews between the individual/family and the Department.
2. Participate in meetings related to administration of the Program and ensure attendance by a representative authorized to bind Communities in Schools.

C. The Department agrees to:

1. Act as the Fiscal Agent by accepting and managing the grant.

2. Receive and evaluate all applications for assistance.
3. Conduct an assessment interview of applicants.
4. Approve or deny applications according to established criteria.
5. Inform the applicant of the decision.
6. Notify the drug store of approvals.
7. Process invoices and pay drug store.
8. Prepare and distribute monthly reports to all parties which provide the number of individuals served and the amount of the grant expended.
9. Participate in meetings related to the Program and ensure attendance by a representative authorized to bind the Department.

To qualify for assistance under the Program, the parties agreed that an individual or family must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Residence within the Ettrick Elementary School attendance area.
2. Income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
3. Must possess a valid medication prescription.
4. Not be a full or part-time college student.
5. Complete the application process.

In addition to the other terms of the agreement, the parties all recognized that the Foundation required as a condition of the grant that all prescriptions funded by the grant be filled by Appomattox Drugs located in the Ettrick community. A payment per grant recipient cannot exceed \$500.

The Ettrick Community Medication Assistance Program began operations on October 1, 2013.

THE RESULTS/SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM

Since implementation on October 1, 2013, twelve individuals/families have received help obtaining a prescription. As of May 2, 2014, a total of \$4,746 has been expended, with \$5,254 of the grant remaining. The partnership has resulted in a valuable learning experience for the three parties involved, both from the perspective of the purpose of each individual party and from the targeted focus of assessing and meeting a need in a small geographic area. The parties agree that the partnership is having a greater positive impact together than could be accomplished working independently on a problem. The potential exists for the Foundation to eventually provide additional funding for other community needs. The development of the model and its success with this Program will enhance the Department's ability to replicate the model with other partners.

WORTHINESS OF AN AWARD

The social services system in Virginia is a state supervised, locally administered system. Program specific funding streams from the federal and state governments are allocated to local departments based on formulas that have failed to keep up with demand. Recovery from the recent economic recession has been slow even though Virginia's unemployment rate is lower than the national rate. Demand for assistance has resulted in historic caseload growth in the Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs. The Department has experienced budget reductions over the last few years and has long recognized that there are community needs that cannot be met by government alone. The Ettrick Medication Assistance Program is an example of a partnership between the public and private sectors that leverages resources to meet community needs.

Political gridlock on the national level particularly has caused citizens to become discouraged about the government's ability to solve some of society's stickiest problems. Other public discourse demonstrates

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the extremes of thought about the size and role of government. Aside from the rhetoric, there are people at the community level who see human need and want to do something about it. There are people in local government and people in the private sector who come together with the resources they have to create a partnership that utilizes the resources and strengths of each to meet a specific community need.

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