



EST. 2014

Donald Underwood, Founder
Director of Events
Sounds of Summer
4911 7th PL NE
Washington, DC 20017

Dear Grantor,

Sounds of Summer (SOS) is a major outreach initiative project in Washington, DC, driven to educate and enlighten residents on the risks of HIV and AIDS. SOS management is conscious of the changing demographics in the Washington, DC Metropolitan, New York City and Central California areas and are dedicated to growing and adapting our programs to meet their needs. We target multicultural populations at-risk, infected, and affected by the H.I.V and AIDS virus. This includes ex-offenders, L.G.B.T (lesbian, gay, black, transgender), sexually abused, mentally ill, drug abusers, and others. Funding for the Sounds of Summer Awareness Concert will start the pilot for annual outreach events that will positively affect the lives of thousands. To include the following:

- "1st Annual Sounds of Summer Concert' Live On The National Mall"
- "L.G.B.T Pride Carnival"
- "God Has Not Forgotten Conference" (Ex-offenders and Convicts Only)
- "Hear Us Walk-A-Thon"

Sounds of Summer is respectfully requesting a grant in the amount of 150,000.00 for the 1st Annual Sounds of Summer H.I.V and AIDS Awareness Concert.

Our board of directors are enthused about this program and delighted to launch it in an effort to be the most inclusive and culturally competent organization for those in communities abroad who need services. At the conclusion of the pilot year this event will be a success. The organization is committed to integrating a portion of the projects' yearly expenses into an annual operating budget to maintain this event as an integral part of the organization. The Sounds of Summer project will serve as a primary source for referring individuals infected, and at-risk to healthcare facilities, community clinics, and support centers in and around the Washington, DC area and abroad.

Thank you in advance for consideration of funding request. We are excited for you to become a sponsor for the Sounds of Summer Awareness Events. Should you have any questions in the interim, please feel free to contact Donald Underwood, Founder at (240)552-6551 or SoundsofSummerNatl@gmail.com. Your earliest response is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Donald Underwood
Owner



Executive Summary

Sounds of Summer(SOS) was established by Donald Underwood to create a portal to healthcare services, activities, and supportive resources that provide the specific needs of those at-risk, infected and affected by the H.I.V and AIDS virus. SOS addresses the health, social, recreational, and logistical needs of the minority population in the Washington, DC area. Serving individuals worldwide through a variety of programs, SOS plans to be the largest annual awareness event in the nation's capital. The mission is to help improve populations by encouraging, empowering, and enlightening those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to maintain a healthy and independent lifestyle to maximize their quality of life.

SOS is conscious of the changing demographics in various areas and dedicated to growing and adapting programs to meet the needs of those at-risk to H.I.V and AIDS. The Sounds of Summer project will provide comprehensive access to health and social services for those in need.

Program objectives include ensuring that a minimum of 3,500 persons will be tested and educated during our event, increasing the number of individuals informed of their status. We will engage a minimum of 5,500 people, increasing our annual referrals significantly to community clinics, partnering non-profit organizations (support centers), and healthcare providers within the geographic areas and grant period. After the pilot phase of the program has been completed, there will be additional programs phased in.

Our support can play a vital role in the lives of the minority in the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. According to, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Center for HIV Surveillance, Epidemiology and Evaluation, Maryland has become the 2nd state with the highest infection rate in the U.S. In 2012, there were approximately 29,477 cases of people living with the HIV virus. Living cases of HIV are typically middle-aged adults (61%) among adults ages 40-59. New diagnoses of HIV are typically young adults (52%) among adults ages 20-39, and this proportion of new diagnosis has increased, almost doubling from 16% in 2003 to 31% in 2012. Among living adult/adolescent cases of HIV in Maryland there were, 791.3 cases per 100,000 males and 401.8 cases per 100,000 females. However the proportion of new HIV diagnoses that were male increased from 63% in 2007 to 73% in 2012.

Sounds of Summer project will introduce our services to an extremely under-served population. As a result, we will raise awareness and the rate of living persons already infected with HIV, while decreasing the percentage of new infection diagnosis. YES! We believe there is hope for those infected with H.I.V and there is protection for those at-risk.

The total cost of implementation of our Sounds of Summer Annual Awareness Concert is \$333,000. We are reaching out to other sponsors and grantors from both county and city governments. Your investment will secure the funding needed to implement this pilot project and we are excited about the prospect of partnering with you. Thank you for considering our request.

Needs Statement

Sounds of Summer program for HIV and AIDS awareness and prevention is greatly needed. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), estimates that 1,144,500 adults/adolescents living in MD had HIV at the end of 2010. 15.8% of the Maryland population were undiagnosed. During 2012, 1,415 people were diagnosed with HIV, and 829 people were diagnosed with AIDS. Since 2012 the survival rate has increased, however new cases of HIV diagnosis have doubled. Below are the Maryland adult/adolescent living with HIV by Region;

- Suburban Washington 31%
- Baltimore City 41%
- Suburban Baltimore 17%
- Southern 2%
- Eastern 2%
- Western 2%
- Corrections 5%

This particular illness H.I.V (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a lentivirus which cannot be cured, but only treated. If this virus is not detected and treated early, HIV develops into AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Even with treatments these viruses have great effects on the body causing fatigue, rashes, headaches, muscle and joint pains, sore throat, fever, etc.. Risk factors for HIV and AIDS includes; unprotected sex (anal, oral, vaginal), shared needles by drug users, or gestational. Sexually Transmitted disease, STD, exposure can also make one more susceptible to contracting the virus. The homeless population also exhibits several risk factors. However, there is no absolute way to know whether you are infected unless you are tested!

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, (LGBT) may receive improper health care because of poor treatment from providers who are uncomfortable with their lifestyles. In addition, clients who are employed and diagnosed with HIV or AIDS may need to take time off, leave or lose their jobs for treatment, resulting in lack of income. This will cause a hardship of their income being depleted from the costs of healthcare. This includes newly diagnosed patients with HIV and AIDS in jeopardy of losing their health insurance, custody of their children, or their housing because of discrimination, periodic hospitalization, and insurance health risks. Even if someone has access to coverage, many insurers will not cover individuals diagnosed with HIV or AIDS. For these reasons and more, this Sounds of Summer project is crucial to the minority in the DC metropolitan area.

However, there is no absolute way to know whether you are infected unless you are tested! The minority we target through this project are among the most under-served people, people of color, ex-convicts, homeless, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender), and low-income individuals.

If the Sounds of Summer project were not undertaken, low-income persons at-risk would not be able to receive education on prevention in a modern and more conventional way. Since the people we serve are minority, including the homeless, they have limited access to similar resources that may be available in other areas.

Goals & Objectives

Sounds of Summer has expanded into a national HIV and AIDS awareness music event held in Washington, DC, Los Angeles, CA, and New York, NY. Our goal is to make sure that the number of new found HIV and AIDS cases are decreased, and those already living with HIV and AIDS are sustained. We will help those infected get necessary treatments and help others from becoming infected. Sound of Summer plans to partner with other organizations to compel more of our targeted groups to receive our services.

It is our goal to introduce new and innovative ways for ex-offenders, mentally ill, sexually abused, L.G.B.T, and any others to know their status. For example, Sounds of Summer plans to hold an annual "Hear Us Walk-A-Thon". This event will serve as a support group for those who have lost loved ones to the virus A.I.D.S. SOS intends to rally the streets of Washington, DC to offer HIV testing with testimonials, literature, performances and speeches.

Our mission is to make people feel comfortable with getting tested and knowing their status. Free in-home testing kits will be given to those in need. With the permission of clients, partnering facilities will support sexual partners of those who have been diagnosed with HIV and/or AIDS. Sounds of Summer will then deliver those partners a free in-home testing HIV kit for people to know their status comfortably.

In addition, SOS intends to issue vouchers for prescription discounts. Those who have been diagnosed with the HIV and/or AIDS virus with proper documentation of denial for medical benefits can receive a prescription voucher once a year from Sounds of Summer.

Methods & Strategies

In order for Sounds of Summer to achieve our objectives, our board of directors plan to employ the methods and strategies listed below. We have total confidence in these methods, as they have been tested over a number of completed surveys throughout the Washington, DC area. They have also been preferred by two of our fellow nonprofit organizations whose client population are minority.

Objectives

- Ensure that a minimum of 3,500 people are tested at our event.
- Administer tests to at least 5,500 people annually.
- Register more than 5,500 people into our database annually.

Strategies

Our annual Sounds of Summer event is absolutely free, however getting tested is your ticket in! Yes, we intent to hold an annual concert featuring National Recording Artists ABSOLUTELY FREE! In order to gain access to the event you must be tested. Test results are given to individuals by professional counselors at the concert or mailed to their homes by request. This will ensure that a great number of people will be tested.

Through our Hear Us Walk-A-Thon we will have tabling provided by our professional partnering organizations. Professionals will educate others on the risks of HIV and AIDS and direct them to our on-site testing area. Our professional partners will also be equip with ample amounts of female and male condoms provided by Sounds of Summer.

All year around we will collect information on the demographics in the Washington, DC area by using our professional street team. Our street team will collect data on over 55 people monthly by using surveys. They will also demonstrate how to; Properly apply a male and female condom on mannequin reproductive organs.

Sounds of Summer will give out General Nutrition Store (GNC) gift cards and prizes to concert participants who can correctly answer questions on H.I.V and AIDS.

We are partnering with a professional production company that has agreed to record and broadcast the entire concert and event from; Red carpet arrivals, performances, and backstage footage. A portion of the DVD proceeds will go towards our annual operating budget.

Progress Evaluation

Currently, program facilitators administer both a pretest and post-test to our participants in order to measure the information that is learned. Tests are administered before and after every Sounds of Summer event; including but not limited to, Sounds of Summer Hear Me Walk-A-Thon, Sounds of Summer Annual HIV and Aids Awareness Concert, and every event Sounds of Summer hosts. During our annual Sounds of Summer concert event, we will educate the audience on the effects, causes, and preventative measures that can be taken to prevent HIV and Aids. Post each event questions will be directed towards our participants to see what our event has taught them. Prizes are given out to the audience members selected that answers each question correctly. At the conclusion of each event, we also ask participating facilitators to complete a detailed evaluation questionnaire so we can continue to find new and innovative ways to improve an already excellent program.

Sounds of Summer program will also be regularly evaluated by an professional panel of outside evaluators. It is our goal to teach our generation to become good stewards of their health and the environment. The Sounds of Summer programs coordinator and fund raising specialists are working to develop a more sophisticated, yet practical, evaluation process to measure the more long-term impact of the program with the minority who participate.

Data collected will help guide our board of directors to construct and implement new avenues for newer goals, strategies, and events. Data collected will also be shared with funding companies and sponsors annually.

Sustainability of Funds

Over the months to come, Sounds of Summer plans to approach several new grant makers for support. Because of your reputation and dedication to your grantees, we're delighted to submit our request to you exclusively for our new project. We handle our endeavors very delicately and we believe your company will excel in sponsorship with becoming part of this amazing implemented program.

All of our volunteers have been overly committed to making Sounds of Summer the best program for HIV and Aids awareness. We intend to employ volunteers to ensure they are compensated for their hard work and efforts. Sounds of Summer plans to hire a fundraising consultant who will work closely with our board of directors to create a dynamic fundraising plan. Our strategic fundraising plan will incorporate an expanded annual giving program. Building a large individual resourceful information database will complement Sounds of Summer's successful grant seeking program to help ensure our prosperous financial future. Our dedicated groups of volunteers have helped build the core of Sounds of Summer's revolving successful trends.