



VR Silver



PROJECT PROPOSAL

NSF:PKG00277347

Prepared by
Leah Baum



www.VRSilver.org
www.thetechpals.org
www.thetechpals.org/vr-silver

VR Silver

Best Practices for Equitable Delivery and Introduction of Virtual Reality Technology to Older Adults to Enrich Their Lives



NYSE: (ARW)
www.Arrow.com

ARROW
Five Years Out



Tech Pals
Technology Trainers
www.TheTechPals.org 844-Tech-Pals

Sponsors
www.Arrow.com
www.RealityGarage.com



VR Silver

VRSilver.org

VR Silver: Best Practices for Equitable Delivery
and Introduction of Virtual Reality Technology
to Older Adults to Enrich Their Lives

VR Silver is a research and development program by Tech Pals focused on the introduction and equitable delivery of virtual reality technology to enrich the lives of older adults. It aims to reduce social isolation, promote independence, and improve the quality of life throughout the aging process. VR Silver provides immersive experiences that encompass physical exercise, cognitive stimulation, pain management, stress reduction, reminiscence therapy, social engagement, therapeutic applications, cognitive training and rehabilitation, and lifelong learning. The program seeks to bridge the technology gap among older adults, ensuring access to emerging technologies regardless of educational background or geographic location. By acquiring a mobile VR trailer, VR Silver will bring its services to geographically isolated and low-income communities, fostering inclusivity and empowering older adults through technology.

SMART GOALS

VR SILVER: A SMART RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

S	<p><u>SPECIFIC</u></p> <p>WHAT DO I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH?</p>	<p>VR Silver aims to help older adults by introducing and delivering virtual reality technology to enrich their lives. The program will provide immersive experiences that promote physical exercise, cognitive stimulation, pain management, stress reduction, reminiscence therapy, social engagement, therapeutic applications, cognitive training and rehabilitation, and lifelong learning. The goal is to address the unique needs and challenges faced by older adults in a technologically evolving world.</p>
M	<p><u>MEASURABLE</u></p> <p>HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN IT IS ACCOMPLISHED?</p>	<p>VR Silver will measure its impact through surveys and feedback from participants. These assessments will evaluate the program's effectiveness in reducing social isolation, improving well-being, and enhancing cognitive abilities among older adults. Additionally, VR Silver will focus on sustainability by exploring avenues such as grants, donations, and fee-for-services to ensure the program's continuity.</p>
A	<p><u>ACHIEVABLE</u></p> <p>HOW CAN THE GOAL BE ACCOMPLISHED?</p>	<p>VR Silver's goals are achievable through a combination of funding sources, including grants, donations, and fees for services. By actively seeking financial support and leveraging Tech Pals' reputation and partnerships, the program can secure the necessary resources to implement and sustain its initiatives.</p>
R	<p><u>REALISTIC</u></p> <p>DOES THIS SEEM POSSIBLE?</p>	<p>VR Silver's mission aligns with the broader objectives of Tech Pals and the ExLENT program. The use of virtual reality technology to enhance the lives of older adults is a realistic and proven approach. With the right resources, partnerships, and expertise, VR Silver can effectively introduce and deliver virtual reality experiences to older adults, enabling them to benefit from emerging technologies.</p>
T	<p><u>TIME BOUND</u></p> <p>WHEN CAN I ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL?</p>	<p>VR Silver aims to have two fully operational VR events per month by January 2024. This timeline allows for adequate planning, implementation, and outreach to ensure the program's success. By setting a specific timeframe, VR Silver can work towards its goals with a sense of urgency and track its progress in reaching a wider audience of older adults.</p>



Introduction:

As the President and Founder of Tech Pals, a 501 (c)(3) devoted to enriching lives through enabling others to embrace technology, I am pleased to introduce our mission: "Enrich Your Life, Embrace Technology." At Tech Pals, we firmly believe that a basic understanding of technology is a fundamental right, not a privilege. Since our establishment in 2019, we have been reducing social isolation and frustration among older adults while promoting independence, dignity, and improving the overall quality of life throughout the aging process.

As the project manager for VR Silver, a Tech Pals research and development program, I am excited to share our initiative for the introduction and equitable delivery of virtual reality (VR) technology to enrich the lives of older adults.

The VR Silver program aims to bring the transformative benefits of virtual reality to older adults, promoting their engagement and social connection while stimulating cognitive abilities. Through our program, we aim to address various aspects of well-being and enrichment, including physical exercise, cognitive stimulation, pain management, stress reduction, reminiscence therapy, social engagement, therapeutic applications, cognitive training and rehabilitation, and lifelong learning. VR Silver is designed to ensure that older adults can access and benefit from emerging technologies, regardless of their financial situation or geographic location.

Tech Pals has established itself as a trusted entity, with 58 five star Google reviews and five star over rating. We have been bridging the technology gap among older adults and providing tailored experiences that meet their unique needs. Our commitment to bringing technology and technology training to older adults has earned us recognition and support from the community, with contracts from the City of Boulder, and Boulder County.

With the requested grant of \$10,000, we intend to acquire a mobile VR trailer, a versatile and accessible platform that will allow us to deliver VR experiences directly to geographically isolated and low-income communities. This trailer will serve as a hub for immersive experiences, staffed by trained volunteers and Tech Pals representatives who will facilitate the VR sessions for older adults. By focusing on underserved populations, we aim to ensure equitable access to the transformative power of VR technology.

With your support, we can continue to enrich the lives of older adults, foster inclusivity, and prepare a diverse STEM workforce that is ready to contribute to our nation's most pressing scientific and societal challenges. Together, we can ensure that older adults are not left behind in the rapidly evolving world of emerging technologies.



VR Silver

www.VRSilver.org



A Tech Pals, Inc. 501(c)(3)
Research and Development Project



Project Description: VR Silver - Enriching Lives of Older Adults through Virtual Reality

Introduction:

VR Silver is a research and development program developed by Tech Pals, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to enabling others to embrace technology. VR Silver aims to introduce and deliver virtual reality (VR) technology to older adults, specifically targeting geographically isolated and low-income communities. The program seeks to empower older adults by providing them with experiential learning opportunities through VR, promoting engagement, social connection, and cognitive stimulation. To accomplish this, VR Silver requires \$10,000 in funding to acquire a mobile VR trailer that can reach underserved populations.



Objectives:

- **Enrich Lives:** VR Silver aims to enhance the lives of older adults by leveraging the power of virtual reality technology. By providing immersive experiences, VR Silver aims to improve mental well-being, cognitive function, and social interaction among older adults.
- **Bridge Geographic Isolation:** The mobile VR trailer will serve as a platform to bring VR experiences directly to geographically isolated communities. By reaching out to these areas, VR Silver will help older adults overcome barriers of transportation and accessibility, ensuring that they have equal opportunities to benefit from emerging technologies.
- **Foster Inclusion and Equity:** VR Silver is committed to promoting inclusivity and equity by specifically targeting low-income communities. By providing access to VR technology and experiences to individuals who may not have the means to acquire it themselves, the program aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all older adults have an equal chance to benefit from technological advancements.

Activities and Implementation:

Mobile VR Trailer: The requested funding of \$10,000 will be utilized to acquire a mobile VR trailer equipped with VR headsets, computers, and other necessary equipment. This trailer will serve as a portable VR hub that can travel to underserved communities and set up temporary VR experience centers. The trailer will be staffed by trained volunteers and Tech Pals representatives who will facilitate the VR experiences for the older adults.

VR Experience Sessions: The VR Silver program will organize regular VR experience sessions for older adults. These sessions will provide a variety of immersive experiences, including virtual tours of famous landmarks, educational simulations, art and creativity programs, and interactive games designed specifically for cognitive stimulation. Each session will be tailored to the interests and abilities of the participants.

Training and Support: In addition to providing VR experiences, VR Silver will offer training sessions to older adults to familiarize them with the VR technology and its applications. These training sessions will empower participants to navigate and operate VR systems independently, fostering digital literacy and confidence.

Partnerships: To ensure the success and sustainability of the program, VR Silver will actively seek partnerships with local organizations, community centers, and senior care facilities. These collaborations will enable the program to reach a larger audience and provide ongoing support to older adults beyond the initial VR experience sessions.

Expected Outcomes:

Improved Well-being: Through VR experiences, VR Silver expects to enhance the mental well-being and cognitive abilities of older adults, resulting in improved quality of life and increased social engagement.

Enhanced Access: The mobile VR trailer will enable VR Silver to reach geographically isolated and low-income communities, ensuring that older adults in these areas have equal access to the benefits of emerging technologies.

Community Engagement: By partnering with local organizations and community centers, VR Silver will foster community engagement and collaboration, strengthening social connections among older adults and promoting intergenerational learning.

Sustainable Impact: VR Silver aims to establish a sustainable model for delivering VR experiences to older adults. The program will leverage the mobile VR trailer to provide ongoing support, training, and access to emerging technologies, ensuring a long-lasting impact on the target population.



Conclusion:

The VR Silver program, developed by Tech Pals, aligns closely with the goals and objectives of the ExLENT initiative. By providing inclusive experiential learning opportunities to older adults through the sustainable introduction of virtual reality technology, VR Silver contributes to the development of a diverse STEM workforce. The requested funding of \$10,000 for a mobile VR trailer will enable the program to reach geographically isolated and low-income communities, ensuring equitable delivery of VR experiences to older adults. This initiative not only enriches the lives of older adults but also promotes social inclusion, engagement, and the exploration of emerging technologies in underserved populations.



www.VRSilver.org

www.TheTechPals.org

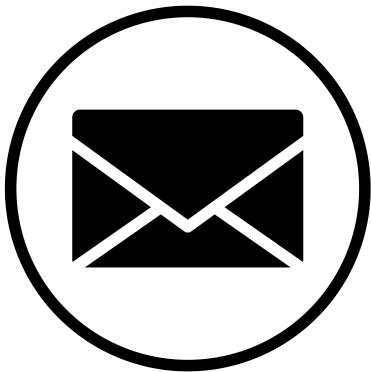
www.TheTechPals.org/VR-Silver



716-380-6811 (Cell)

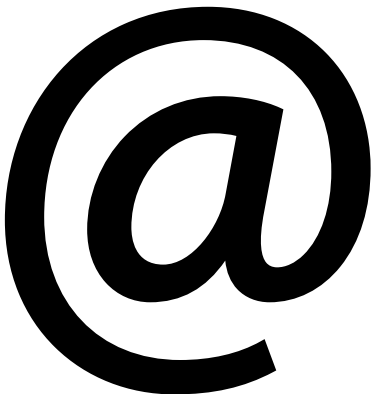
844-Tech-Pals (Office)

877-2-VR-SILVER (Office)



Leah@thetechpals.org

Leah@VRSilver.org



facebook.com/hitechpals

facebook.com/govrsilver

youtube.com/thetechpals



2529 49th St, Unit A

Boulder, CO 80301



www.secure.givelively.org/donate/tech-pals/vr-silver

Dear National Science Foundation (NSF),

On behalf of Tech Pals and the VR Silver program, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your kind consideration of our grant proposal. We deeply appreciate the fact that you have taken our research and development program seriously, despite our modest request for funding. It is truly encouraging to witness the NSF's commitment to supporting initiatives that aim to bring emerging technologies to diverse populations and promote experiential learning opportunities.

By acknowledging the significance of our work in introducing virtual reality technology to enrich the lives of older adults, you have demonstrated a keen understanding of the importance of inclusivity and equitable access to technological advancements. We are immensely grateful for the recognition and support provided by the NSF, as it will enable us to make a meaningful impact on the lives of older adults in geographically isolated and low-income communities.

Your willingness to invest in our vision and mission speaks volumes about the NSF's dedication to building a diverse STEM workforce and addressing pressing societal challenges. Your support not only validates our efforts but also motivates us to continue pushing boundaries and finding innovative ways to bridge the technology gap for older adults.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the NSF for entrusting us with this opportunity. We are committed to utilizing the funds responsibly, executing the VR Silver program with utmost dedication, and creating a sustainable model that can positively impact the lives of older adults for years to come. Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our work.

Sincerely,
Leah Baum
President, Founder
Tech Pals
Project Manager
VR Silver

