

Yvette Ramirez

From: Yvette Ramirez <seacapyr@qwestoffice.net>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:58 AM
To: 'Edward Chien'
Subject: SFY21 COVID 19 CSBG COMMUNITY FUNDS

Hi Edward:

Need your guidance on another potential project, but his one is for Santa Cruz County. SEACAP was approached in August 2019 by a client that needed help doing an upgrade from gas to all electric home. The issue here was that the gas line for this home had a major leak and Unisource Gas referred them to SEACAP. Upon further investigation with the client and UNS-Gas, SEACAP discovered that fixing the gas line would be nearly impossible because when this subdivision was created 50 years ago, all the gas lines for the homes built here all came from one meter and these lines are under other property owners lands. Well, these property owners do not want UNS to dig up their land to have access to these lines. UNS advised SEACAP that it would be best to do an upgrade and make this home all electric. After 9 months, we finally were able to get this house completed with UNS WAP fund, regular WAP funds, URRD and partnership with the electrical contractor who agreed to negotiate his price to help out this elderly couple. Now, we are getting other families from this sub-division who are asking for electrical upgrades to their homes. UNS has advised SEACAP that they are issuing many non-compliance letters to homeowners in this sub-division and requiring them to upgrade their electrical systems. These homes were built over 30-40 years ago, they are USDA homes and 90% of the owners are elderly. What is happening is that these homes are have electrical issues at their homes and when they call UNS to come fix it, UNS is discovering that the house is not in compliance with electrical regulations. Thus, UNS has no other recourse than to issue them a letter to bring their systems up to code and the average cost for this is \$ 3,500 - \$ 4,000 per home. If the family is unable to do so, UNS will disconnect their electrical services until the upgrade is done. We have had to turn away about 6 families since last year, because we do not have the funds to address this issue. We were able to use URRD funds for the first home because once they converted from gas to all electric, we were able to purchase electrical appliances for the client and do minor electrical work in the home. SEACAP only received \$36,000 in URRD funds for SFY21, which means we can only assist 12 families, within our 4 county area, in the next 12 months and were told not to expect any additional funding for SFY21. It would be 1 house, per county per quarter for 3 quarters. I would like to take this money, combine it with the \$37,000 CSBG funds for Santa Cruz County, talk to UNS to partner with us and allow us to use the UNS Electric WAP funds, talk to the local Electric Contractor to also work with us and lower his prices so that we can all help out as many elderly families as we can in this sub-division to upgrade their electrical systems. I hope my explanation made sense. I did receive your email that we need to look at our CNA from 2019, but we are currently working on our new CNA for SFY22 and are seeing newer needs within our smaller communities. There will always be need for more training on employment, for more food needs, for help with medical insurance, transportation issues etc., but our staff is seeing a lot more of the elderly asking for immediate help with issues that they cannot afford to buy/fix/build themselves. We tend to look at the little things that always seem to be overlooked by the major issues throughout the state, but if we can help one small community/sub-division/town with a small issue, then for us it is one small positive step towards improving that community/sub-division/town. Hope to hear from you soon if this project would be one that we can use our CSBG COVID-19 funding.

Yvette

Nogales Project # 2