



### **COVID-19 Funding Request for Three (3) Senior Programs**

#### **Meals on Wheels**

Due to COVID-19 and the escalated demand to serve more homebound and food-insecure seniors in Indian River County, Senior Resource Association's Meals on Wheels program continues striving to find alternative funding. Due to the cancellation of fundraising events, our Meals on Wheels program has lost more than \$90,000 in revenue since the onset of the pandemic. Yet, our number of clients has increased by 75%. As a result, SRA has experienced a growth in the number of meals delivered to homebound seniors from 5,509 per month to 9,641 per month – at a cost of more than \$77,000 per month.

With the escalation of positive COVID-19 cases increasing in Indian River County, safely feeding all at-risk seniors who are homebound and isolated is critical to their health and well-being. While we have received COVID Response grant dollars, the funds will quickly be depleted. Due to the current increase in COVID-19 cases within the county and volunteer illness/fear of contracting the disease, SRA may also need to hire temporary staff to deliver Meals on Wheels in addition to purchasing enough meals to feed everyone. Additional CARES Act funds from Indian River County will help us sustain feeding vulnerable seniors throughout the county and continue adding new, qualified seniors in need.

#### **Grocery Shopping Assistance Program**

Following the onset of COVID-19, Senior Resource Association implemented a Grocery Shopping Assistance program for seniors age 60+. The program helps keep older adults at home and safe while ensuring they have food and essential supplies. SRA staff pick up the grocery list from the client, do the shopping and delivery the same day, and collect payment at the time of delivery. *Delivery is free of charge.* The program has been widely accepted and requested. As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to increase, it will become increasingly important to encourage seniors, even those who are capable of shopping for themselves, to stay home and avoid crowded grocery stores. To continue the program, Senior Resource Association will need additional funding to cover administrative overhead and keep the grocery shopping delivery free of charge for seniors.

#### **Telephone Re-Assurance Program**

For Senior Resource Association's Meals on Wheels clients, their wellness visits by volunteers and staff during the daily delivery are equally important as the nutritional value of the meals. Homebound seniors are isolated and lack socialization. The wellness checks by SRA Meals on Wheels volunteers are often the clients' only form of socialization and it gives volunteers and staff an opportunity to check on the health of the senior. During the pandemic, meal deliveries were reduced to one time per week, forcing SRA staff to make wellness phone calls in lieu of personal visits. It is important that our isolated seniors are re-assured SRA will continue checking on them. With a 75% increase in Meals on Wheels clients since March 2020, the number of wellness phone calls have increased at the same rate. Senior Resource Association will need funding assistance to help offset overhead expenditures, including hiring temporary help as needed.

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