

**Arlington Unit**

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Shane Cochran
Program Implementation Division Chief
City of Alexandria, Virginia
Office of Housing/Program Implementation Division
421 King St., Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Shane,

I am writing to apply for a grant for \$20,000 from the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This grant will be used to conduct energy- and water-saving improvements in Alexandria's low-income apartments. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) will manage this project, but it will be a partnership between VCE and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. Our two groups have been partnering for the past four years on a similar project in Arlington where we have made energy and water improvements in 474 low income apartment units.

The goals of this project are to 1) save tenants and apartment managers money on utility bills; 2) improve energy efficiency in units; 3) improve the comfort of the units; and 4) to improve the environment by decreasing the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. We train teams of volunteers called Energy Masters to work in groups of three or four to perform these retrofits in apartments. In each unit the volunteers provide the following services:

- Seal leaks (caulking windows, vents, outlets; insert gaskets on outlets/switch plates)
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact florescent lights
- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads
- Check for leaky/running toilets
- Insert toilet tank tumblers
- Provide and install power strips
- Clean refrigerator coils
- Educate tenants regarding efficiency measures for lighting, appliances, and heating/cooling

We estimate that this work has resulted in annual savings of \$93,548.70 on electricity and water bills in the apartments where we have made improvements. The improvements are saving an estimated 186,806 kilowatt hours of energy each year and 5,863,130 gallons of

water (the equivalent of 6.8 Olympic size swimming pools). We estimate that each apartment is saving \$48.55 annually on their electric bills and \$183.01 on their water bills.

Given the success of this program in Arlington, we have received requests to expand to neighboring Alexandria. We would like to start work in the city at the beginning of FY 16 (July 1) and estimate that we will be able to complete work in 50 units in the first year of the project. We will rely on the Office of Housing to select the units that are most in need of this work and most interested in the project.

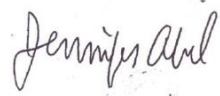
Budget

Supplies for apartment units: \$60/unit x 100 units	\$6,000
Wages for part-time project coordinator (\$20/hour x 660 hours per year)	\$13,200
Honoraria for two expert trainers conducting technical training for volunteers @ \$200 x two annual trainings	\$800
TOTAL	\$20,000

Our group of partner organizations is also applying for a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that would provide \$10,000 for two years of wages for a project coordinator (estimated 250 hours per year at \$20 per hour) and funds for supplies to conduct energy improvements in an additional 100 units in Alexandria over two years. We will not learn if we have received this grant until June 2015. We will continue seeking additional grant funding in order to continue the program beyond the beginning two years.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with the City of Alexandria on this project. Please let me know if you need any other details from us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Abel
Senior Extension Agent