

Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center

It is the purpose of the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center to provide new and improved services in Delmarva Community Service's (DCS) service delivery system. The Intergenerational concept was identified as a way to improve services to the senior population of Cambridge, Dorchester County and the Mid-Shore area. This project is seen as a regional project because of the Center, the proposed senior apartments and the small senior assisted living units, which will serve the mid and lower Eastern Shore.

The Intergenerational Center will have two phases during construction. Phase One consists of approximately 35,000 square feet and includes the childcare area, senior center, atrium area, administrative offices and various instructional and program rooms, and dining room, kitchen area and other program rooms. Phase Two will be construction of the health and wellness center at approximately 15,000 square feet.

Our objective is to deliver new and expanded services to seniors who reside in the area, seniors who live in the remote outlying areas and seniors who presently live-in sub-standard housing. We also see expanding services needed for younger seniors who are moving into the area, either re-locating or moving back to their home community.

We presently provide 3,360 units of service to the seniors in our various programs. We plan, by way of the increased capacity of the new Intergenerational Center to increase our units of service to 6,000. The expanded services, and increasing senior population, will additionally expand our units of service after the completion of our new center and the eventual fitness and wellness component.

This blend of services will provide a rich environment for intergenerational activities, and additional activities that will address the changing demographics of seniors who are retiring, are healthier in general than the older existing senior population and are interested in remaining active with like-minded younger seniors. We believe this is most important to have a vibrant senior community and is also key to the success of the health and wellness center.

As noted above, the Intergenerational Center will also provide a new child day care center which is needed in the area because of the declining family caregivers and the need for quality commercial day care. The Center is located within one square mile of five public schools: Maces Lane Middle School, Choptank Elementary School, Maple Elementary School, Cambridge South Dorchester High School and the Dorchester County Technology Center (Vocational High School). We believe we can also provide service for school age children up to 10 years old for after care or extended hours into the evening.

An outdoor playground for children will be paired with adult exercise stations to extend intergenerational programming into outdoor recreation. Children aged 2-12 will have ample space to climb, slide and play on safe and durable outdoor equipment. Adults will benefit from using the LifeTrail System to improve balance and increase strength and endurance. The LifeTrail System is designed to

focus on movements required to perform daily tasks. Senior adults and individuals with disabilities can improve their quality of life through regular use of this equipment.

Another benefit that DCS can provide to the Chesapeake Grove Project is the readily available public transit system. The DCS transportation program Delmarva Community Transit (DCT), will give community access for the Center and also for the residents. We will be able to bring people to the center on a daily basis from the outlying areas and counties and deliver people to the many community appointments they may have including shopping, and medical appointments. DCS provides public transportation throughout Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline and Kent Counties with daily trips to Salisbury, Elkton and Baltimore. We also provide free transportation to Veterans daily. Our transportation services throughout the four counties provided over 355,000 trips during fiscal year 2020.

DCS is also home to a one call-one click center sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Veterans Administration to help returning Veterans with accessing community services and free transportation to those services. We work closely with the Veterans Employment Services through Maryland DLLR. We also have a Transportation One-Stop office in each of our transportation counties where anyone can call or visit to learn how to access services and use our Public Transit System (DCT). We have trained Mobility Managers available for each county we serve and Travel Trainers to assist people into navigating the transit system and accessing services.

DCS, Inc. is also the Senior Service provider in Dorchester County. We are the sub-contractor to the MAC Area Agency on Aging and receive state and federal funds to provide a safety net of services to seniors in our community. These funds help with our operation of two senior centers, one in Hurlock and one in Cambridge. We also provide hot meals to seniors and through our home delivered meals program and cater food for Talbot County Senior Services.

DCS has moved forward and construction of the Intergenerational Center is underway. The focus of this funding request is completion of construction of the Center, and the furnishing of interior equipment and exterior playground equipment.







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