

## Project Synopsis for FY25: Expanding Hispanic Needs Assessment and Services in Annapolis

### About OHLA

OHLA is an Annapolis-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the Immigrant and Hispanic/Latinx community through direct services, policy advocacy, and research. With 25 years of demonstrated success, our mission is to bridge the gap between underserved populations and the resources they need to thrive. We specialize in providing culturally competent solutions to effectively engage and support the Hispanic/Latinx and Immigrant community.

In Annapolis, the Hispanic population is largely a vulnerable underserved community. Current census statistics show that 22.7% of the Annapolis population is Hispanic, and that the Hispanic/Latinos are the fastest growing community in the State and across the country, yet agencies are delayed in their ability to provide integral services that can readily meet the demand of this fast growing community. Our organization provides many of the direct services needed in Spanish to the community, while also compiling data and researching information in order to better serve and advocate for the community.

Building upon the FY24 final report presented to the City of Annapolis, our FY25 project aims to provide wrap around services to 100 neighbors and establish a community presence through tabling opportunities, and conduct a comprehensive city-wide assessment of Hispanic community needs in Annapolis. The primary objective is to produce a detailed report that will serve as a critical resource for understanding and addressing the diverse needs of the Hispanic population across the city and inform decision makers on current trends and urgencies as reported by the community.

### Project Implementation

Our activities will include the following:

**Weekly bilingual presence:** We will develop a consistent weekend resource table to engage with the Latino community, connecting with at least 200 neighbors throughout the grant period.

**Wrap-around services:** Our team will provide comprehensive support to 100 Latino residents within the scope of the grant period. This support will encompass social services, legal consultations, and access to healthcare and mental health programs.

**Collaboration with property management:** We will reach out to each apartment complex that has high Latino population rates and work with the property management companies to develop activities as they will allow. These activities will aim to build community cohesion, foster trust, and empower the residents.

**Data collection and analysis:** OHLA will publish a report with data collected throughout the grant period to highlight the critical needs established by the community.

### Key Components:

1. **Community Engagement and Outreach:** Expand outreach efforts to engage a broader representation of the Hispanic community, including those from different socio-economic backgrounds and geographic areas within Annapolis.
2. **Data Collection and Analysis:** Utilize qualitative and quantitative methods to gather comprehensive data on various aspects such as healthcare access, education, housing, employment, cultural integration, and social services utilization among Hispanics.
3. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Partner with local organizations, community leaders, businesses, and governmental agencies to ensure a collaborative approach in data collection and interpretation.
4. **Cultural Competency Training:** Provide training sessions for stakeholders involved in data collection to ensure cultural sensitivity and effective engagement with the Hispanic community and present data collected to the City Council.
5. **Report Compilation and Publication:** Compile findings into a detailed report that outlines key needs, challenges, and recommendations for addressing gaps in services and support for Hispanics in Annapolis.
6. **Dissemination and Advocacy:** Develop strategies for disseminating the report to policymakers, service providers, and community members to advocate for targeted interventions and policy changes.

### Expected Outcomes:

- **Enhanced Understanding:** Provide a nuanced understanding of the diverse needs and challenges faced by the Hispanic population in Annapolis.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Generate actionable recommendations to improve access to services and promote equity and inclusion for Hispanics.
- **Community Empowerment:** Empower the Hispanic community by amplifying their voices and advocating for resources that address their identified needs.

### Impact:

The FY25 project seeks to build upon the foundation laid in FY24 by expanding the scope to encompass the entire city of Annapolis. By doing so, it aims to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment where all residents, including Hispanics, can thrive. The final report will serve as a crucial tool for guiding future initiatives and policies aimed at addressing the unique needs of the Hispanic community in Annapolis.