

**Myron Stratton Home
Silver Key Grant Proposal
November 27, 2023**

Purpose of Grant

This grant supports ongoing behavioral health activities at Silver Key, enhancing existing programs to address seniors' diverse needs. This ensures Silver Key's role as a key provider of valuable behavioral health services, contributing to increased hope, addressing loneliness and despair, and reducing costs to the traditional care system.

Establishment of a Consortium of Non-Profits in Collaboration with Silver Key:

This grant establishes a consortium with Silver Key, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Serenity Recovery Center, and Centro de la Familia, dedicated to championing peer support through the state's Recovery Support Services Organization (RSSO) licensure. These nonprofits actively collaborate, exploring RSSO licensure to access Medicaid and resources for unfunded care. The grant supports these efforts, fostering a united front for culturally responsive care with a trained workforce. Supporting this grant sustains Silver Key's initiatives and invests in a powerful consortium impacting behavioral health services across Colorado.

Need

Silver Line Data and Effect of COVID and Social Isolation:

Silver Key's main telephonic entry, Silver Line, averages 2,700 monthly calls—a tangible reflection of the community's demand for support. The high volume underscores the urgent need for services addressing challenges faced by seniors, from loneliness and housing to basic and complex health issues.

Recognizing COVID's impact on seniors is vital. Fear of social gatherings due to the pandemic contributes to heightened vulnerability among seniors. Silver Key addresses this with behavioral health initiatives like companionship, case management, and reassurance calls, playing a pivotal role in alleviating the adverse effects of isolation.

Serving Behavioral Health Needs of Seniors without Medicaid/Medicare Funding:

Serving the behavioral health needs of low-income seniors without traditional funding sources like Medicaid or Medicare is challenging. Innovative solutions and community-driven support systems through increased collaboration with peer support organizations like RSSOs, are necessary to fill gaps in behavioral health services for many people.

Meeting Needs “Upstream” vs. Waiting for Critical Health Events:

Silver Key’s commitment to meeting needs “upstream” reflects a proactive approach to senior care. By addressing challenges before they escalate into critical health events, Silver Key contributes to preventive and holistic well-being, aligning with the broader philosophy of enhancing the quality of life for seniors.

Lack of Licensed Providers and the Role of Peer Support:

Recognizing a shortage in licensed providers highlights a systemic issue, underscoring the value of peer support organizations as alternative solutions. These organizations, providing empathetic connections, complement professional services for seniors. Reflecting Silver Key’s comprehensive understanding, it demonstrates a commitment to immediate responses, upstream interventions, community collaboration, and innovative approaches for enhanced well-being. Furthermore, Silver Key peer counselors will all undergo Colorado Prevention Specialist Certification – a rigorous training and testing program administered by the Colorado Mental Health Services Administration.

Silver Key’s Solution - A Multifaceted Approach:

Community Hub for Senior Services:

Positioned as a trusted community hub for senior services, Silver Key stands as a beacon for seniors seeking assistance. The demonstrated community need, exemplified by the escalating calls to the Silver Line, underscores the organization’s pivotal role in providing vital support and connection to seniors facing a myriad of challenges.

Innovative Behavioral Health Initiatives:

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, in partnership with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), created a new provider type, Recovery Support Services Organization (RSSO), to allow for an additional path to bill for recovery peer support services. Silver Key’s recent acquisition of the RSSO license to bill Medicaid for behavioral health services represents a groundbreaking initiative. This license, a rarity with only four in Colorado, serves as a demonstration project, testing the viability of such billing mechanisms for broader implementation across providers.

Strategic Collaborations for Service Expansion:

Silver Key’s strategic partnerships with Serenity Recovery, NAMI, and Centro de la Familia are vital. These collaborations enable billing for services using Silver Key’s Medicaid license or acquiring their own. This collaborative approach maximizes the impact of limited Medicaid dollars, extending the reach of behavioral health services to a broader audience through an efficient and shared framework.

Enhanced Support Infrastructure:

Proactively addressing the ongoing challenge of senior behavioral health, Silver Key has added a care coordinator, resource manager, and case manager to augment the support infrastructure. However, with a limited percentage of clients registered for Medicaid and a reimbursement rate below \$25 per hour, a substantial financial gap exists, necessitating philanthropic support.

Sustainability

Envisioning the success of our demonstration project holds significant potential. Our initiative aims to introduce Medicaid payment codes tailored to address seniors' unique mental health needs, providing comprehensive coverage for various services. Beyond Medicaid, Silver Key envisions a transformative shift for Medicare to approve payments for behavioral health services, aligning with our commitment to holistic healthcare. Success could catalyze growth in peer support entities, empowering organizations to expand and strengthen networks in senior behavioral health. Pioneering pathways, Silver Key navigates a community-driven approach, promoting the well-being of the elderly and advancing a compassionate healthcare landscape positively impacting seniors and the broader community.

Grant Request and Outcomes

Silver Key seeks a \$75,000 grant to facilitate the staffing and successful launch of our initiative delivering evidence-based wraparound services for older adults. This comprehensive program addresses seniors' behavioral and physical healthcare needs, encompassing nutrition, transportation, case management, and navigation. As we embark on this transformative endeavor, we anticipate integrating RSSO options to enhance the program's impact, aligning with our commitment to providing a multifaceted and personalized support system for older adults.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Utilizing case management as a core framework, involving treatment plans and Silver Key's wraparound services, we average 70 hours and 100 sessions monthly. Tailored for this grant, our focus is on tracking 100 individuals' progress, emphasizing statistically valid and reliable changes in hope disposition to measure improvements in their health and wellness.

Additional Outcome Measures:

Beyond numerical impact, we aim to measure qualitative improvements in participating seniors' lives, including heightened emotional well-being and increased social engagement. Integrating RSSO options enhances our initiative, providing a more robust and multifaceted support system, contributing to the long-term behavioral health and resilience of the older adult community.

Optimal Clinical Outcomes:

Ensuring program success involves employing the Hope scale, a clinically validated measure guiding interventions by assessing seniors' hope levels. This tool provides critical insights into their mindset, targeting both short-term improvements and long-term well-being. This approach aims to reduce costs to Medicaid and Medicare while incentivizing the expansion of RSSO services and rates.

Summary

In summary, Silver Key integrates community trust, innovative licensing, strategic collaborations, and an enhanced support infrastructure to comprehensively address the behavioral health needs of seniors. By serving as a hub for a multitude of services and leveraging partnerships, Silver Key strives to bridge financial gaps and ensure the well-being of the senior community remains a top priority.