

County of Lancaster Request for ARPA Funding

Organization VisionCorps

Date 8/19/22

Submitted By Chris Ament

Authorized Signature 

Email Address 

Phone #: 

Please attach any supporting documentation for consideration. Submission should be in PDF Format.

Project/Item Description	As part of an ongoing effort to increase access and training for technology for people who are blind, VisionCorps needs to establish an Access Technology Teaching Lab in its downtown Lancaster facility.
Clearly state the amount being requested. What is the total cost? How was the cost derived?	VisionCorps is respectively requesting a total of \$100,000. The 5-year campaign to enhance access technology services to VisionCorps clients has a total goal of \$1 million, with \$100,000 of that to build and furnish a Tech Lab. The \$1 million total project cost includes expenses related to training clients, ongoing purchase of assistive technology devices and software, transportation expenses, and public education. Specific costs for the Tech Lab include renovation of existing space, furnishings and technology.
Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet?	This request meets Technology Modernization and Workforce Development benefits
Briefly explain how the project meets the County's guidelines.	Seventy percent of people who are legally blind are unemployed. Technology is the equalizer, allowing them access to the sighted world. Devices like video magnifiers, screen readers and optical character recognition (OCR) devices require training and practice. With this technology and a space to teach, VisionCorps clients are able to have better jobs, access important information, and live independently.
Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County? Also, if this application is for more than one project, please identify each one, provide information and rank them in order of your priority.	Statistically, 2% of the population has a vision impairment, meaning that more than 11,000 Lancasterians live with vision loss. It is predicted that those experiencing vision loss will double by the year 2050. Technology allows these individuals to remain independent by helping them to access their computer, pay bills, identify money, be gainfully employed and do much more. By providing training to independently achieve activities of daily living, despite being blind, VisionCorps helps residents age in place in lieu of entering skilled nursing facilities and other county and state funded programs.
Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project?	This building of the Tech Lab is a one-time expense. The ongoing administrative expenses and costs of updating of assistive technology will be covered by revenue from the overall campaign.
Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.	Timeline for the technology teaching lab is 3 months (2 months for permits & materials and 1 month for actual construction). VisionCorps' goal is to begin the process in November of 2022.
Are other organizations part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why.	VisionCorps is the only nonprofit providing these services to the blind in Lancaster County. Funding has been secured for the general campaign (not Tech Lab) from individual donors, the Powder Mill Foundation, International Paper Foundation, and requests are pending with other Foundations. In addition, to place technology into the hands of clients permanently, VisionCorps works with organizations to provide grants and low/no-interest loans to those who cannot afford the technology. Training will always be at no cost from VisionCorps to the client.
ARPA Committee Comments	
ARPA Committee Recommendation	
Funding Amount Recommended (if recommended for approval)	\$