

Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid Program Narrative  
ANC 6E

- (1) Briefly describe the organization.

**Serve Your City’s mission is to provide life-changing experiences and opportunities for under-resourced Washington, D.C. students.** It aims to make sure Black and Brown students receive the same opportunities their white counterparts receive. As a result of the global pandemic and the disproportionate impact on the communities we serve, Serve Your City expanded to become Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid (SYC/W6MA) to ensure the community had access to the necessary supplies, support, and health information necessary to weather the crisis – and move beyond the structural barriers that created the crisis (e.g. poverty, lack of access to education). Whether it’s our after-school enrichment and tutoring programs, or life-saving work with Ward 6 Mutual Aid, our mission remains the same: provide Black and Brown youth and families the same resources and opportunities that others in DC already have. Today and into the future.

- (2) Describe the grant project.

**About the Mutual Aid Network:**

The Ward-6 Mutual Aid Network is a grassroots, collaborative effort that was created during the COVID-19 public health crisis to safely support our most vulnerable neighbors, who are disproportionately African Americans, People of Color, and those who have recently immigrated to the United States.

We know that in addition to health concerns, many of our neighbors, especially People of Color, the elderly, and people living in public housing, face additional challenges due to historic and structural oppression. Many of our neighbors have limited to no access to basic supplies such as food, water, PPE, and other necessities. Students do not have the devices or internet service required for their learning, which is both an education and safety concern. The City government has offered what it can for these issues, but it is clear that a community level response is needed for as many community members as possible to be able to survive this crisis.

To help mitigate the devastating impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Serve Your City (SYC) has created Mutual Aid Network in partnership with over 78 grassroots, community organizations led by marginalized people, including [Momma’s Safe Haven](#), the [TraRon Center](#), [Brothas Huddle](#), and [Capitol Hill Arts Workshop](#). You can find our full list of partners on our [website](#).

**Why The Mutual Aid Network is Unique:**

The Mutual Aid Network model is unique in its trauma-informed approach that is responsive to the needs of communities of color. This program, created by SYC’s Executive Director, Maurice Cook, is being implemented in Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8. The processes set in place ensure that only known community members distribute supplies within a community.

We believe that the Ward 6 Mutual Aid Network provides a unique service to our community because we are not driven to drop in to Ward 6 and “solve a problem” like many non-profit charities; we are driven to adapt and holistically respond to the needs of the community we work with and are a part of, and we intend to do so as long as we are needed.

### **What We Do:**

Serve Your City is requesting funding for the Mutual Aid Network to support residents of the ANC6E Neighborhoods. Through the Mutual Aid Network, SYC is providing trauma-informed community care to meet residents’ most basic needs for food and supplies; has created a public health campaign to educate residents about COVID,-19 including evidenced-based information about the safety of the vaccine, with the theme of “We Keep Us Safe;” and is providing mentoring, devices, and hotspots with internet access for students who are still engaging with school through distance learning.

- (3) Who will carry out the project? Be sure to include any prior experience or professional qualifications that demonstrate an ability to complete the project.

The Ward 6 Mutual Aid Network is coordinated by a team of grassroots activists and community-based groups. Serve Your City has created Mutual Aid Network in partnership with over 78 grassroots, community organizations led by marginalized people, including [Momma’s Safe Haven](#), the [TraRon Center](#), [Brothas Huddle](#), and [Capitol Hill Arts Workshop](#). You can find our full list of partners on our [website](#).

The originator of the network, and the person providing oversight and guidance for the collective, is Serve Your City’s Founder and Executive Director, Maurice Cook. Maurice started Serve Your City in 2009 as an antidote to the gentrification he was witnessing in DC, and to ensure that our Black and Brown kids have access to every space and every opportunity.

Maurice Cook is a grassroots activist, a national organizer, historian, and a fierce educator on all matters related to the liberation of Black and Brown people in Washington, DC and around the world. Whether he's rallying thousands to march for justice or working behind the scenes to build coalitions that affect change, Maurice's passionate heart is always at the lead.

A devoted advocate of our nation's Black and Brown children, Maurice fights tirelessly against the occupying forces of capitalism, educational inequality, gentrification/displacement, criminal justice abuse, and white supremacy. He understands that the power sits with the people and brings his voice to all places and forums where a deeper understanding of liberation and the gathering of resources is the next right step to turning the tide--whether it's the classroom, the playground, the boardroom, a council meeting, an academic panel, a town hall meeting or the city streets.

A seasoned speaker and beloved public advocate, Maurice does this work to fulfill the legacy of his mothers, aunts and grandmothers who instilled in him the conviction and perseverance to do everything in his power to bring justice, parity and reckoning to all those who would align with the systems that are hurting all of us. He stands in the gap as a thought leader but more

importantly as a nurturing and protective presence--in church basements and community centers where safety is paramount and togetherness is the cure to the hate that seeks to intimidate and undermine our collective confidence in a more just world.

(4) Who will directly benefit from the project?

The work of Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid network ensures that all community members have access to life-saving public health information, as well as critical supplies such as food and household sanitizers. Community members hardest hit by the health and economic impacts of the pandemic will benefit from distribution of food and supplies. Students in ANC 6E will directly benefit from access to tutors and co-curricular activities, as well as increased access to devices necessary to thrive in an ongoing online learning environment.

(5) Describe how the grant will benefit the ANC community.

All members of the ANC 6E community will directly benefit from increased access to public health information, including culturally-sensitive information about the COVID-19 vaccine, increased access to masks, and increased health and wellness of the community. All community members will also benefit from the effects of having children in the community who are able to engage successfully with their studies as well as access meaningful out-of-class activities.

(6) What are your goals for the grant project?

The Ward 6 Mutual Aid Network proposes to:

1. Continue to distribute food, masks (disposable and cloth), and public health information to support the elderly, unhoused, and other vulnerable populations living in ANC 6E. We will use these funds to purchase an inventory of groceries and supplies to be distributed to ANC 6E community members.
2. Purchase and distribute educational materials, hotspot devices and Chromebooks to DC Public School students living in ANC 6E neighborhoods to ensure that students are able to maintain their studies as distance learning continues. Citywide, SYC has distributed over 900 devices, and still receives requests for devices and hotspots daily. Not all students in DC are able to access technology and Wi-Fi to maintain their studies. Ensuring that all students can be connected to their schools is essential to mitigate the rising opportunity gap seen in the DC school system. Furthermore, schools are critical socio-emotional resource hubs for students and families, which will be even more essential given the trauma associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Ward 6 students will be required to engage in summer school over the coming weeks.
3. Support the training and placement of tutors for students in ANC6E.
4. Print an additional 2,000 culturally informed public health flyers providing important information to members of the population vulnerable to COVID-19, including

(7) How do you plan to measure the success of your project, e.g., surveys of participants,

number of participants, final outcomes? How will you document your project, e.g., with videos, photos, testimonials, other?

Serve Your City tracks the number of residents served through mutual aid. We also track the number of devices distributed, and ensure that all students who receive a device are informed about our tutoring and youth enrichment program.

All families in the tutoring program fill out an evaluation each academic term to assess the impact of the program on the student's academic success.

Serve Your City documents its work on social media (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook) and is regularly featured in local and national media outlets.

- (8) Provide a detailed line-item budget for the project, indicating for which elements ANC grant funding is being requested.

AND

- (9) Please indicate what you expect will be the total overhead costs of the project, and how they were calculated.

**ANC Request:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Pod Supplies (groceries, sanitization supplies, masks, and other household supplies to restock inventory )	~\$750
Student supports for distance learning (physical materials, hotspot devices, Chromebooks)	~ \$1,000
Train and onboard tutors for tutoring program, vans for co-curricular activities for 6E students.	~\$750
Public Health Flyer/Info Printing (2000 Copies)	~ \$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3000</b>

**#DCMUTUALAID WARD 6 BUDGET**

<b>Income</b>		
Space	Ward 6 hub space donation Valued @ 1,000 dollars per month for 6 months	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
<b>Volunteers</b>	Valued at 39.45 per hour. 400 volunteer hours per month in Ward 6, for 6 months.	\$ 94,680.00
<b>Supply Donations</b>	1,000 dollars of donations per month in Ward 6 for 6 months	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Donations of Educational Devices</b>	Donations of laptops and tablets for students who do not have access to such devices. Valued at 400 dollars per device.	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Individual Donations</b>	Donations collected to-date	\$ 30,000.00
<b>Grants</b>	Grants collected to-date	\$45,300
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 196,980.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		\$ 208,180.00
<b>Amount to Be Raised</b>		\$11,200
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Executive Director	Provides oversight and management. 50% of 60,000 salary	\$ 30,000.00
Fringe Benefits	Health insurance and benefits, 25% of salary	\$ 7,500.00
Student Educational Devices	Laptops and tablets for students who do not have access to such devices. 400 dollars per student will serve 100 students.	\$ 40,000.00
Mentor Coordinator	Stipend for individual coordinating and matching mentors	\$ 3,000.00
Training Coordinator	Stipend for individual organizing volunteer training	\$ 3,000.00
Volunteer Development and Appreciation	Ongoing development for volunteers (books, additional training sessions) as well as budget for appreciation such as cards or gifts.	\$ 2,000.00
Space	Ward 6 Hub space donation valued @ 1,000 dollars per month for 6 months	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
Supplies	Food/cleaning and household supplies not covered by donations	\$ 10,000.00
Office supplies and technology	printing, pens, paper, Zoom account	\$ 2,500.00

Program Evaluation	Program evaluation development. Data collection and analysis.	\$ 2,500.00
Co-curricular Program Transportation	Transportation to/from co-curricular activities (horseback riding, etc.)	\$5,000
Volunteers	Valued at 39.45 per hour. 400 volunteer hours per month in Ward 6, for 6 months.	\$ 94,680.00
<b>EXPENSE SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 203,180.00</b>
Overhead	Insurance, website management, grant writing, communications	\$ 10,000.00
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 213,180.00</b>

- (10) Describe any efforts to secure other funds for the grant project and your need for Commission funding.

Serve Your City/Ward 6 Mutual Aid has utilized diverse funding strategies for this project, including individual donations, supply donations, grant funding from ANC 6C and 6B, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, the Sparkplug Foundation, and the Nora Roberts Foundation.

Funding from ANC 6E will directly benefit community members and enhance the communities access to supplies and technology.

- (11) Explain how the services/benefits proposed do not duplicate those that are already performed by the District Government.

The District Government is offering what it can to D.C. residents, however it is clear that a grassroots approach is necessary to ensure that no community member is left without necessary, life-saving resources. Schools in the District are underfunded, social service organizations are stretched to capacity. The grassroots nature of SYC/W6MA allows us to nimbly meet the needs of residents in real-time, without complicated processes. In fact, the D.C. Government has been referring residents to the Mutual Aid hotline when they need food or household supplies.

- (12) Why does your organization want to undertake the proposed project at this time?

Mutual Aid is a critical element of community care. SYC is committed to ensuring that all residents have the necessary public health information, as well as supplies to not just survive this crisis, but to thrive in life beyond the pandemic. SYC sees this moment as an opportunity to create more vibrant communities, where neighbors take care of each other and students thrive.