

I. Organization Background Information

Name of Organization:

Ponce Neighborhood Housing Services Inc.

Mission Statement:

Please limit to 1000 characters. Please be aware that your content may be truncated if you are pasting from another source.

The general mission of Ponce NHS is to enrich the quality of life in Puerto Rico through housing and community development, also, financial and social education. During the past 25 years, the services have been aimed at promoting in individuals and families a healthy credit and budget management, the opportunity to acquire safety housing, as well as offering counseling for the foreclosure prevention.

Our goal is to assist families with housing counseling department in the following areas: financial capability, first time homebuyer, foreclosure prevention and other topics related to acquire and maintain a secure home. Also, Ponce NHS has a Community Development Department with services aimed at creating community boards, environment talks, home renovation, assistance in needs studies and creation and implementation of community projects. To this we add the economic development of the communities through the promotion of social commerce.

Overview of Organization:

Please limit to 2500 characters. Please be aware that your content may be truncated if you are pasting from another source.

Ponce NHS is a non-profit organization established in 1993, created to serve a sector of Ponce municipality in the construction of safe housing at affordable prices. Later, Ponce NHS extended its services to 15 municipalities in the southern and central area of Puerto Rico. Our organization is cataloged as a housing counseling agency, HUD-Approved, which allows us to provide financial literacy (credit and budget management), as well, to train clients in first time homebuyers workshops and counseling for the foreclosure prevention. In addition, Ponce NHS has a community development department; we promote the implementation of resident's boards and community needs surveys, sponsoring community activities and projects.

Ponce NHS is an active member charter of NeighborWorks America and is certified by the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). It has the State Tax Exemption Section 1101 (4) of the Internal Revenue Code of Puerto Rico and the Federal Tax Exemption 501 (C) 3.

Our office is located in downtown Ponce, which has been our home for more than 21 years. Ponce NHS has a long trajectory of successful projects. These achievements have allowed us to diversify and expanded our services, which has implied an increase our staff. In the beginning Ponce NHS had a 4 member's staff, now, we have a total of 15 employees. Therefore, the space has fallen short and limits the possibility of holding concurrent educational workshops and/or serving participants one on one effectively.

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/PonceNeighborhoodHousingServices/>

II. Proposal Contacts - Please enter information for the Primary and Secondary Proposal Contacts

Primary Contact

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Elizabeth

Last Name

Colón

Title

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Secondary Contact

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Zip

00730

III. Proposal Information**Proposal Title:**

Homeownership and Community Development Center

Support Request (check all that apply):

Investment/Grant

Requested Dollar Amount:

\$150,000

Please list other Significant Partners in the Proposal:

Governmental and other non-profit agencies.

Proposal Description:

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As previously mentioned, Ponce NHS has increased the staff team (from four employees, now, to 15 employees) and programs, services and projects. To achieve our goals and cover the necessities for more than 15 municipalities from Southern and Central area, Ponce NHS has developed a Project to implement a Homeownership, Socioeconomic Community Development and Financial Capability Center. This Center will provide all the services and workshops from our several Programs, Projects and activities in just one place. This will be extremely cost effective, and will offer our clients and program participants, the assurance about finding all the assistance and support that they need in a specific, more comfortable and spacious location. For this reason and we are running out of space. It has been a challenge for us to continue helping our communities with such a limited area for us to do our job effectively. Our main goal is to provide a comfortable space to our clients, program participants and employees, to enhance our staff performance, and make the visit to our offices, the best experience to all.

In addition, as a non-profit organization, receive donations (such as equipment and materials) and due to being short in space, we have nowhere to store them. In addition, it is HUD regulation to be able to serve our clients privately and now, because of the staff increase, we often must move employees to different areas around the office, to be able to provide privacy to the client. On the other hand, our current location lacks parking space and is in desperate need of an area that people can leave their cars safely. This is something that we want to improve immediately. By having a more spacious parking area, we can provide a safe and comfortable environment for our clients and employees. Also, this will be helpful in many ways because we usually rent vehicles to serve communities of low- or moderate- income that are distant from our main office and this will provide us the space needed to accommodate them.

We want to improve our services and impact as many communities as we can, which means that our main location is a critical part of the process. Ponce NHS is looking forward to moving into a closed branch or a potential location, in the city of Ponce P.R., to upgrade our facilities and services. Our current business office is in a property that was a former house and was remodeled into an office space.

Issues Addressed (check all that apply):

Asset Building / Financial Access, Capability and Empowerment, Affordable Housing, Community Services and Facilities, Stabilization and Sustainability, Workforce Development / Economic Development

If your project affects multiple states or counties, please use the CTRL key to multi-select.

Geographic Impact

National

U.S. States & Territories:

Puerto Rico

Population Served:

Please limit to 500 characters. Please be aware that your content may be truncated if you are pasting from another source.

Ponce NHS serves families and underserved communities of low- or moderate- income, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and other vulnerable populations from the Southern and Central region of PR. Our programs are designed to impact these families by providing them with the necessary tools for acquiring affordable housing, prevention of foreclosure and financial capability coaching (budget, credit and finances management). Also, impact LMI communities by our socioeconomic community development

Population Income by Area Median Income (AMI) and other identifiers (percentage of Free and Reduced Lunch for youth or designated "Disaster Area" or designated "Distressed or Underserved" served by proposal:

Ponce NHS is a HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agency, our programs are designed for individuals or families of Low (80%) Income Limits or less, we impact the south area of Puerto Rico. As stated in HUD's FY 2019 Income Limits Documentation, for an individual to qualify as a Low (80%) Income Limit is \$15,250.00 and a family of four members Low (80%) Income Limit is \$21,750.00. Also, we work with families in rural and isolated areas of Puerto Rico.

Anticipated Outcomes/Impact:

Please limit to 2000 characters. Please be aware that your content may be truncated if you are pasting from another source.

By the acquisition of a new facility, Ponce NHS will have the opportunity to impact more than 1,000 families, which will result in an expansion of our services. This will enhance and improve the quality of our Programs, becoming the first multidisciplinary Center in our area. As part of the Project, Ponce NHS desires to enable comfortable rooms for the following services: housing counseling (one on one and workshops), financial capability coaching and training services, socioeconomic community development activities such as: entrepreneurship incubators, workshops and training to develop community groups and leaders, disaster preparedness and recovery workshops, among others. In this new Center, individuals, families and community groups, could learn, prepare and achieve a better quality of life.

Describe evaluation methods used to measure success:

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The metrics of measurements are registration of participants, 990 Form (Counselor Max and Canopy) and evaluation sheets.

Project time frame - Is your request for an existing or new program?

Existing Program

IV. Submit Supporting Documentation - Please attach your most recent audited or reviewed financials in PDF format to this proposal application. Your proposal application will be considered incomplete until the appropriate financial documentation is provided. By submitting a proposal application you agree to share with the Federal Reserve information regarding connections that were made with funders regarding the proposal or other work your organization conducts that was identified by a funder that used the Investment Connection platform. After you submit a proposal application, we will follow up with you to see if Investment Connection was helpful with your informational and business needs.

Upload your most recent audited or reviewed financials

(for internal uses only)

estado de cuenta auditado 2018.pdf

V. Other Supporting Documentation - You may submit a photo (jpeg) and/or a video (mp3 or mp4) that helps describe your proposal. (information available to funders)

Upload a picture or video that helps describe your proposal or organization
(information available to funders)



Upload additional picture or video
(information available to funders)



Add any additional links to supporting documentation
(information available to funders)

VI. Disclaimer - The Federal Reserve Banks do not endorse or make any representations as to the propriety or suitability of organizations, investments or programs listed. Organizations should perform their own due diligence before engaging in any transactions with these entities to ensure that any such transactions meet the organization's objectives.