

# Villa of Hope - Jonathan Meagher-Zayas

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## Organization Profile

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<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Mail Address</b>
Villa of Hope	3300 Dewey Ave, Rochester, NY 14616

<b>Exec. Name</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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**Mission/Vision** Mission: Villa of Hope partners with individuals, families and communities to Rebuild relationships, Recover potential, and Renew hope for the future.

Vision: Villa of Hope will advance equity by transforming the social foundations of our neighbors, elevating lifelong health outcomes for our community.

**Receive County Funds?** YES - Monroe County Dept. of Human Services: Juvenile Justice Therapy to provide clinical therapy local at the Office of Probation

Monroe County Dept of Mental Health: Hope Place Emergency Room Psychiatric to provide crisis support services to adults 18+ and divert from emergency rooms

Monroe County Dept. of Human Services: Aftercare, Transitional, and General Counseling to provide community-based counseling to youth and families at risk of foster care placements, transitioning out of foster care, or needing mental health support.

Monroe County Office of Probation: Juvenile Reporting Center to provide afterschool programming to youth at risk of criminal intervention or reentering society

Monroe County Youth Bureau: Work Based Learning to support career development services to youth 13-21

Monroe County Dept of Human Services: Youth Peer Mentor program

**Div. of Corp. N/A?** no

## Proposal Information

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**Project Name** Hope on the Horizon

**Summary** Villa of Hope is seeking APRA funding to launch Hope on the Horizon – a drop-in youth space to support mental health substance use, educational, vocational, violence reduction, and social needs. This comprehensive program will target youth 13-21 in Monroe County with severe needs and help them advance their social determinants of health, rebuild their potential in education and vocational career paths, and reduce violence and trauma in the community. With this project, it will accomplish all three of Monroe County's goals by increasing education and vocational opportunities for our county's most vulnerable youth (workforce development and economic recovery), leveraging e our expertise and experience as one of the leading community behavioral health experts in the county by expanding access to mental health and substance use services (public health), utilizing a trauma-informed and racial equity approach to reduce violence and increase safety (public safety), and build an innovative program that will have an impact for decades (infrastructure and sustainability). Also, we specialize in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for our participants, staff, and community. We will implement community outreach and engagement strategies to listen, respond, and meet community needs. As the established and current provider of aftercare, workforce development, education, and juvenile support services in our community, Villa of Hope will leverage this funding to continue services to help young people and their families connect to their communities, promote recovery, and minimize the need for or regression back to intensive treatment options and criminal justice intervention.

<b>Workforce/Economic?</b>	<b>Health/Safety?</b>	<b>Infrastructure/Sustainability?</b>
yes	yes	yes

**Description** Villa of Hope is seeking support to launch Hope on the Horizon – a drop-in youth space to support mental health substance use, educational, vocational, violence reduction, and social needs. We will target youth 13-21 in Monroe County with severe needs and advance social determinants of health, rebuild potential in education and career paths, and reduce violence and trauma in the community. We estimate to serve between 1000-1500 youth and family members annually. Immediately, we will unused space on our campus in Greece, however, we hope to open a more accessible space in the city. We are actively working with city and county officials to find a location.

Program activities and services include:

- Drop-In Crisis Support: Youth will be able to drop in during our daily open hours, receive the necessary support, avoid costly alternatives, and receive crisis intervention support from trained peers and clinical professionals.
- Social Determinants of Health resource navigation: Every youth will be screened for their social determinants of health, be provided information and education, and referred to the necessary services they need.
- Clinical mental health and substance use services: Any youth services will be given prioritized access to an experienced clinician. Our

outpatient clinic offers evaluation and treatment for all ages, medication management, medication-assisted therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and psychological testing.

- Creative therapy: Youth will also have the option of creative behavioral health options. This includes creative art therapy, adventure and recreational therapy, and animal therapy. These services will be conducted both individually and in group settings.

- Career development and coaching: Located on-site, we will provide career development assessment, leadership development training, internship and job placements, and coaching to support the career interests of any youth interested.

- Educational support: For the youth who wish to continue or improve their education, we will provide educational support through tutoring to attain their educational goals.

- Youth mentoring and recreation activities: Youth peer mentors will be a resource and guide for youth needing a personal connection and intervention.

- Family group services: In coordination with our skilled community-based mental health team, we will provide a specific space for a family to engage in clinical mental health services, safe recreational activities, and enhance their relationships.

- Violence reduction and safety: With the rising violence in the county, our program will be committed to treating violence like a disease, by identifying symptoms, making recommendation diagnoses, and implementing tailored treatment plans for youth who have been victims of violence in our community.

- Community outreach and engagement: Built into the program, we will plan to hear from community voices, connect them to our services, prioritize needs, and improve our services based on their feedback.

- Staff Wellness: To reduce turnover, avoid burnout, and promote wellness, we will support staff in their self-care needs.

This project will accomplish all three of Monroe County's APRA goals.

1. Increase education and vocational opportunities for our county's most vulnerable youth. With our demonstrated success in workforce development programs as well as our intentional work with diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, we are prepared to provide career opportunities for at-risk youth, build connections with employers to meet their emerging labor needs, and reduce stigma and job turnover by educating the community on mental health and trauma needs.

2. Expand access to mental health and substance use services to address the public health goal. We are in a current mental health crisis that is leading to poor health outcomes, economic challenges, and increased incidents of crime. This program will include dozens of evidence-based practices to tackle the mental health crisis our county is facing. In addition, as a certified Sanctuary agency, trauma-informed experts, and racial equity advocates, our approach is uniquely prepared to reduce violence, increase safety, and renew hope for our community ridden by violence.

3. Serve as an innovative and comprehensive approach that will be a model for health care infrastructure for decades to come. In addition, these tailored interventions will create a life-lasting impact for thousands of individuals in our community.

Due to the economic challenges and history of underfunding for mental health services, this program will not be possible without APRA funding. Our strategy is that in the next few years, advocate for federal and state funding, insurance rates will increase, and health care transformation projects, such as the 1115 waiver, will support these services. Also, we have dozens of partnerships with state, county, city, and private funders and we will be providing updates on the program's success to cultivate increased funding in the future.

Accessibility is a priority for all of our programs. Transportation is usually the biggest barrier, and we will provide it if needed. There never be a financial burden on the youth, and our expert staff will provide resource navigation to eliminate barriers they may face. Other innovative ways we plan to reduce barriers include telehealth services, digital engagement, and unique interventions on-site to support all the youths' needs.

#### Goals and Outcomes:

- Providing person-centered behavioral health treatment (Metrics: # of youth receiving services)

- Coordinating health care and whole-person engagement for youth and family (Metrics: # of referrals provided and # of family interventions)

- Advancing the youth's social determinants of health (Metrics: # of screenings and % improved health outcomes)

- Increasing workforce and life skills development (Metrics: # of youth completing training and % growth in skill development)

- Improving education knowledge and opportunities (Metrics: # of youth receiving tutoring and % completed educational goals)

- Reducing violent and criminal behavior (Metric: % of youth refraining from new criminal charges)

- Building community connections (Metrics: # of youth receiving mentor services)

As mentioned previously, we are currently in a mental health crisis and public safety emergency. We need to provide comprehensive solutions to the problem now that result in life-changing solutions. If we do not act now for our youth, we may lose them to a life of severe mental health issues, addiction and substance abuse, criminal justice institutions, and even death.

**Company Strengths** Villa of Hope is the only Sanctuary-Certified trauma-informed human service expert providing a comprehensive behavioral health continuum of care in the Finger Lakes Region. We have treated individuals, youth, and families with complex challenges for nearly 80 years. On an annual basis, we provide direct services to over 4,000 young people and their families with complex needs through a continuum of high-quality Community, Education, Mental Health, Substance Use, and Workforce Development Services. We partner with youth and families who are experiencing complex challenges such as trauma, mental health, poverty, neglect, and abuse, while they navigate complex systems and work towards rebuilding and repairing relationships and renewing hope.

Below are a summary of programs providing us the expertise to successfully implement this program proposal:

**Juvenile Reporting Center (JRC):** JRC is the only 5-day-a-week after-school program locally for youth ages 14 to 17 on probation. We provide dinner and social, recreational, and learning activities. VOH staff monitor school attendance weekly and advocate for needed educational services.

**Workforce Development:** Since 2016, our Work Based Learning has been exposing youth ages 12-21 and adults 21+ to career interest opportunities with job coaching and constructive feedback. Our three-phase approach progresses toward independence from classroom-based study and practice to on-site paid internships, and finally offsite paid employment with coaching by Villa of Hope staff.

**Hope Place - Psychiatric Emergency Department Diversion Program:** Hope Place is designed to provide the least restrictive means of crisis stabilization and treating guests to ensure their return to a higher level of functioning as quickly as possible. The program serves those with mental health challenges, co-occurring disorders, and developmental challenges. Since opening, the program has served around 1400 people each year.

**Community Resources** Villa of Hope understands the importance of partnerships and leverages the resources and connections from the community to advance the outcomes of the people we serve. We actively have dozens of partnerships in Monroe County that we would utilize for this program and leverage their expertise:

- Monroe County Executive Adam Bello's Office by working collaboratively on county-level solutions
- City of Rochester Mayor Malik Evan's Office by partnering with Victor Saunders on violence reduction activities
- Monroe County Dept. of Children and Family Services to build our decades-long relationship to address the social service needs of the people we serve
- Monroe County Office of Probation
- Monroe County Family Access and Connections Team to provide resources to the youth and families we serve
- Rochester City Police Department to maintain positive relationships with law enforcement and increase community building
- Pathways for Peace with the City of Rochester to conduct outreach and connections to our program
- Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative to enhance our violence reduction strategies
- Rochester City School District, Greece Central School District, and other school districts to meet the educational needs of our youth
- NYS Office of Children and Family Services to leverage state data and connections for supporting local youth and families
- NYS Office of Mental Health to leverage state resources to advance mental health for the youth
- NYS Office of Addiction and Support Services to tackle the rising substance use needs of our community
- Trillium Health is a partner in health care and provides connections for physical health needs
- Bivona Child Advocacy Center to partner and address any trauma our youth face
- Employment partners like Baden St, House of Mercy, State Farm, Rochester Construction, and other partners provide industry training and job opportunities.
- Organizations such as Urban League of Rochester, YWCA of Rochester, and Ibero-American Action League as partners to help spread the word of our programs and services, especially to marginalized communities
- Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield as both a health insurance provider and corporate sponsor of our mental health programs
- Greater Rochester Health Foundation as a current multi-year funder of our programs to address health inequities

At this time, there are no other funding requests or budget intentions for this specific project. However, we have grant requests to the U.S. Department of Justice and the City of Rochester for complementing programs. In addition, we will utilize our existing Sanctuary Certified and Council on Accreditation standards, evidence-based strategies, expert resources, current capital assets, and a strong reputation to advance the program's success. Lastly, if funding is received, the marketing and development team will work with program leadership to market the program and generate support for emerging needs that might arise.

**Audience** Our targeted audience for this program is youth ages 13-21 who are at risk for mental health, substance use, violence, and living with trauma. A special emphasis will be on serving youth from underresourced communities in the City of Rochester, but we will serve any youth in Monroe County. With our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, we will ensure our programs are conducting targeted outreach and are radically inclusive for individuals from marginalized identities including Black, Latinx/e, LGBTQ+, immigrants and refugees, and youth from low-income households.

For all of our services, we do not plan to impose any financial burdens on these individuals accessing our programs.

<b>Cost 1st Year</b>	<b>Cost All Years</b>	<b>Residents 1st Year</b>	<b>Residents All Years</b>	<b>FT Employees</b>	<b>PT Employees</b>
\$1,632,352.00	\$6,664,192.00	1,000	5,000	24	5
<b>Volunteers</b>					
0					

**Staffing** Here is the list of 29 staff positions and their main responsibilities. A breakdown of staff names and credentials can be provided but was not included due to word limits.

- Chief Program Officer: Provide strategic direction and oversight all of programs and services
- Senior Director Community Restoration: Operationalize the program vision
- Senior Director Community Services: Oversee community mental health services
- Program Director: Oversee program logistics, staff supervision, and program outcomes
- Director of the Integrated Clinic: Oversight of all clinical services and operations
- Director of Intake: Operationalize intake services for youth entering our formal services
- Behavioral Health Clinic Clinical Supervisor: Clinical supervision for all clinical therapy interventions
- Behavioral Health Clinic Therapist: Clinical behavioral health services
- Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT): Creative art therapy
- Wellness and Recreational Therapist (LCSW): Adventure-based therapy, recreational activities, and staff wellness support
- Financial Case Manager: Provide resource navigation and enrollment in health insurance
- Activities Coordinator: Coordinate all recreational and development activities
- Program Manager: Program management and staff supervision
- Community Outreach Manager: Manage all community outreach activities and staff
- Outreach & Community Engagement Specialist: Conduct direct community outreach strategies and relationship building
- Case Manager: Resource navigation and referrals
- Supervisor Workforce Development: Supervision over workforce development staff
- Vocational Coach/Counselor: Job coaching and support
- Career Development Counselor: Career Education training
- Lead Youth Mentor: Peer mentoring services with program responsibilities
- 3 Youth Mentors: Peer mentoring support
- 3 Per Diem Youth Mentors: Relief for youth mentors
- Tutor: Educational support
- Reception/Security: Customer service and safety
- Administrative Assistant: Support program with administrative assistance