

A Grant Proposal for Program  
“Tech Connect”: Bridging the  
Generations through Technology  
Coaching

Emily Rus

California State University Long Beach

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# Introduction

- \* The older adult population is growing rapidly and the large amount of older adults experiencing loneliness and social isolation often experience compromised health and a lower quality of life
- \* Technology is a positive way to stay connected to the community yet many older, less educated, low-income older adults have low technology competence
- \* Undergraduate social work student populations are in a good position to work with and learn from older adults but there is low student interest in this population, partially from lack of contact

# Social Work Relevance

- \* This grant proposal directly addresses the shortage of geriatric social workers and proposes strategies for increasing student interest in this population

## **Code of Ethics:**

- \* **Preservation of Dignity and Worth:** Older adults are a vulnerable population commonly facing negative stereotypes, devaluation of worth, and economic burden
- \* **Human Relationships:** Older adults are prone to social isolation and loneliness and this program aims to lessen that experience

# Cross Cultural Relevance

- \* Numbers of non-white older adults are on the rise
- \* Race is a social determinant of health with minority older adult populations facing more economic burdens, barriers to housing, and healthcare disparities
- \* Limited English Proficiency older adult populations are one of the most vulnerable and this population is the target of the proposed program.

# Methods

- \* **Target Population:** Low-income older adults living in Long Beach Senior Housing (HUD Affordable Housing) & Undergraduate Social Work Students at CSULB
- \* **Strategies to Identify Funding Source:**
  - \* Google Search, Speaking with knowledgeable sources who have received grants
- \* **Funding Source Chosen:** Archstone Foundation
- \* **Host Agency:** Menorah Housing Foundation's (MHF) Long Beach Senior Housing Building

# Methods

- \* **Needs Assessment Sources:**

- \* Literature Review
- \* Interview with residents at Long Beach Senior Housing, President of MHF, Director of Resident Services at MHF

- \* **Budget**

- \* **Total Requested Funds:** \$66,280
- \* **Personnel:** Program Supervisor, Program Assistant
- \* **Direct Costs:** iPads, Internet Service, Supplies, Printing
- \* **In-Kind Donations:** Admin costs, room rental, utilities

# Grant Proposal

- \* **Description:** Program Tech Connect aims to bridge the generations through technology coaching
  - \* Throughout 1 year, 20 undergrads and 20 older adults are paired up and meet once/week for 12 weeks
  - \* Students teach older adults how to use iPads from a curriculum and older adults teach students about life skills, successful aging and play online games together
- \* **Objectives:** reported feelings of loneliness and isolation decrease in older adults, older adults use technology to communicate and make daily tasks easier, students enjoy working with older adults, students express increase interest in working with older adults in the future

# Grant Proposal

- \* **Program Evaluation:** Student and Older Adult participants will be given pre and post tests, weekly evaluations
  - \* OA – UCLA 6-item Loneliness, Social disconnectedness and Perceived Isolation Scales, Cyber Seniors Participant Handbook for Tablets
  - \* Students – Intergenerational-Tension Ageism Scale
- \* **Sustainability:** Tech Connect viewed as pilot program to be scaled up at other universities, housing agencies
  - \* Social Media Presence to engage younger generations
  - \* Aim to shift public discourse around aging to reduce stigma



# Lessons Learned/Implications for Social Work Practice

- \* Listen to what older adults believe would benefit them most
- \* Learn from individuals who have received grants previously, make budget realistic, only apply for grants that perfectly fit the funders priorities
- \* Geriatric Social Work is a growing field that needs more attention, social workers need to prove their worth and believe in their significance

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