Search and Care

Suggested by: Ian Fraser

Current Request	$12,000	**Organizational Budget**	$2,846,551
Previous Grant Amount	$11,000	**Last Site Visit**	n/a
Grants Since 1998	26	**Project Budget (if applicable)**	n/a
Total Grants Awarded	$253,000	**Purpose**	General operating support

Mission

To provide free, individualized, in-home social work/care management and other supportive services to vulnerable older people, enabling them to age safely in place.

Organization History

Founded in 1972, Search and Care is a community-based nonprofit serving vulnerable older New Yorkers living in East Harlem, Yorkville, Carnegie Hill, and the Upper West Side where in-home social work and care management is limited. Search and Care partners with other organizations, including Vidda grantee Carter Burden Network, to provide NYC Aging-funded case management services.

Update on Last Grant and Current Request

The Vidda Foundation's previous grant helped Search and Care expand vital care management and supportive services for older New Yorkers. In FY 2026, the organization served approximately 2,165 clients, a 24% increase over FY 2025 and 70% growth since FY 2024, with more than one-quarter of active clients receiving multiple services. Key activities included:

Care Management: Nearly 900 older adults received individualized, relationship-based support from social workers and care managers. NYC Aging clients specifically increased from 658 to 700, after having already more than doubled from 314 in FY 2024.

Money Matters: 150 clients received approximately 1,900 contacts providing budgeting, bill payment, benefits and emergency grant assistance, document organization, and other financial guidance. Consistent account monitoring has also helped identify erroneous or fraudulent charges.

Silver Circles: provided 250 clients with one-on-one and group technology and telehealth assistance, while external presentations reached another 250 older adults; telehealth participants increased their self-reported online health platform proficiency from 1.8 to 4.4 on a five-point scale; the program also expanded its partnership with Mount Sinai's Martha Stewart Center for Living.

Nutrition and Emergency Groceries: 105 clients (up from 76) received nutrition or grocery assistance, including individualized counseling and group sessions, 379 fresh grocery deliveries through West Side

Campaign Against Hunger, and emergency grocery orders for homebound or financially vulnerable clients.

Medical Escorting: Trained, paid escorts accompanied 62 older adults (up from 51) to 255 medical appointments, helping clients with mobility limitations, vision challenges, anxiety, or limited support safely access healthcare.

Groups and Socialization: In-person, virtual, and hybrid groups participation grew from 1,376 to more than 1,600 participant visits, offering social connection as well as programming on healthy living, cognitive health, chronic disease management, healthcare navigation, art, and other activities.

Pets + Elders Together: Provided 170 stipends to 53 clients, totaling nearly $42,000, for veterinary care, pet food and supplies, grooming, and other needs, helping older adults maintain the companionship of their pets.

Search and Care requests an increased renewed grant of $12,000 in general operating support to sustain and expand its comprehensive, home-based care management and supportive services. The increased request comes as Search and Care manages a rapidly growing client population with increasingly complex needs. Staff report that rising living costs and gaps in home care are resulting in increased requests for financial, grocery, and other assistance, while some struggling older adults earn too much to qualify for public benefits. Navigating benefits has also become more time-consuming, with staff sometimes spending hours on hold with government agencies, and Care Managers face added administrative demands from maintaining both Search and Care and NYC Aging client databases.

Notes

The application notes that despite NYC Aging receiving $577.1 million in the FY 2027 City budget, advocates consider the agency significantly underfunded relative to growing need, contributing to pressure on older adult services citywide. Search and Care emphasizes that its predominantly private funding allows it to provide flexible, time-unlimited services without the eligibility and service restrictions associated with many government contracts.