



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1558

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

In 2020, the Florida Senate approved funding for Connecting Everyone with Second Chances (CESC) to pilot an evidence-based Diversion Program for individuals experiencing homelessness due to Hurricane Michael, as a best practice model to prevent homelessness. Within three months of launching the services, we have prevented homelessness for 150 individuals, with a net savings on investment of nearly \$500 per person served. According to the Pew Research Center, 46% of lower-income adults have had trouble paying their bills since the COVID-19 pandemic started and 32% say it has been difficult for them to make rent or mortgage payments. With the CDC eviction moratorium ending on December 31, 2020, the number of individuals who will experience homelessness is expected to increase. This funding will ensure that CESC can continue serving as the primary safety net for vulnerable residents in the Big Bend region, to avoid homelessness and the associated trauma.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	716,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	716,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	716,000	16%
Matching Funds		
Federal	116,398	3%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	72,666	2%
Local	557,292	13%
Other	2,790,000	66%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	4,252,356	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	716,000	352	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

CESC does not have any other viable sources of funding at this time. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and CDC social distancing guidelines, we are providing emergency shelter at local hotels and apartments which has doubled our expenses.



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1558

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

CESC requested federal assistance through FEMA for emergency shelter and services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, we have received \$116,398 through FEMA's Phase 37 Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).

11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	These funds will pay for a portion of our finance and general administrative staff costs to assist with the required single audit, reporting, and award/contract compliance responsibilities, all directly related to the project/program services.	35,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	These funds will pay for salaries and benefits for one FTE Project/Program Manager, one FTE emergency shelter Case Manager, two FTE Diversion Program Case Managers, and a 0.5 FTE Community Collaboration Specialist. All positions directly support the project/program services.	209,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	These funds will pay for our Diversion Program expenses (e.g., assistance to access food and groceries, because feeding a friend or family member was creating strain on the household budget, and the person calling us did not have access to food or food stamps; helping people transition from living in their cars by providing funds for a deposit on a home, or rent-to-own trailer, or transportation to a family member's home; helping women fleeing domestic violence with short term hotel assistance.	472,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		716,000

12. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The goal of this program and funding request is to continue providing evidence-based Diversion Program services for up to 800 individuals in the Big Bend region who are at risk of becoming homeless. The services will prevent homelessness, related trauma, and economic expenses for our communities. Continuing these services through this best practice model will provide the necessary safety net for individuals who may face eviction in the upcoming year, when the CDC COVID-19 eviction moratorium ends. And, the funding will provide a safety net to prevent homelessness for other health or weather-related disasters.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?



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Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1558

Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness, reduces trauma, and provides a nearly \$500 net savings on investment per person served. Our best-in-class Diversion Program team works with each individual who is at risk of becoming homeless, to identify immediate, alternate housing arrangements and connecting him/her with services and financial assistance to help the individual return to permanent, safe housing. The program also helps reduce the demand for shelter beds and the number of individuals on shelter wait lists (i.e., for individuals who have no other option but to enter our homeless shelter).

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Our Diversion Program direct services include: assistance to access food and groceries, because food was creating strains on the household budget, and the person did not have access to food or food stamps; helping people transition from living in their cars by providing funds for a small deposit on a safe home; helping women fleeing domestic violence with short term hotel assistance, until they are able to secure more permanent housing; helping people concerned with being evicted to negotiate and provide remediation payments to their landlord. The homelessness direct services include case management, emergency shelter, meals, and basic supplies.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The target population are individuals in the Big Bend region who are at risk of becoming homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other health or weather disasters. More than half of the individuals we serve are over the age of 50; 60% are African American; and, 20% are former foster care youth. We will have capacity to serve up to 800 individuals, with actual need dependent on the continued severity of COVID-19 impacts and/or other events that lead to homelessness.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Initial three-month findings from our Diversion Program reveal that the average cost to provide services to an individual with Diversion Program services is \$1,631, compared to an average per person cost of \$2,120 to provide emergency shelter services without diversion efforts. This represents nearly \$500 in savings per person (23%). Another benefit/outcome derived from preventing homelessness is to reduce associated trauma, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and associated substance abuse. We will measure these outcomes by the number of individuals we serve through our Diversion Program.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Customary penalties.

13. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

n/a



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1558

14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization
b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
☐ Local Entity
☐ University or College
☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name
e. E-mail Address
f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name
b. Firm Name
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number