

### The Florida Senate Local Funding Initiative Request Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2623

1. Project Title Refuge House - Transitional Housing Project for Family Safety

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

**3. Date of Request** 12/14/2023

### 4. Project/Program Description

Convert and expand a currently unused building into a 6,000 square foot transitional housing facility. The building will have two kitchens, a communal living area, dining area, two large family dorms, and six bedrooms with shared bathrooms. The building will be designed to meet mental health concerns women and children experience after abuse, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. All aspects of the design will provide for the needs of neorodivergent children and a sensory room will be available for those with Autism and ADHD. There will be a designated group counseling room for adults and a play therapy room for those under the age of 18. We will construct a new playground for outdoor recreation. This project will serve residents in Leon, Jefferson, Taylor, Madison, Gadsden, Wakulla, Liberty, and Franklin Counties.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? Yes

### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

| Type of Funding             | Amount    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Operations                  | 0         |
| Fixed Capital Outlay        | 1,500,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 1,500,000 |

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

| Type of Funding                                | Amount    | Percentage |  |
|--|-----------|------------|--|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6) | 1,500,000 | 95%        |  |
| Matching Funds                                 |           |            |  |
| Federal  | 0         | 0%         |  |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)   | 0         | 0%         |  |
| Local  | 50,000    | 3%         |  |
| Other  | 30,000    | 2%         |  |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025  | 1,580,000 | 100%       |  |

### 8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

| Ν | 0 |  |
|---|---|--|
|   |   |  |

| Fiscal Year | cal Year Amount |              | Specific        | Vetoed |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| (уууу-уу)   | Recurring       | Nonrecurring | Appropriation # |        |
|             |                 |              |                 |        |

### 9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

Community contributions.

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



No

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

### **Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**

### **11. Status of Construction**

a. What is the current phase of the project?

O Planning O Design O Construction O N/A

- b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?
- c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List 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.

No

October 30, 2024

July 15, 2025

Owners and entities are one in the same, the 501c3 nonprofit Refuge House.

### 13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

| Spending Category                                      | Description   | Amount    |
|--|---|-----------|
| Administrative Costs:                                  |   |           |
| Executive Director/Project Head<br>Salary and Benefits |   | 0         |
| Other Salary and Benefits                              |   | 0         |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/<br>Other            |   | 0         |
| Consultants/Contracted<br>Services/Study               |   | 0         |
| Operational Costs: Other                               |   |           |
| Salary and Benefits                                    |   | 0         |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/<br>Other            |   | 0         |
| Consultants/Contracted<br>Services/Study               |   | 0         |
| Fixed Capital Construction/Majo                        | r Renovation:   |           |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/<br>Planning Engineering  | Land clearing and soil boring: \$6,000.<br>Renovation of 3,000 interior space: \$544,000.<br>New construction of 3,000 sq ft building: \$950,000. | 1,500,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested (m                         | ust equal total from question #6)   | 1,500,000 |

### 14. Program Performance

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



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To increase the availability of emergency transitional housing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence who are fleeing abuse. By converting an existing building on Refuge House property, 40 additional beds will be available for women and children who have experienced violence and who are at high risk of homicide by their abuser. Decrease the risk of future victimization and prevent homelessness for women and children. Specialized care for victims experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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

Renovation and expansion of a residential building that will add 40 new beds for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Building design will be trauma informed and will meet the needs of neurodivergent children with sensory friendly accommodations throughout. The building will offer counseling rooms, living areas, and shared bathrooms. There will be a new play ground for outdoor recreation.

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

Safe shelter for 3-6 months. Wraparound support services for families who have experienced violence. Special focus on the needs of children who have witnessed and experienced abuse and to provide extensive resources for the parent to improve the well-being of the family. Therapy, counseling, case management, job readiness, vocational assistance, parenting support. Onsite tutoring for children.

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

The target population is women and children who are at risk of harm and homicide while fleeing from domestic violence. We anticipate that 160 people will receive safe housing and supportive services annually.

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

### be measured?

Outcome is to provide safe transitional housing with expanded intake availability. Outcomes will be measured by completion of renovating an existing building to include dorm style sleeping areas for large families and women without children, an additional kitchen and eating area, and expanded living area, and the addition of six new bedrooms with shared bathrooms. The building will be designed with the needs of adults and children who are experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and will be sensory friendly for special needs and nuerodivergent children.

# 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?

Delay or loss of funding tied to deliverable objectives and timelines.

### **15. Requester Contact Information**

| Emily                             | Last Name   | Mitchem   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Refuge House, Inc.                |   |   |  |  |
| emitchem@refugehouse.c            | com   |   |  |  |
| (850)510-6474                     | Ext.  |   |  |  |
| 16. Recipient Contact Information |   |   |  |  |
| Refuge House, Inc.                |   |   |  |  |
| b. Municipality and County Leon   |   |   |  |  |
| c. Organization Type              |   |   |  |  |
| For Profit Entity                 |   |   |  |  |
| ☑Non Profit 501(c)(3)             |   |   |  |  |
|                                   | Refuge House, Inc.   emitchem@refugehouse.   (850)510-6474   Information   Refuge House, Inc.   d County   Leon | Refuge House, Inc.   emitchem@refugehouse.com   (850)510-6474 Ext.   Information   Refuge House, Inc.   d County Leon |  |  |



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| □Non Profit 501(c                | c)(4)                  |           |         |  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------|--|
| Local Entity                     |                        |           |         |  |
| □University or Co                | □University or College |           |         |  |
| □Other (please specify)          |                        |           |         |  |
| d. First Name                    | Emily                  | Last Name | Mitchem |  |
| e. E-mail Address                | emitchem@refugehouse.c | com       |         |  |
| f. Phone Number                  | (850)510-6474          |           |         |  |
| 17. Lobbyist Contact Information |                        |           |         |  |
| a. Name                          | Claudia Davant         |           |         |  |
| b. Firm Name                     | Adams St. Advocates    |           |         |  |
| c. E-mail Address                | claudia@adamsstadvocat | es.com    |         |  |

d. Phone Number (850)567-0979