

Gulf Coast Community Foundation Grant Application - Leveraged Grant 2019-20

Applicant Information

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Organization Information

Organization information

Name of organization	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
Tax ID Number	202783762
Website URL	https://www.suncoastpartnership.org/
Street address	1750 17th St
Unit/suite number (if applicable)	Bldg C
City	Sarasota
State	FL
Zip code	34234

Please describe your organization's mission and work as it pertains to this project.

The mission of the Suncoast Partnership is to prevent and end homelessness throughout Manatee and Sarasota Counties. The Suncoast Partnership provides leadership to the community on issues relating to homelessness through engagement and collaboration with business and civic leaders, service providers, faith-based organizations, advocates, concerned citizens and people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This project focuses on the fastest area of growth within Sarasota County, the City of North Port. North Port has been progressive in implementing Homeless Outreach Teams via the North Port Police Department, dedicating two officers to the project. To effectively reduce homelessness and move individuals from homelessness to housing, the national best practice is to enlist a civilian case manager alongside the officers to perform the critical role of outreach, segregating the duties of outreach and enforcement. As the lead agency Suncoast Partnership is highly knowledgeable in interventions and best practices in effectively ending homelessness. Suncoast Partnership is data focused and recognizes the crucial importance of quality data and data analysis in effective planning and problem solving. Suncoast Partnership and its staff are uniquely positioned to be in and understand the day to day “weeds” working in the homeless crisis response system but also the 50,000 foot view. We are able to see the impact that the choices of individual agencies and case managers have not just on the client, but the effect on the entire community system. With the work we do and the role we play in the community, we are the ideal agency to lead the North Port pilot project by staffing a civilian case manager with the City of North Port’s Homeless Outreach Team. Our team will be able to begin this project quickly, will be able to regularly assess progress and adjust as needed to suit both the program and the system, and will be able to record data in the Homeless Management Information System to capture the vital information needed in South County in order to assist the North Port community and achieve the important goals listed below.

Contact information

Primary Organization Contact (chief executive)

Prefix	Mr.
First name	Chris
Last name	Johnson
Job title	CEO
Phone number	941-955-8987
Email	chris@suncoastpartnership.org
Should the person above receive all correspondence related to this grant request?	Yes

Grant request information

Grant request information

Amount requested

20000

Title of project (10 words or less)

Homeless Outreach Team Case Manager

Please describe the purpose of grant.

The North Port Police Department approved a Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), dedicating two officers to connect homeless clients to services. However, there are limitations to officers acting in this capacity because of the line between duty to enforce and the principles of outreach, as evidenced in the early Homeless Outreach Team pilot in the City of Sarasota. Police driven Homeless Outreach Teams have been most successful in moving clients from homelessness to permanent positive outcomes through teams that include a civilian case manager, who is best posed to bridge that person to services. With this formation, the team is best suited to mitigate potential legal issues for the municipality and implement best practices in street outreach that include consistent, positive interactions that meet the client where they are, allow for education opportunities regarding services, and assist in identifying the barriers to stability and housing. This project will fill the missing component of the newly formed team by providing the case manager. This Case Manager will engage with those experiencing homelessness in North Port record all interactions and information in our Homeless Management Information System and perform a coordinated entry intake to triage them for housing services. Suncoast Partnership views this project as a key opportunity to fill a gap for North Port Police Dept. and to be able to gather information critical to understanding the depth of the issue in South County, identifying service needs, and to assist the City and the County in planning for the future.

Please indicate the Gulf Coast Regional Priority under which you are applying and why you selected this priority.

Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation. The purpose of HOT is to engage homeless individuals and families in services to end their homelessness rather than enter them into the judicial system with little hope of a positive outcome.

Many experiencing homelessness become part of the judicial system due to their basic human activities of sleeping, cooking, and natural body functions. Municipalities create ordinances to maintain order within districts concerning these activities in public, but inadvertently create a "criminal" history for those who are performing these activities as a part of their daily life because they lack a stable home. Intersections with the criminal justice system then create additional barriers for future housing opportunities as they are screened out of housing by landlords, declined services for criminal history, and frequently deemed ineligible for Federal funding assistance such as public housing or housing choice vouchers. For chronically homeless individuals who are most likely to be charged with these violations, it greatly diminishes hope for a different future.

HOT around the nation fundamentally seeks to engage individuals and families in the correct intervention for their needs rather than "arresting their way out of homelessness," which is proven to fail both the judicial system and the individual. By seeking to address the root of the problem rather than punish the natural consequences of it, initiatives like HOT are the next generation of solution-based approaches to homelessness that maintain the dignity and value of individuals engaging in services and reduce the burden on the criminal justice system.

Please list the project's goals and expected outcomes for each goal.

The service goal of this project is to engage those experiencing homelessness through outreach, divert literally homeless individuals and families from the judicial system, and move them to positive destinations. We expect the following outcomes: 100% of known individuals and families experiencing homelessness will have a documented outreach contact; 70% of those enrolled will be fully assessed through the coordinated entry system; and 35% of persons enrolled in this project to exit to a positive destination.

Additionally, as a pilot project, it is intended to:

Establish a best practice system within the City of North Port Police Department of civilian/law enforcement team interactions as it relates to working with those experiencing homelessness. This will assist the City in navigating potential legal issues that can arise by sworn officers performing outreach and concerns with data issues around privacy and public records,

Gather information and data to help future planning for the City of North Port and Sarasota County as it relates to meeting the needs of the community. One example is the issue of shelter and bridge beds. This conversation has been happening in the community for some time, but parties have not been able to determine the scope of the project such as adequate numbers around need and the budget justification, because of a lack of concrete data.

Please identify the data points you will be using to measure the impact of this grant.

To measure the impact of the grant, we will look at the following data points:

Number of outreach contacts made

Number of diversions from the criminal justice system

Connection with Coordinated Entry

Number of exits to a positive destination

What cash resources are you leveraging for this grant? (A cash match of 100% is expected.)

We are leveraging funds through a charitable trust, other philanthropic groups, businesses in North Port impacted by homelessness, individual donors, and existing resources at Suncoast Partnership.

How will the project be sustained in the future when the requested funding ends?

This project is a pilot project that will assist in establishing the need for long term funding to be dedicated to a civilian case manager by the City of North Port. As we gather data throughout the year, we will be presenting it to the City of North Port to demonstrate the outcomes and impact the Case Manager brings to the law enforcement team. It is anticipated that the value added to the North Port community through this project by way of addressing a critical social need, reduction in burdens on public resources with higher-cost interventions, and providing the municipality leadership with essential data will justify sustaining the project on the public level.

Attachments

Attachment must be in PDF form and uploaded in one complete document in the order noted below. Please do not attach multiple separate documents - rather, scan everything together and send as one file.

Please make sure that all documents are ordered as follows and oriented properly.

- **IRS Determination Letter**
- **Audit or review not more than two years old and attested by a Florida licensed CPA**
- **Current bylaws**
- **Listing of board members including year they started on the board, office held (if any), number of years in that office, their e-mail addresses and occupations**
- **Listing of standing committees**
- **Organization-wide budget versus actual statement (including variances) for your current fiscal year**
- **Organization-wide budget versus actual statement (including variances) for your most recently completed fiscal year**
- **Organization...**

Homeless Outreach Team Case Manager Funding Packet.pdf
