



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2403

1. **Title of Project:** Operation Empower:

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Darryl Rouson

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/05/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

PowerNet of Tampa - partnering with Hillsborough Ex-offender Reentry Network, Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, University Area Community Development Corporation, Abe Brown Ministries, Tampa Bay Academy of Hope and Florida Department of Corrections - will engage 390 inmates in a rehabilitation and research protocol utilizing a state-of-the-art web-based data collection, resource management and reporting system. The database will be populated with profiles of willing HC inmates prioritizing those assessed as high risk with violent convictions. This system will encourage an optimal level of cooperation, coordination and collaboration between law enforcement, criminal justice, social services, employers, landlords, faith-based and other community volunteers. The incentive for using this system is: 1) improved the outcomes for the individuals, families and neighborhoods affected; 2) real-time statistical reports on programmatic progress and service delivery; 3) increased competitiveness of local providers to attract and maintain regional and national funding; and 4) improved public safety and overall quality of life throughout HC.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Corrections

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

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

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	75.0%
Federal		0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.0%
Local		0.0%
Other	500,000	25.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	2,000,000	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		



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9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes
- a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$1,000,000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Program Director manages and directs all activities in the planning, development, implementation, monitoring and supervision of Operation Empower. Annual salary is \$65,000 and \$15,000 in benefits.	80,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Execcutive Assistant and an Accountant	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	General office supplies, utilities, travel for training, other administrative cost	69,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Evaluation services by Dr. Ojamarrh Mitchell – Criminology Dept at USF	100,000
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Funding for the following positions: 2 Intake Specialists, 4 Case Managers, 4 Cognitive-Behavioral Program Instructors, 2 Job Coaches, 2 Life Coaches, and 1 Business Development Manager. These positions provide direct services to the clients in the form of: eligibility determination; matching clients with suitable employers; finding businesses to hire clients, teaching a classes.	675,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Office supplies, electronic devices including desktop and hand-held computers, utilities, program travel for pre and post-release clients, bus passes for transportation to attend classes and social service appts, employment incentives for job retention, periodic public events to recognize & celebrate clients.	90,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The following services will be provided by partnering agencies: emergency and temporary transitional housing, mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment, education preparedness classes, training by Dr. Narr, family reunification program, and vocational and other hard-skills training.	410,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

11. Program Performance:



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

The primary purpose of Operation Empower (OE) is to demonstrate the effectiveness (psycho-social rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration) and cost savings (familial and monetary) of introducing a robust, high capacity state-of-the-art system for managing information and communication between service providers and criminal justice administrators that can support a comprehensive, countywide, criminogenic need responsive continuum of care (programs, services and resources) for adults returning to Hillsborough County (HC) from the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC).

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

The Operation Empower "Reentry Information Management System" (RIMS) support includes: 1) secure, qualified and HIPAA compliant access to a client intake, case management, client referral and continuum of care services; 2) secure, qualified and HIPAA compliant access to a database of screened, criminogenically assessed and motivated FDC inmates returning to HC within the next 10 years; 3) full, unlimited, no-cost, user-friendly access to up-to-date, web-based list of qualified programs, services and resources for individuals with criminal records and their families; 4) full, unlimited, no-cost, user-friendly access to up-to-date, web-based public service announcements related to adult and youth criminal justice events, community meetings, legislation and other matters of importance in Hillsborough County; 5) full, unlimited, no-cost, user-friendly access and links to an updated library of reentry research, best practices and statistics from national, statewide and local private and pub

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

PowerNet of Tampa - - will engage 390 inmates in a rehabilitation and research protocol utilizing a state-of-the-art web-based data collection, resource management and reporting system. The database will be populated with profiles of willing HC inmates prioritizing those assessed as high risk with violent convictions. This system will encourage an optimal level of cooperation, coordination and collaboration between law enforcement, criminal justice, social services, employers, landlords, faith-based and other community volunteers. The incentive for using this system is: 1) improved the outcomes for the individuals, families and neighborhoods affected; 2) real-time statistical reports on programmatic progress and service delivery; 3) increased competitiveness of local providers to attract and maintain regional and national funding; and 4) improved public safety and overall quality of life throughout HC.

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

The target population would be medium to high risk men and women and those with violent convictions in their past who are returning to Hillsborough County. There will be at least 390 individuals served.

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

The expected benefit of the experimental group will be at least a 25 percentage point reduction in recidivism as compared to the control group. The evaluation of the proposed program has two distinct but interrelated components: a process evaluation (fidelity assessment) and an outcome evaluation. The outcome evaluation will utilize a randomized experimental design with blocking on level of risk. Randomized experiments are widely considered the "gold standard" of evaluation research due to their high levels of internal validity (Dunning, 2012; Murnane & Willett, 2011; Shadish et al., 2001). The reason that randomized experiments have high internal validity is that assignment to the treatment and control groups is exogenous—meaning that



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respondents in the treatment and control groups are equal in expectation on all variables, even those that are unobserved. Dr. Sylvie Narr will be responsible for the fidelity assessment and staff training.

- 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 in the contract?**

return funds to state

12. **The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

n/a

13. **Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Craig Powell, Project Director
- b. **Organization:** PowerNet of Tampa
- c. **E-mail Address:** CPowell@PowerNetofTampa.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (937)673-3457

14. **Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** CDC of Tampa
- b. **County:** Hillsborough
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Ernest Coney – President and CEO
- e. **E-mail Address:** Ernest.Coney@CDCofTampa.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (813)231-4362

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. **Name:** None
- b. **Firm Name:** None
- c. **E-mail Address:**
- d. **Phone Number:**