



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1741

1. Project Title Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare - Project TALKS

2. Senate Sponsor Clay Yarborough

3. Date of Request 02/17/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Project TALKS - Talk, Act, Listen, Know, Support - is to create a "Talkable Community" in Northeast Florida leveraging the power of 5 Behavioral Health agencies across 6 counties. Our project creates a trauma informed community that will encourage healthy conversations, activities and interventions leading to a focus on mental well-being and healthier lives. It creates a co-responder team with local law enforcement to reduce incarceration, Emergency Department diversion and supports for families.

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 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	550,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	550,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	550,000	57%
Matching Funds		
Federal	125,000	13%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	135,000	14%
Local	63,000	6%
Other	100,000	10%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	973,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	550,000	372	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 550,000

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

Starting Point leverages funding from federal and private grants, local support and a contract with the managing entity to support activities in Project TALKS including mental health awareness training, care coordination and trauma informed therapy. Funding does not exist currently to support co-responder teams or care coordination expansion. Medicaid and other insurances are billed for direct patient care.



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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.

Starting Point received \$161,063 from the Provider Relief fund to cover losses in Medicaid/Medicare billing during the COVID-19 lockdown and continued pandemic. We received \$70,000 in Cares Act from Nassau County Government in 2020 for telehealth expansion and office renovations, and \$650,000 from the PPP in order to continue full time employment and benefits of our staff of over 100 employees. These funds were received in 2020 and 2021.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction

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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Organizational leadership including CEO and 2 Clinical Supervisors @ .50 FTE	118,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Project Coordinator @ .50 FTE	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses related to project for % of staff identified above including travel, supplies, licenses fees, subscriptions	15,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing consultants and services	25,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Coordinators for ED diversion and co-responder team, 2 Americorp members, 2 behavioral health co-responders, 1 therapist providing trauma informed care for those identified by diversion teams, and .20 FTE of a Psychiatrist.	270,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel, equipment, licensing fees, supplies, subscriptions.	27,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Training, education, and consultants	45,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		550,000



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14. Program Performance

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

Goal of Project TALKS - Talk, Act, Listen, Know, Support - is to create a "Talkable Community" in Northeast Florida leveraging the power of 5 Behavioral Health agencies across 6 counties. Our project creates a trauma informed community that will encourage healthy conversations, activities and interventions leading to a focus on mental well-being and healthier lives. It creates 2 co-responder teams with local law enforcement to reduce incarceration and connect offenders with community-based mental health services, Emergency Department diversion and supports for families/friends who have lost a loved one to suicide.

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

Create talkable communities throughout Northeast Florida through to increase the number of individuals with the ability to respond to a mental health Crisis. Expand care coordination activities in local hospitals to connect with those experiencing a mental health crisis. Expand our partnership with law enforcement that integrates a MH professional into their response team and that offers trauma support to first responders. Provide trauma support to family and friends who have lost someone due to suicide and/or overdose.

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

Training in Mental Health First Aid, ITTAI and QPR throughout 6 counties in Northeast Florida. Care Coordinators on-site in the emergency department will meet with individuals in a mental health crisis, Baker Act and/or overdose, assess their needs, develop a care plan, and provide direct service in the community until the person is stable. Two mental health counselors to be part of a co-responder team with Law Enforcement agencies to intervene and provide direct intervention to those identified as having a mental health issue during an arrest. Crisis counselors trained in Trauma informed care will provide individual/group support to families and first responders after a death by suicide.

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

Individuals with mental illness, individuals/families experiencing a mental health crisis, individuals who commit crimes with an identified MH issue, first responders, family/friends who have suffered a loss due to suicide/overdose, training for youth serving adults, and training for the general population.

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

The integration of a MH professional with law enforcement can reduce the incidence of violence, trauma, arrests, and involuntary hospitalizations, and increase the engagement rate for follow up care. The same MH professional can provide trauma informed care after a traumatic event such as suicide.
Measurement - % of BA diversions, % of engagement in services. #Of MH interventions leading to reduction in arrest. Improve MH MHFA and QPR are evidenced based training programs proven to increase knowledge on signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illness; increase confidence in and likelihood to help an individual in distress, increase mental wellness in the trainee, and increase confidence in having a conversation on mental health issues.
Measurement-# of individuals trained, number of trainings provided.

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?

Penalties include loss of contract and funding.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number