

Application Form

Introduction

A Word version you may use to draft your application is available here. You must submit your final application through this portal.

The rubric that will be used to score your proposal is available for download.

A brief webinar giving an overview of this application can be viewed here.

Project Name*

Please give your proposal a short, descriptive title. This is how your request will appear throughout the PCF grant portal.

Facing Food Insecurity through Mobile Food Distribution

Mission Statement*

Please write your organization's mission statement below. This should be no longer than one or two sentences.

Florida Dream Center inspires self-sufficiency by sharing faith through resources and restoring hope in communities.

Is your organization headquartered in Clearwater?

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

No

Grant Start Date*

PCF expects to issue a contract to approved organizations in September 2023. If awarded with a contract issuance date of September 1, 2023, when would your organization begin to spend funds?

09/01/2023

Grant End Date*

PCF expects the grant period to be between 12 and 24 months for this process. Given this range, when would your organization expect to finish expending funds if awarded?

09/01/2025

Annual Operating Budget*

Please provide the amount of your annual operating budget, (expenditures only) for your entire organization.

\$1,402,591.54

Amount Requested*

The minimum grant request for this process is \$50,000.

The maximum grant request for this process is \$325,000.

If you request the full \$325,000, your organization should be able to demonstrate a *significant* impact to be made from these funds.

Please be sure that your grant request is proportional to your annual operating budget. If you have any questions about how much funding to request, please contact Jocelyn Howard at jhoward@pinellascf.org.

\$50,000.00

Programming

Programming Background*

Please describe the program that this grant would support and how it relates to your mission.

Example

Peer Counseling Services Inc. offers after-school support groups for middle schoolers and high schoolers. Below, Peer Counseling Services Inc. would describe what its programming is, how its programming works, and who is served.

Why PCF asks this: PCF wants to learn about what your organization does and how this work is related to carrying out your mission.

The Mobile Food Bank distributes food to multiple areas of Pinellas County five days a week. It supplies a surplus of food to at-risk and vulnerable residents who are classified as either living in a food desert, without transportation, elderly, homeless, low-income/no income, or disabled. Some Clearwater residents fit these demographics and are served by the food mobilized to at-risk communities within Clearwater.

The food bank distributes provisions that consist of the traditional food pyramid for balanced meals, and the Food Bank Director provides nutritional information and meal cards for unique items. In 2022, the mobile food bank distributed over 1.6 million pounds of food and over 12,000 pre-packaged youth meals and brought in approximately 1.4 million pounds of food from 150 local suppliers.

The Mobile Food Bank's ability to mobilize into underserved communities supports FLDC's mission and vision to provide resources, empower residents and promote self-sufficiency.

Urgency*

Please describe how the proposed programming is addressing a time-sensitive community need. You may cite data sources.

Why PCF asks this: The City of Clearwater has indicated that this funding should be directed to programming addressing urgent needs.

According to the U.S Bureau of Statistics, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater states prices are up 7.3 percent over the past 12 months. The index for all items less food and energy increased by 9.0 percent over the past year. The food index continued to rise 7.5 percent over the last 12 months. Feeding America places Pinellas County's food insecurity rate at 10.6% with the average meal costing \$4.18.

The Pinellas County ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report has almost 52,000 households at the poverty level and almost 152,000 households at the ALICE level. That leaves almost half, or 48.5 percent, of the county at an ALICE level or lower. Members in our communities are making healthy food sacrifices and allocating dollars towards other necessities, such as medication, rent, or utilities.

Individuals facing food insecurity lack access to nutritional foods and experience related hardships. They are also at greater risk of health issues such as diabetes, obesity, and chronic and mental health disorders. This puts a burden on an individual and adds excess pressure and costs (such as visits to local urgent care or emergency rooms).

History in Clearwater*

Please describe how long you've been providing services in the City of Clearwater, and the nature of such services.

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

Since 2018, the Florida Dream Center's (FLDC) Mobile Food Bank has been distributing food services to residents in the City of Clearwater. The designated sites are mobile home parks (MHP), Housing Authority apartments, family centers, smaller pantries, and churches. Those who are served include at-risk individuals within vulnerable demographics consisting of low-income or poverty levels. Many of the demographic include low-income, homeless, veterans, seniors, and those who face disabilities.

Our Mobile Food Bank Director regularly meets with Pinellas County Housing Authority case managers, Mobile Home Park managers, Church Pantry Coordinators, and Family Center case managers to re-evaluate the need and determine if other services could help the area. In many cases, these discussions have resulted in our Resident Advocacy case managers visiting sites once a month to aid with benefits enrollment or employment resources and services.

The Mobile Food Bank supplies nutritional food to 935 unduplicated and over 2500 duplicate Clearwater residents over the course of a month. The City of Clearwater sites includes Clearbay Terrace, Continental Inn, Creekside I and II, High Point Family Center, Mariners Cove (MHP), The Point Church, Gulf to Bay (MHP), and Cross Point Open Arms. Overall, the Florida Dream Center provides almost 30,500 (duplicated) persons per year supplemental nutritional meals, allowing them the opportunity to improve their health equity by spending their restricted income on essential medication and doctor's visits.

Language Capacity*

To what extent will your organization provide the proposed programming in languages other than English? Be specific as to written/digital materials and staff capabilities.

Why PCF asks this: Approximately 20% of Clearwater residents speak a language other than English in their homes

(ACS Community Survey, 2021 1-yr Estimates). [msocom 1](#) PCF is interested in your ability to reach these residents.

The Florida Dream Center offers materials in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. In regards to Spanish speaking, FLDC has staff and volunteers who are bilingual. The organization also has partnerships with other organizations who are able to offer bi-lingual services, typically through appointment. Staff is also trained to utilize applications such as Google Translate through various client diversity trainings and meetings.

Outcomes*

Define one to two outcomes already being measured by your organization in relation to the programming this grant would support. This should be the outcome of the overall programming itself. **Outcomes are not the number of people you will serve, but how they or their situation will change.**

"Outcomes - are specific, measurable statements that let you know when you have reached your goals. Outcome statements describe specific changes in your knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors you expect to occur as a result of your actions. Good outcome statements are specific, measurable, and realistic."

(W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide)

Example

80% of youth involved in peer counseling will show increased emotional intelligence after six months of participation.

Why PCF asks this: PCF considers measurable outcomes to be a cornerstone of effective social service programming. Tracking outcomes allows both an organization and its supporters to know how effective its programming is and helps an organization improve its programming over time.

60% of at-risk and vulnerable residents served through this funding will benefit from nutritional meals increasing personal nourishment, and curbing detrimental health issues associated with improper nutrition. The food will also assist in supplementing costs for other necessities such as medical care.

45% of those receiving food distribution through this funding will better understand proper nutrition and reduce the potential health hazards of undernourishment with items provided by the Mobile Food Bank.

Measurements*

Explain what measurement tools you will use to evaluate the stated outcome(s) above. That is, how will your organization know it is achieving or not achieving the outcome(s) stated above? Stronger requests will use a validated tool or method of data collection.

Example

Peer Counseling Services administers the Schutte Self Report Emotional Intelligence Test before counseling begins, and in six-month intervals thereafter.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to know how the outcome(s) you've specified are measured, and if you used a validated tool that has been proven in usage outside your organization. If you've developed your own tool, please describe how it was made.

The Florida Dream Center utilizes the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix (ASSM). In order to support the outcomes stated in this grant, the objective is to raise the points in specific categories. The residents will be

asked to complete four sections within the matrix every six months, starting with a baseline intake. These categories include:

Food - (1) No food or means to prepare it. Relies, to a significant degree, on other sources of free or low-cost food. (2) Household is on food stamps. (3) Can meet basic food needs, but requires occasional assistance. (4) Can meet basic food needs without assistance. (5) Can choose to purchase any food household desires.

Health Care Coverage - (1) No medical coverage with immediate need. (2) No medical coverage and great difficulty accessing medical care when needed. Some household members may be in poor health. (3) Some members (e.g. Children) have medical coverage. (4) All members can get medical care when needed, but may strain budget. (5) All members are covered by affordable, adequate health insurance.

Life Skills - (1) Unable to meet basic needs such as hygiene, food, and activities of daily living. (2) Can meet a few but not all needs of daily living without assistance. (4) Can meet most but not all daily living needs without assistance. (5) Able to meet all basic needs of daily living without assistance. Able to provide beyond basic needs of daily living for self and family.

Other - (1) I chose not to use the recipe cards or cook any nutritional or unfamiliar food provided by this organization. (2) I eat the food and use the recipe cards provided but have not seen any financial or health benefits. (3) The food and recipe cards provided have improved one of these: my financial or health status. (4) The food and recipe cards provided have helped improve both my financial and health status. (5) I no longer need the food provided by this organization and understand the importance of eating nutritional food.

Grant Specifics

Grant Impact*

How would this grant help your organization and its clients achieve the outcomes stated above? That is, what would you be able to do with this funding that you otherwise could not?

This has been copied from your LOI. Please expand in this question to describe how this grant expands services.

Why PCF asks this: The intention of this grant is to fund organizations providing support for individuals and families in Clearwater with emergency housing and social services needs. How that support happens, and how this grant could help, differs from organization to organization. PCF would like to know specifically how this grant would help your organization and the clients you serve.

According to Floridahealth.gov, 15 percent, or 144,000, Pinellas County residents face food insecurity with 4 percent, or 38,500 residents having limited access to healthy food options. Pinellas County is also faced with 26 percent of adults who battle with obesity. Through the Mobile Food Bank, FLDC is able to provide meals of nutritional value helping combat the battle against obesity and the many health issues associated with chronic diseases and lack of proper sustenance. Residents within the City of Clearwater limits are able to use the additional food per month to assist with other necessities in their daily lives such as doctor visits and medications.

The Clearwater ARPA funding will allow the Florida Dream Center's Mobile Food Bank to bridge the gap within Clearwater communities where poverty and hunger are prominent. The mobility of the bank is a benefit to homebound and transportation-challenged individuals who are not able to feed themselves without support. By accessing these at-risk areas, Florida Dream Center will be able to focus on community members that are in need of beneficial sustenance in order to have an opportunity for self-sufficiency and health equity. These areas can also benefit from our mobile case management services on a rotation and appointment basis.

Reduction in Funding*

Due to limited funding, your request amount may not be fully awarded if it is moved forward in the grant process. How would reduced/partial funding impact your proposed program?

Why PCF asks this: The review committee that ultimately recommends proposals for funding may consider partial funding. PCF would like to know upfront what impact this would have on your proposal.

The Florida Dream Center will be actively seeking and researching funding opportunities to support our Mobile Food Bank. If full funding is unavailable, additional resources will be recruited and services may be limited until such time as funding is established.

The Florida Dream Center team markets and promotes continuous donation campaigns, food drives, and organizational presentations as ways of recruiting private donations or corporate sponsorships. This practice will continue throughout the year to ensure services can continue. In addition, the grant team researches and submits for grants that can also provide additional support to program costs.

Sustainability*

Given that this funding is time-limited, how does your organization plan to sustain the programming expansion? If there is no sustainability plan, how would your organization effectively wind down the expansion when this funding ends?

Why PCF asks this: Due to the size and potential impact of this grant, PCF would like to know how clients would be supported after the grant period ends.

The Florida Dream Center is currently funded by other organizations and government agencies, as well as actively seeking potential grants and funding year-round to sustain the Mobile Food Bank, as well as the remaining three programs. Foundations and charities that are food focused, such as WaWa and Publix, are active supporters of the bank. Precautionary measures are made to keep the Mobile Food Bank functional and operational. In addition, the Food Bank has partnerships with other local organizations like St. Petersburg Free Clinic and Feeding Tampa Bay.

Governance/Financials

Board List*

Please upload a current list of your organization's Board of Directors.

PDF and Word formats are accepted.

Board Member List_2023.pdf

Organization Budget*

Please upload your most recent, board-approved organizational budget. You may add any notes regarding your budget below.

PDF and Excel files are acceptable.

2023 Organizational Budget (2).pdf

The budget uploaded is a cash budget and does not include the in-kind amount of \$490,000.

Project Budget*

Please use [this template](#) to describe expenses for this program. You should use this template to provide a budget narrative as well, explaining the purpose of each expense and how it relates to the program.

The more specific your line items, the better. Any staff member(s) that would not be 100% funded by this grant should be shown with the time and effort that would be allocated to this grant.

Clearwater-Budget-Detail.xlsx

The Mobilization Director will be funded 5.5% of his salary to aid with mobilizing and distributing the Mobile Food Bank. Three other VISTA members will not be funded by this grant however there is a 50% match between Americorps VISTA and Florida Dream Center to cover the Living allowance (by Americorps) and housing allowance (by FLDC) for each VISTA member.

Capital Purchases*

Capital expenses in your proposal should be shown to remove barriers to expanding services. Please describe below:

1. What percentage of your request is capital?
2. Describe why capital purchases are needed, and how they *directly* support the programming described in this proposal.

If your request does not include capital purchases, write "N/A" below.

Why PCF asks this: Unlike other local opportunities using ARPA funding, this grant opportunity is not meant to primarily fund capital needs. While capital purchases are permitted, the acquisition must be connected to your programming and should be helping unlock operational resources.

This grant application includes 15%, or \$7,500.00, to be used for Mobile Food Bank operational supplies and equipment. This includes items such as carts, platform trucks, and palette wrap to aid in the sorting, processing and packing of the food being transported and distributed within Clearwater. This does not include large capital purchases.

Additional Upload

Additional Upload*

If you have additional documents to support your application, you may upload them here. Please limit your upload to five pages. PDF files are accepted.

Clearwater ARPA Testimonials.pdf

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Board Member List_2023.pdf
- 2023 Organizational Budget (2).pdf
- Clearwater-Budget-Detail.xlsx
- Clearwater ARPA Testimonials.pdf



2023

Board of Directors Contact List

Name	Position	Term Start Date	Notes
Steve Cleveland [REDACTED]	Executive Director, Florida Dream Center	09/01/2014	4017 56 th Ave N. St. Petersburg FL 33714 [REDACTED]
Samantha Chechele [REDACTED]	Board Chair	01/21/2015	Chechele Law – Owner 7127 1 st Ave S St. Petersburg, FL 33707 [REDACTED]
Phil Palm [REDACTED]	Board Member	04/15/2013	Business Developer 809 Camelia Dr. Largo, FL 33770 [REDACTED]
Dan Graham [REDACTED]	Board Member	05/02/2019	Principal Securities 4010 Boy Scout Blvd, Ste 750 Tampa, FL 33607 [REDACTED]
Clete Goddard [REDACTED]	Board Member	01/01/2022	Modern Business Associates 9455 Koger Blvd N, #200 St. Petersburg, FL 33714 [REDACTED]
Jessie Bowden [REDACTED]	Board Secretary & Treasurer	01/01/2022	Bowden Barlow Law, P.A. 3845 5 th Ave N St. Petersburg, FL 33714 [REDACTED]
Danilo Felix [REDACTED]	Board Member	03/01/2022	Athletes in Action, Tampa Bay Rowdies Chaplain 230 1 st SE St. Petersburg, FL 33701 [REDACTED]



Florida Dream Center, Inc.

4017 56th Ave N. St. Petersburg, FL 33714

(O) 727-851-9074 (F) 727-851-9954

www.FloridaDreamCenter.org

Deputy Ricquel Copper	Advisory Board	10/12/2022	Active Duty Sheriff 10750 Ulmerton Rd Largo, FL 33778 [REDACTED]
Greg Schaeffer	Board Member	02/16/2023	US Federal Contractor Registration 15950 Bay Vista Dr, Suite 250 Clearwater FL 33760
Neill Boyd	Board Member	06/15/2023	NB Home Team 3615 Bromley Grand Ave #230 Tampa, FL 33607 [REDACTED]

FLDC is currently recruiting and interviewing potential board members.

Florida Dream Center
2023 Organizational Budget
(Operational AND all FOUR programs included)

Expense	2023 Monthly Budget	2023 Yearly Budget
Organizational Expenses		
Payroll	\$ 34,431.41	\$ 413,176.92
Wages	\$ 28,212.45	
Taxes	\$ 6,218.96	
Health Insurance (hlth, vision, dental)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 30,000.00
Fundraising Cost	\$ 950.00	\$ 11,400.00
Management and General		
Advertising & Promotion	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,200.00
Auto		
Fuel & Tolls	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 13,200.00
Insurance	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 75,000.00
Taxes & Tags	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,400.00
Unscheduled Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Bank Charges	\$ 25.00	\$ 300.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Insurance (Property/Liability/DI)	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Legal & Professional	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Maintenance (non-auto)	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Meals & Entertainment	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,200.00
Office Expenses		
Office Supplies	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000.00
Postage & Delivery	\$ 50.00	\$ 600.00
Payroll Fees	\$ 730.00	\$ 8,760.00
Pest Control	\$ 135.00	\$ 1,620.00
Phone/Internet	\$ 275.00	\$ 3,300.00
Travel	\$ 50.00	\$ 600.00
Utilities	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Admin - VISTA Allotment	\$ 249.34	\$ 2,992.08
AaB - VISTA Allotment	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 13,200.00
Food Bank - VISTA Allotment	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 15,600.00
RA - VISTA Allotment	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 15,600.00
AaB - Program supplies, material, Items, etc	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00
FB- Program supplies, material, Items, etc	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,800.00
RA - Program supplies, material, Items, etc	\$ 167.00	\$ 2,004.00
WRT - Program supplies, material, Items, etc	\$ 10,463.00	\$ 125,556.00
HUD - Program supplies, material, Items, etc	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
Baseline Budget TOTAL	\$ 76,125.75	\$ 913,509.00

Budget Detail

ORGANIZATION NAME: Florida Dream Center

	Total Project Cost	ARPA Grant Request
EXPENSES		
1 Salaries		
Show your calculations. Include any project staff that will be paid a percentage of time from ARPA funds. Explain what will they do, how many hours will they work on the project.		
Approximately 5.5% of the Director of Mobilization's annual salary for distribution management and planning	\$ 55,117.56	\$ 2,500.00
Salaries Sub-Total	\$ 55,117.56	\$ 2,500.00
2 Fringe Benefits		
Show your calculations. Includes such items as FICA, medical, dental, life insurance, etc.		
	\$ 13,131.72	\$ -
Fringe Benefits Sub-Total	\$ 13,131.72	\$ -
3 Contractual		
Show calculations for reimbursement. Include: funds to hire someone for the project who is not a member of the agency's staff; Name of person/company, if known; What will they do?		
	\$ 7,140.00	
Contractual Sub-Total	\$ 7,140.00	\$ -
4 Equipment		
This is the category requesting to purchase a major piece of equipment such as a computer or copy machine and during the grant period, must be used primarily for the project. Explain: What is the specific item and how did you determine its cost? Why is this needed for the project? Please show any calculations.		
Operational Pantry Equipment (carts, platform trucks, palette prep/wrap)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
Equipment Sub-Total	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
5 Travel		
Provide any travel costs and calculations. Include, for example, if you plan to reimburse project staff for local travel and/or to send for out of town training/conference. Show calculations.		
Refrigeration vehicles insurance coverage	\$ 30,564.00	\$ 20,000.00
Fuel, tags	\$ 10,000.00	
Travel Sub-Total	\$ 40,564.00	\$ 20,000.00
6 Supplies		
What specific items, how many, unit and extended cost? Include expendable items, including office supplies necessary for day to day project activities.		
Food items for distribution (canned, meat, dairy, etc)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Supplies Sub-Total	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
7 Other		

Includes miscellaneous items that do not fit into any other category such as, but not limited to, costs for printing, duplication of project-related materials. Provide details. Emergency Relief fits here.

Maintenance/Upkeep of Pantry/Equipment/Refrigerator Truck	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Three VISTA member's housing allowance, support the mission of the Mobile Food Bank	\$ 55,117.00	
Other Expenses Subtotal	\$ 75,117.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 221,070.28	\$ 50,000.00
Difference between requested ARPA grant and project cost	\$ 171,070.28	

Yvette Carter
Director of Open Arms Ministry
2059 Druid Road
Clearwater, FL 33764

The Florida Dream Center
4017 56th Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33714

April 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to acknowledge all that the Florida Dream Center Food Bank.

The Florida Dream Center donates and delivers to our facility 5000 to 6000 pounds of food every week which in turn, allows Open Arms to provide groceries to hundreds of needy families throughout our community on a weekly basis.

They have partnered with us for over three years and it has been a blessing to so many families.

It is because of their efforts and God's grace that we are able to assist the hungry in feeding their families nutritious, healthy meals and still have some money to pay other bills of daily life. We are grateful for their continued support and generosity. Please feel free to contact me if further information is necessary.

Sincerely,


Yvette Carter
813-735-4098

Nicole Ferrer
Mariners Cove
5796 Ulmerton Rd
Clearwater, FL 33760
727-373-9498

The Florida Dream Center
4017 58th Ave N
St. Petersburg, FL 33174

4/20/2023

To whom this may concern:

The Florida Dream Center has been a great part of our community at Mariners Cove. They provide food security to my residents every month.

They have been helping our community for about 7 years. They provide food for about 89 families a month. My residents greatly appreciate the help.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Ferrer", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicole Ferrer
Mariners Cove
Assistant Community Manager