

LOI Form

Organization Information

A Word version you can use to draft your request is available for download.

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

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

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

Annual Operating Budget*

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

\$1,402,591.54

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

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

Programming Background*

Please describe the program that this grant would support.

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 it carries out its mission.

The Mobile Food Bank distributes food to various outlets within Pinellas County during the week. It supplies a surplus of food to at-risk and most vulnerable residents who are classified as either without transportation, elderly, homeless, low-income/no income, or disabled. The delivery areas include low-income mobile home parks, local smaller non-profits, churches, and shelters to reduce the impact of food insecurity. The food bank distributes provisions that consist of the traditional food pyramid for balanced meals, and the Pantry Director provides nutritional information and meal cards for unique items. In 2022, the mobile food pantry 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.

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), family centers, smaller pantries, and churches. Those who are serviced are at-risk and within vulnerable demographics consisting of low-income or poverty levels; which includes veterans, seniors, and those who face disabilities.

The Mobile Food Pantry supplies nutritional food to 935 unduplicated and over 2500 duplicate Clearwater residents over a month to several sites. 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

Outcomes*

Define one to two outcomes already being measured by your organization in relation to the programming this grant would support. This is not the outcome of this specific funding, but of the 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 individuals would benefit from nutritional meals for health purposes and for assisting in supplementing costs for other necessities such as medical care and charges to curb detrimental health issues associated with improper nutrition.

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

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.

Measurements such as the Food Security Survey by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) can be administered to assess those acquiring food items from the Mobile Food Pantry. These surveys have measurements on a before-and-after basis within 6 categories focusing on food insecurity.

The 'Before Going To' and 'After Going To' columns consist of the following options:

Often True
Sometimes True
Never True

The categories are as follows:

The food that we bought just did not last, and we did not have money to get more.

We cannot afford to eat balanced meals.

Did anyone in your household ever cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food?

If yes, how often did this happen?

Did anyone in your household eat less than he/she felt that he/she should because there is not enough money for food?

Is anyone in your household ever hungry, but not eating because there is not enough money for food?

The purpose of this survey is to measure the capacity at which the Florida Dream Center is aiding those facing food insecurity prior to receiving services and the results after. The main goal is to take those who have negative responses in the 'Before going to' category to positive ones in 'After going to'.

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?

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, in Pinellas County, 15 percent, or 144,000 face food insecurity with 4 percent, or 38,500 of residents having limited access to healthy food options. With funding from the American Rescue Plan Act through the City of Clearwater, the Florida Dream Center can bridge a gap within the community to focus on community members who need supplemental food. 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 support of the funding will allow the Florida Dream Center's Mobile Food Pantry to continue distributing food to residents in the City of Clearwater outside our immediate local area. The mobility of the pantry is necessary to distribute nutritional meals to fill the gaps in smaller areas that may otherwise be overlooked or unprovided for. By accessing these areas, The 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.

Preliminary Budget Narrative*

Please write a brief breakdown of line items showing how your requested funds would be used. You may add context to the expenses if needed (for example, if salaries are requested, state how that position supports the programming described in your proposal). A more detailed, formal budget will be required if your request is moved forward in the funding process.

Small equipment purchases are permitted under this grant provided they are directly tied to service delivery. You

may include those purchases in this narrative.

If your organization will be requesting indirect costs, please include this in your narrative. Note that the indirect cost rate for this grant is capped at 5% of the grant.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to gain a general understanding of the proposed programming costs for this grant.

Insurance on Refrigerator Truck - \$20,000

Operational Pantry Equipment (carts, platform trucks, palette prep/wrap) - \$7,500

Maintenance/Upkeep of Pantry/Equipment/Refrigerator Truck - \$10,000

Non-perishable food items (cans, and dry goods) - \$10,000

Staff Salary - Director of Mobilization - \$2,500

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 Pantry. If full funding is unavailable, additional resources will be allotted to the program in order to maintain operational expenses. With costs that are rising such as auto/truck insurance, the program would have to resort to less cost absorption on other items such as functional equipment and non-perishable goods that go out to the community.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded