

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.

H.O.M.E. Counseling for Clearwater

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.

\$198,500.00

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?

09/18/2023

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?

09/30/2025

Mission Statement*

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

The House Of Mercy & Encouragement Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to faithfully providing quality mental health and educational services to children and their families that encourage caring, compassion, and a sense of well being. All are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, color, race, religion, or gender

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.

House Of Mercy and Encouragement offers individual counseling for adults, adolescents and children, play therapy, and family counseling to those who are struggling with mental, emotional, and behavioral health challenges. Parents and individuals who are seeking services for themselves or their children complete a psychosocial history and an initial interview to determine specific needs. During that time, goals are formulated. Goals are re-assessed throughout the counseling process as individual and family needs sometimes change needing updated goals. Children 3 years old through adolescents are served. Many are identified as depressed, anxious, experiencing relationship difficulties, problems with regulating emotions, social skills deficits, and/or academic needs. Specific assessments are individualized such as the Conners Rating Scales for ADHD, Conners Early Childhood Rating Scales, Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children, Multidepression Inventory for Children, and the Beck's Depression Inventory. All children will be assessed with a Likert Scale identifying their understanding of emotions, feelings, and emotional triggers at the beginning and end of the counseling period. During Covid 19 both telehealth and in person sessions have been utilized. We continue to offer telehealth for adults who may find it difficult to come to the office due to a transportation issue, need to schedule a session during their lunch hour or live in a different county.

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.

HOME has provided counseling services to adults and children in the Tampa Bay area since 2007. Although HOME's physical address is in Dunedin, we are close to Countryside High School and serve many people from Clearwater area.

HOME specializes in play therapy and we receive referrals from other professional counselors located in Clearwater due to offering this modality.

HOME provides community mental health awareness through quarterly Coffee with the Counselors. These sessions are open to the public at no charge. In addition, HOME has put conducted two county-wide mental health conferences (last one was October 2022) on a wide range of topics utilizing specialists from the Tampa Bay area.

In addition, HOME has conducted trainings with early childhood providers throughout the county, health department staff, school staff and other groups at no charge.

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.

80% of the adults and children will report improvement as measured by the FARS (Functional Assessment Rating Scale) and CFARS (Children's Functional Assessment Rating Scale). The assessment tool will be conducted at the second session and again at the sixth session to measure improvement in categories as noted below.

Adults: Depression, Anxiety, Traumatic Stress, Interpersonal relationships, danger to self/others and work. The improvement will be reflected in 4 out of the 6 categories

Children: Depression, Anxiety, Interpersonal relationships, work/school, behavior in the home setting and danger to self (teens only). The improvement will be reflected in 3 out of the 5 categories.

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.

We will be using the Functional Assessment Rating Scale for adults (FARS) and the Children's Assessment Rating Scale (CFARS) at initial entry to services and at six week intervals thereafter.

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.

The funding would allow us to serve more children and adults from Clearwater who may have been disenrolled from medicaid, are unable to afford insurance through the ACA marketplace, are under insured, or have very high co-pays/deductible. It would also allow HOME to increase current part time clinical staff hours to provide services for the Clearwater clients or possibly hire a new part time clinical person.

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.

\$15,000 for Client Scholarships (individual sessions, play therapy sessions, participation in therapeutic groups)

\$20,000 for Clinical Service Staff (additional hours for current part-time clinical staff, possible new hire of part time clinical staff)

\$10,000 for Administrative Support - (intake phone calls, scoring and tracking (FARS,CFARS, Connors), producing statistics for grant

\$5,000 for Supplies (purchase of Connors, art supplies/items needed for play therapy, snacks for children and adolescents, paper to copy FARS or CFARS)

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.

Reduced/partial funding would reduce the number of scholarships offered, not be able to increase some of the part time clinical staff hours for this grant, decrease our ability to offer the Connors assessment for children and adolescents.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded