

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.

The Catcher's Mitt, Pinellas County's First Peer-Led Respite Home

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.

\$325,000.00

Annual Operating Budget*

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

\$460,000.00

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?

09/01/2023

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?

05/31/2025

Mission Statement*

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

Recovery Epicenter Foundation's Mission is to eliminate roadblocks to sustainable recovery by providing multiple pathways of peer-to-peer recovery support services to recovering persons, their families, and our community in the Greater Tampa Bay area.

As a resource hub, we will provide training to eliminate the stigma of addictions, as well as equip our community with the tools they need to save lives.

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.

Yes

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 Catcher's Mitt, a peer-led respite home in Clearwater, FL opened in March of 2023, thanks to a Baycare Hospital grant of \$300,000 annually for the next 3 years. The intent is to diminish ER visits from persons with a substance use disorder, (SUD) that do not meet the medical threshold of care. Allowing persons, a safe space to "dry out" and restart their recovery journey who do not qualify for a medical detox serves our mission by removing a current roadblock by providing additional access to services. This provides emergency, temporary housing to those would normally fall through the cracks of our system.

The Need: Currently, bed space in Turning Point of Westcare, Operation Par, ACTS, and Baycare ICU is at a premium. On top of traditional public detox spaces, our emergency rooms are also overflowing with people seeking help with detoxing from a mind-altering substance. These folks are often turned away, and then return later when they now qualify for a medical detox.

The Solution: The Catcher's Mitt relieves the burden on the medical detox infrastructure by offering a safe space, staffed peer support specialists who can work with persons who don't qualify for medical detox, and work with them before they become an undo burden on the medical system. These dedicated recovery peer support specialists work with participants to create Recovery Capital Management Plans, and help participants navigate recovery and the systems of care available to them throughout the Tampa Bay Region.

We believe we can reduce crime, overdoses, and homelessness in Pinellas and Clearwater specifically by providing a 3 day and 14 day stabilization track which acts as a catcher's mitt for persons with a substance use disorder that return to active use and gets them back on track in their recovery.

We would also like to help some of them with their first month's program fees at a Florida Association of Recovery Residences accredited sober living home, thus allowing for them to continue in their recovery stabilization if they, like many people in early recovery, are financially indigent by their decisions while actively using.

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.

The Recovery Epicenter Foundation has been based in Clearwater since 2014. And we have observed that the need for people to receive peer support with housing in Clearwater is great. We are grateful to be a part of the community that is focused on solutions here. By opening up the first respite home here in Clearwater, we are intentional connecting our participants to many resources; plenty of public transportation options, an abundance of jobs available, access to sober living and community resources that are available. Clearwater's leaders and business owners are working hard to reduce homelessness and crime in this city, and we are grateful to be a part of the bigger story in seeing lives changed for good. By providing this option to persons who otherwise couldn't afford it, you are directly reducing the number of overdose deaths, people homeless, and any subsequent crime that comes along with a disillusioned and destitute demographic of people.

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.

The Catcher's Mitt, provides 100% housing support for persons who otherwise wouldn't be able to access housing, due to their crisis circumstances and lack of funding. While not a homeless shelter, it provides temporary housing and peer support services which connect the indigent person to transitional and recovery support housing that otherwise would not have been made available. Participants at the Mitt are stabilized and connected to longer term sober living homes where they can maintain abstinence from mind altering substances and become positive contributors to their community as they progress in their recovery from a SUD. People with substance use disorders who otherwise would have been homeless now have a home. Participants will not be turned away due to lack of funding The support of this grant will provide this needed service for people who otherwise would not get connected to the services and resources they need before experiencing the additional challenge of homelessness.

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.

Using Recovery Data Platform (RDP), an internal CRM, data is being collected on every participant that enters our program including demographic information, what substance the person has used/actively using, last day of use, current medications, previous treatment received, and length of stay with us. This data will allow us to measure the number of people/nights rescued from homeless or continuing in active use. It will also create a follow-up derivative to see how long recovery is being maintained.

Each participant will receive a recovery management plan, designed specifically for them to assist them in their journey as they transition to recovery residences, treatment centers, and long-term housing throughout the Tampa Bay Region.

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 impact this grant would provide is directly providing emergency housing and recovery services to 400 individual people, for an average of 10 nights each, that would otherwise fall through the cracks in our system. 400 people that may avoid jail or continuing in active use. 400 people that may not need to visit the emergency room because they are stable and partnered with our recovery referrals. 400 people that have loved ones and lives beyond their addiction. 400 people that will receive hope that they can recover and that they are not marked by their mistakes or their pasts.

We know data has proven that supportive housing drastically reduces the use of publicly funded crisis services, including jails, hospitalizations, and emergency departments. A chronically homeless person costs the taxpayer an average of \$35,578 per year, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Although there is currently no data of what financial benefits this program will save yet, we are confident there will be a significant reduction in public crisis funds spent because of the solution of supportive housing and wrap-around services provided.

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.

400 people at \$50.00 a night for 10 nights average= \$200,000.00

109 people at an average of \$1,000.00 first month at a recovery residence = \$108,750.00 (\$109,000.00)

Indirect costs=\$16,250

Total: \$325,000

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.

If the full amount is not received, we will adjust the numbers accordingly. The cost per night at the Catcher's Mitt is \$50/person so instead of serving the full 400, or not being able to help them with their first month at a recovery residence, we could reduce those numbers. We believe that as the program grows in recognition, having people in the community become more aware of the services, the need will only increase, and we plan to be full every night. We are currently pursuing other funding sources such as treatment programs, jail diversion programs, and funds from Opioid Abatement Funds to assist with the fees and do not want to turn anyone away who needs our services. With 18 beds total, at full capacity, we could provide over 500 nights of respite from homelessness and active addiction for an average of 54 people each month.

The Recovery Epicenter Foundation has been recognized as an RCO since 2017 but we are slowly working towards diversifying our funding sources and building an individual donor base. Currently, for this program, Baycare has given a grant to provide for the initial costs of the Catcher's Mitt and we are grateful for their partnership. Other funding sources are required and we will continue to seek out grants, corporations, and other partners to allow the Catcher's Mitt the ability to serve the most people, providing this temporary housing and supportive peer services. We could really use your support in helping us alleviate the burden persons with a substance use disorder put on the emergency medical system in Clearwater and throughout the Tampa Bay Region.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded