

8.20.13 #27

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: Robert S. LaSala, County Administrator

FROM: Gwendolyn C. Warren, Executive Director, Health and Community Services *gt*

SUBJECT: Proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Recommendations for Social Action Funding and Homeless Initiatives

DATE: August 16, 2013

Recommendation: The Department recommends maintaining current funding levels for the Social Action Funding and New Homeless Initiative agencies that provide direct services to at-risk populations. Two agencies, the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board and 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, received one-time funding for administrative and technical support. The Department further recommends that funding previously provided to those two agencies be re-allocated to Neighborly Care Network to offset the federal budget cuts impacting the Meals on Wheels Program.

Background

During the Budget Work Sessions on July 30, 2013 and August 6, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners instructed the Department to develop an administratively feasible process to prioritize funding for community agencies historically funded through Social Action Funding and New Homeless Initiatives in Fiscal Year 2014. During the Budget Work Sessions, the following services were prioritized for funding by the Board:

- **Meals for homebound seniors** provided by Neighborly Care Network, Inc. Funding was prioritized in order to reduce the impact of the **federal sequestration** and resulting budget cuts to the Meals on Wheels Program.
- **Emergency shelter for the homeless**, including shelter beds for **homeless families with children**, which is a **Board-approved core focus area for the Department**, and shelters for families fleeing a domestic violence situation.
- **Food access services.** Food access services such as food pantries and food centers provide essential food items and meals to homeless and at-risk individuals and families. **Food distribution centers** distribute food items in bulk to local food pantries or food centers for their use.
- The Board further indicated that the money provided to community agencies was to fund **direct services only** and that special consideration was to be given to agencies that use county funding as a **grant match requirement**.

The Board agreed that due to late timing of the funding decisions and since most agencies had already included their Social Action Funding or Homeless Initiative funding into their Fiscal Year 2014 budgets, the County should continue to fund direct service agencies for an additional year and utilize the time to develop new criteria to select community agencies for funding in Fiscal Year 2015. The additional year would provide the agencies sufficient time to prepare for changes in the program without impacting service delivery.

Table 1 lists the community agencies that currently receive Social Action Funding or funding for New Homeless Initiatives. 17 of the 19 funded programs provide direct services to families and individuals in need. **The Department recommends maintaining current funding levels for the agencies that provide direct services in Fiscal Year 2014.**

Table 1: Current Funded Agencies

Agency Name	Program Description	Funding	Service Category
Social Action Funding			
Community Law Program	Legal Assistance Services	\$13,650	Legal Services
Neighborly Care Network	Meals to homebound seniors	\$75,000	Senior Meals
Operation Hope of Pinellas	Medication case management for people living with HIV/AIDS	\$30,000	Health Services
Religious Community Services	Food Distribution Center and Food Pantry	\$30,000	Food Access Services
The Salvation Army of St. Petersburg	Food Pantry and Food Center	\$30,000	Food Access Services
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Food Center	\$40,000	Food Access Services
St. Petersburg Free Clinic	Food Distribution Center, Food Pantry, Food Center	\$30,000	Food Access Services
St. Petersburg Free Clinic	Health Clinic	\$25,000	Health Services
Suncoast Epilepsy Association	Outpatient Case Management	\$18,000	Health Services
Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center	Food Distribution Center and Food Center	\$30,000	Food Access Services
Daystar Life Center	Basic Needs for Homeless	\$30,000	Homeless Assistance
Subtotal - Social Action Funding		\$351,650	
Homeless Initiatives			
Religious Community Services	Emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence	\$35,000	Emergency Shelter
Community Action Stops Abuse	Emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence	\$25,000	Emergency Shelter
The Salvation Army of St. Petersburg	Overnight shelter beds for chronically homeless	\$25,000	Emergency Shelter
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Overnight shelter beds for street homeless	\$32,000	Emergency Shelter
Westcare Gulfcoast - Florida	Overnight shelter beds	\$30,000	Emergency Shelter
Young Women's Christian Association of Tampa Bay	Shelter for homeless women with children	\$32,000	Emergency Shelter
Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board	One-time funding to support temporary staff	\$10,000	Administrative Support
2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares	One-time funding for TBIN licenses	\$11,000	Technology Support
Subtotal - Homeless Initiatives		\$200,000	
Total Social Action Funding & Homeless Initiatives		\$551,650	

Two of the agencies, the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board and 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares, were provided one-time funding for administrative and technology support. While both agencies provide valuable services, the funding provided by the County was not for direct services and was only provided as one-time support. **The Department recommends re-allocating the \$21,000 previously allocated to the Homeless Leadership Board and 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares to Neighborly Care Network in order to reduce the adverse impacts of the federal sequestration cuts, increasing county support for the Meals on Wheels Program to \$96,000.**

Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2015

The Department continues to discuss alternative funding and service delivery options with the Law Department and funded agencies and is currently conducting site visits with each agency to learn more about the programs they operate. The Department welcomes input and suggestions from its community partners and the Board of County Commissioners on how to best prioritize funding and ensure effective delivery of support services to at-risk populations in the community and anticipates a formal recommendation on Fiscal Year 2015 funding for the Board's consideration in the spring.

Attachment

1. Funding Allocation Detail

Funding Allocation Detail

Agency Name	Program Type	County Funding	Funding Allocation	Funding Allocation Detail		
				Salaries	Administrative	% of Funding for Direct Svcs
Social Action Funding						
Community Law Program, Inc.	Legal Assistance	\$13,650	Salaries	\$13,650	\$0	0%
Neighborhood Care Network, Inc.	Senior Meals	\$75,000	Food Costs	\$0	\$75,000	100%
Operation Hope of Pinellas, Inc.	Health	\$30,000	Salaries	\$30,000	\$0	0%
Religious Community Services, Inc.	Food	\$30,000	Building Costs, Office Supplies, Salaries and Food Costs	\$9,000	\$21,000	70%
The Salvation Army of St. Petersburg	Food	\$30,000	Salaries	\$22,000	\$8,000	27%
Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Inc.	Food	\$40,000	Salaries	\$40,000	\$0	0%
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Inc.	Food	\$30,000	Salaries	\$30,000	\$0	0%
St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Inc.	Health	\$25,000	Salaries	\$25,000	\$0	0%
Suncoast Epilepsy Association, Inc.	Health	\$18,000	Salaries and Medical Services	\$6,000	\$12,000	67%
Tarpon Springs Shepherd Center, Inc.	Food	\$30,000	Salaries and Food	\$16,000	\$14,000	47%
Daystar Life Center, Inc.	Homeless Assistance	\$30,000	Food Bags, Hygiene Items, Household Needs	\$0	\$30,000	100%
Subtotal: Social Action Funding		\$351,650		\$191,650	\$160,000	84%
Homeless Initiatives						
Religious Community Services, Inc.	Shelter	\$35,000	Salaries, Utilities, Building Costs	\$10,528	\$24,472	0%
Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc.	Shelter	\$25,000	Salaries	\$25,000	\$0	0%
The Salvation Army of St. Petersburg	Shelter	\$25,000	Utilities, Equipment, Supplies, Salaries	\$0	\$25,000	0%
Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Inc.	Shelter	\$32,000	Salaries	\$32,000	\$0	0%
WestCare Gulfcoast - Florida, Inc.	Shelter	\$30,000	Salaries	\$30,000	\$0	0%
Young Women's Christian Association of Tampa Bay, Inc.	Shelter	\$32,000	Salaries	\$32,000	\$0	0%
Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board	One-Time Staff Support	\$10,000	Salaries and Operating Expenses	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
Tampa Bay Information Network	One-Time Technical Support	\$11,000	Technology Expenses	\$0	\$11,000	0%
Subtotal: Homeless Initiatives		\$200,000		\$134,528	\$65,472	0%