

COUNCIL ACTION ITEM

2020-21 Mental Health Targeted Funding Application November 2020

Background Information (*brief history of the situation*): As a result of the strategic direction discussion in October, the Council prioritized the issue of mental health in the Strategic Short-Term Funding budget in the amount of \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2020-21 with a commitment for at least one additional year. In the discussion, the CSC Team outlined an approach to contract for a pilot mental health project that will be embedded in the CSC's out-of-school time providers. This approach will help eliminate identified obstacles of transportation, costs and stigma on mental health while proactively addressing trauma and other issues already identified by out-of-school time providers.

Current Situation (*why it is being brought to Council now*): The CSC Team has developed a Targeted Funding Application to help identify the best provider to contract for this pilot mental health project. The application process follows the below timeline and asks the applicants to address: how they will embed counseling services into CSC's out-of-school time providers and build trust with children and youth participating; how services will be delivered in a trauma informed care and equitable approach; and how they address the currently identified obstacles to receiving mental health services.

Timetable	
November 16, 2020.....	Release of Request for Program Proposals
Thru December 1, 2020.....	Respond to application inquiries
December 14, 2020.....	Program Proposals due by noon
January 14, 2021	Council Vote on Funding Recommendations

The above timetable allows for services to begin in February. The application also requires a FY 2021-22 budget to allow for proper budgeting for the following year's budget and to adhere to the two-year pilot project commitment. Attached is the outline for the Targeted Funding Application that will be available on the CSC online grants management system.

Action (*requested or required of Council*): The Council is being asked to approve the 2021 Mental Health Targeted Funding Application as described in the below outline.

Team Recommendation:

STRENGTHS:

- Outlined strategy aligns with CSC Strategic Direction Discussions
- Addresses strategies for improving successful program services, increasing participation, and alignment with measurable community indicators

CONCERNS:

- None

The CSC Team believes the approach to embed mental health services into its out-of-school time providers will lead to increased access to mental health services and better outcomes for children and youth. The CSC Team recommends the approval of the 2020-21 Mental Health Targeted Funding Application.

Targeted Funding - Mental Health Outline

For the last two years, the Children's Services Council has funded an initiative for its out of school time (OST) providers to educate them on a trauma informed approach to service delivery. This has included providing an organizational assessment, intensive Trauma Informed Care Training to after school program staff and youth participants coupled with in-depth coaching, technical assistance, and mental health consultation with all of CSC's OST providers. Recently, the approach has identified two needs with our OST providers. The first need is the fact that many of the staff of the OST providers have their own trauma. CSC is currently providing guided consultation and counseling sessions with the OST staff to address this need. The second, and the purpose of this targeted funding request for proposals, is the need for counseling services for children in the OST providers.

In direct feedback from children and youth attending the Children's Services Council's OST services, they have stated that they need counseling to address issues such as anxiety, trauma, and more. And while we recognize that the St. Lucie County School System has therapeutic services available, this need goes beyond academic performance. Additionally, in a focus group presentation by teens, they have stated that while they need counseling services, their families are not willing to take them to counseling/therapy appointments because of the stigma of mental health services, transportation barriers, and/or costs including both insurance and Medicaid co-payments.

Therefore, the purpose of the Targeted Funding Request for Proposals is to provide counseling services that are embedded in CSC's OST provider sites for identified children and youth that eliminates the barriers listed above. The Children's Services Council has allocated \$100,000 for eight months of operation within the current fiscal year FY 20/21 (February 2021 through September 2021) as well as at least another full year FY 21/22 commitment for this pilot project (at approximately \$150,000).

Timeline for Targeted Funding Request for Proposals

Release of proposals – Monday, November 16th

Q & A accepted vial e-CImpact platform thru Dec. 1st

Proposals due – Monday, December 14th

Recommendation to Board for Vote – January 14th

Services begin – February 1st

e-CImpact Questions:

Please provide a brief history of your organization and experience in providing counseling services to children of all ages and any experience working with Out of School Time providers.

Please explain/detail your approach to embed counseling services in CSC's Out of School Time programs (Keeping Kids Off the Streets) including how trust will be built with children and youth attending OST programs as well as the OST providers' administration and staff.

If not possible to embed in all the existing service providers, please identify which ones would be selected and why?

Please detail how the services will be delivered in a trauma informed care approach.

Please detail how the services will be provided in an equitable way to all populations identified.

Please explain how your approach will eliminate the barriers identified: 1) stigma of mental health services; 2) transportation; 3) costs including Medicaid and insurance co-pays.

Please provide a timeline of implementation and major activities

Please detail outcomes for the project

Please provide budget for current fiscal year (Feb- Sept. 30th) and next fiscal year (Oct 1, 2021 thru Sept 30, 2022)