
**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM****SUBJECT:** Salvation Army-Family Focus Program - Grant Application**DEPARTMENT:** Fiscal Services**DIVISION:** Administration - Fiscal Services**AUTHORIZED BY:** Lisa Spriggs**CONTACT:** Jennifer Bero**EXT:** 7125**MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:**

Board direction as to the County partnering with the Salvation Army-Family Focus Program to submit an application to the Office on Violence Against Women requesting up to \$400,000 through their Safe Haven: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program; and authorize the Chairman to execute supporting documents.

County-wide

Jennifer Bero, David Medley

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Justice-Office on Violence Against Women is accepting applications for its Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program. This program provides an opportunity for communities to support the supervised visitation and safe exchange of children in situations involving domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

The Salvation Army Family Focus Program provides supervised visitation services for children who by court order are not permitted unsupervised contact with their non custodial parent or parents due to family violence, abuse, and neglect. Family Focus also provides the Nurturing Parenting Program, a series of classes designed to address the needs and supplement the knowledge of skills to parents involved in dependency procedures and conflicted relationships.

Family Focus is requesting Seminole County support of their program by committing to be the applicant and subsequent fiscal administrator for the Safe Haven grant program as only government entities are eligible to apply. Should the grant be awarded, Seminole County would enter into an agreement with the Salvation Army Family Focus Program to define the responsibilities of each agency. As the applicant, the County's Community Services Department would oversee the grant and project implementation. No financial commitment from the County is requested as there is no match requirement for this grant program.

The proposed application would request up to \$400,000 over a three (3) year period with the first year being a development planning year. During this period, the Office on Violence Against Women would provide program guidance and technical assistance. The subsequent years' funds would be used to improve the quality of the program. Such improvements would be based upon the needs identified through the assessment process completed during the planning phase.

The formal request and anticipated use of funds for improvements are identified on the

attached letter from Family Focus. Representation of the Salvation Army Family Focus and the Family Focus Advisory Counsel will be present during the Board meeting to address any questions the Board may have regarding the project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Req for Support

Additionally Reviewed By: No additional reviews



DOING THE MOST GOOD

FAMILY FOCUS SERVICES

WILLIAM BOOTH, FOUNDER
SHAW CLIFTON, GENERAL
COMMISSIONER MAXWELL FEENER, TERRITORIAL COMMANDER
MAJOR STEVE HEDGREN, DIVISIONAL COMMANDER
MAJORS JOSEPH & JUDITH KNOBEL, CORPS OFFICER

January 25, 2008

Dr. David Medley
Community Services Director
534 West Lake Mary Blvd
Sanford, FL 32773

The Salvation Army Family Focus Supervised Visitation/Nurturing Parenting Program Center is the only court approved visitation center in Seminole County. Family Focus provides supervised visitation services for children that by court order are not allowed unsupervised contact with their non custodial parent or parents because of family violence, abuse and neglect. Family Focus also offers monitored exchange which consists of the supervision of the exchange of the child from one parent to the other. In addition, Family Focus provides the Nurturing Parenting course which is a series of sessions that parents take to educate them about a non-threatening and non-violence way of life. The Nurturing Parenting Program's curriculum was design to address the needs and supplement the knowledge of skills of parents who are involved in Dependency procedures and are involved in conflicted relationships. Family Focus is also providing parenting support groups which provide parents with a familiar forum to discuss various safety and parenting issues. Some of the goals of Salvation Army Family Focus are as follows:

- ✓ To provide a safe violence free environment for a child to visit with their non custodial parent; To facilitate appropriate parent child/parent interactions during visits;
- ✓ To ensure that visits are not used as an opportunity to influence the children of a domestic violence victim;
- ✓ To reduce the risk of parental kidnapping; potential harm to victims of domestic violence and their children
- ✓ Prevent Child Abuse
- ✓ To provide a quality Nurturing Parenting Program that addresses the need of the community we serve, including providing information and teaching skills that promote the safety of victims and their children;
- ✓ To ensure that the staff receives the training necessary to ensure the safety of abuse/domestic violence victim and the child(ren); To develop, implement and enforce protocols necessary to ensure the safety of victims and their children;
- ✓ To establish stronger collaborations with community agencies and organizations that promotes safety of victims and their children.



HEART OF FLORIDA
UNITED WAY
Orange • Osceola • Seminole

A United Way Agency

Perpetuate the Army's Services in Your Will

The proposed grant application would request up to \$400,000 over a three (3) year period with the first year being a development planning year. During this period the grant recipient will receive assistance program guidance and technical assistance from the US Department of Justice Office, Office on Violence Against Women. The subsequent year's funds will be used to improve the quality of the program based on the needs assessment completed during the planning phase.

During the Planning Phase, the grant requires a community needs assessment be done to see which areas are in need of improvement. This planning phase also mandates hiring of a project coordinator to achieve certain goals. However, the performance measures and overall goal of the grant is to strengthen partnerships for safer communities and to enhance the nation's capacity to prevent, solve and control crime.

Since one of the performance measures will be to see an increase in safe supervised visitation between non-custodial parents and children, some pre-needs assessment areas have been identified based on the current needs of the community. They are as follows:

- ✓ Hiring security staff during a.m. hours
- ✓ Purchase of more parenting class books and supplies/anger management class books and supplies
- ✓ Hiring staff (bilingual) to create more supervised visitation time/monitored exchanges/off-site parenting classes
- ✓ Provide needed transportation for parents using the Family Focus van as well as hire a part time bus driver.

Family Focus is requesting for Seminole County to be the fiscal administrator for the Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program as we are unable to apply for this grant without your support. Only government entities are eligible to apply and no financial commitment from the County is requested. **There are no matching funds required to obtain this grant money.**

As the grant recipient, Seminole County would have oversight and a responsibility to monitor the money received. Seminole County would subcontract with the Salvation Army Family Focus to provide these services. A letter of intent to collaborate will be requested from the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, Safehouse of Seminole, CBC of Seminole, Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, Family Connections, Florida Health Council and other non profit organizations who are vested in the prevention of domestic violence/child abuse and the safety of those victims.

A representative of The Salvation Family Focus and a member of the Family Focus Advisory Counsel will be prepared during the Board meeting to provide, if needed, a brief summary of the project and to address any questions the Board may have regarding the grant.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter that has the potential to greatly enhance the services offered in Seminole County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ida I. Rivera', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ida I. Rivera
Program Director, Salvation Army Family Focus Program
1610 W. Airport Blvd.
Sanford, Fl. 32773