



## City of Largo Project Proposal

### Continuation of Contract Services for Stabilization Shelter Beds with Wrap-around Re-Housing Services

#### Executive Program Summary

The City of Largo Homeless Outreach Program has demonstrated measurable success in reducing repeat calls for service, mitigating impacts to businesses and neighborhoods, and supporting individuals experiencing homelessness through coordinated outreach, shelter placement, stabilization, and re-housing services. Since 2023, this work has been strengthened through a contract with the Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP), reserving 20 emergency shelter beds paired with intensive case management and housing navigation to stabilize clients and move them toward permanent housing. Funding for this program was from the American Rescue Plan Act and will expire in August 2026 without additional funding.

This proposal seeks continued funding to sustain dedicated shelter capacity and wrap-around services as a critical component of Largo's public safety, housing stability, and justice-involved diversion strategies. Access to shelter beds and case management are essential to enable Largo's coordinated outreach team to connect individuals experiencing homelessness to immediate stabilization when they are ready for services. **The program directly aligns with the Pinellas County Safety & Community Council (PSCC) Strategic Plan goals** as an Implementation / Expansion project that improves access to housing, reduces justice system involvement, and expands high-fidelity wraparound services for high-need populations. The program primarily operates at **Intercepts 0–2**, providing early diversion through street outreach, emergency shelter stabilization, behavioral health referrals, and re-housing prior to arrest, booking, or prolonged justice involvement, and/or after repeated interaction with police services.

#### Alignment with PSCC Strategic Plan

The program directly aligns with the Pinellas County Safety & Community Council (PSCC) Strategic Plan goals:

##### **Key Strategy 1 – Adult Justice System SIM**

- Goal 1: Improve access to housing across the continuum
- Goal 2: High-Fidelity Wraparound via case management and navigation

##### **Key Strategy 3 – Behavioral Health Solutions**

- Early stabilization and referral for individuals with co-occurring conditions

### **Key Strategy 5 – Data-Driven Justice**

- Use of HMIS, police CAD data, and performance metrics

### **Program Title & Lead Organization**

**Program Title:** Largo Stabilization Shelter & Re-Housing Program

**Lead Organization:** City of Largo

**Contact:** Arrow Woodard, Housing Manager | City of Largo

### **Program Abstract, Description & Related Activities**

The current program funds a minimum of **20 emergency shelter beds** reserved for individuals referred through the City of Largo Homeless Outreach Program, with **flexible intake and warm handoffs** from street outreach. Services include:

- Emergency shelter placement / opportunity to stabilize with 90-day program
- Intensive case management
- Housing navigation and re-housing assistance
- Workforce development and benefit coordination
- Behavioral health and substance-use referrals
- On-site medical/dental services

The shelter beds serve as a stabilization point within Largo's broader outreach workflow, enabling consistent diversion from repeated law enforcement contact and unsheltered homelessness. The model emphasizes rapid engagement, individualized service planning, and exits to housing or treatment within 90 days. Largo Police Department has educated its patrol officers about the City's Street Outreach Program and is increasingly providing referrals to the City's civilian street outreach specialist. The street outreach specialist coordinates entry into the shelter/re-housing program. If a client is in need of detox first, the outreach specialist coordinates access into a detox facility and then reserves a shelter bed so the person will discharge from detox into a shelter bed rather than back to the streets.

Case Example: Individual had multiple years of engagement with law enforcement - totaling 25 arrests, 36 trespass warnings and 12 additional charges. The individual had a severe alcohol dependency. The individual recently completed an alcohol treatment program and was placed directly in one of Largo's contracted shelter beds. The individual is stabilizing and has since gained full-time employment and is working on securing permanent housing.

## Population & Number Served

- Approximately 60-68 individuals annually
- Adults experiencing street homelessness, including:
  - Chronically homeless individuals (~30%)
  - Individuals with mental or physical disabilities (~58%)
  - Justice-involved individuals and high utilizers of police services
  - Survivors of domestic violence
  - Veterans (4%)

## Expected Outcomes

- Reduction in repeat police calls and trespass incidents
- Increased exits from street homelessness to shelter, treatment, or housing
- Improved housing stability through coordinated re-housing (reduced recidivism)
- Reduced strain on emergency services and improved safety in public spaces
- Strengthened diversion from the justice system

Key performance indicators include shelter utilization rates, exits to housing, reduction in repeat police contacts, and time-to-placement, consistent with established program KPIs.

## Partnering Organizations & Roles

- **Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP):** Shelter operations, case management, housing navigation (current provider, RFP process starting in February 2026).
- **City of Largo Police Department:** Street outreach referrals, follow-up, business and neighborhood coordination
- **City of Largo Housing Team:** Program oversight, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) coordination, contract management
- **Regional Providers (as needed):** Detox (e.g. Operational PAR), Pinellas Hope, behavioral health, assisted living, and supportive housing referrals.

## Program Budget & Grant Compliance

- **Estimated Annual Cost for 20 reserved beds with case management/re-housing services:** \$205,000 – \$300,000 (the number of contracted beds may vary from

existing amount depending on contracted per bed night rate and the amount of grant funding awarded from this grant).

- **Funding Strategy (3-Year):**

- Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public services funding (estimate \$100,000) will be used to support operating costs at secondary shelters to provide alternative options when the primary shelter beds are full.
- Largo General Funds are used to pay for the City's Street Outreach Police Officer and civilian Homeless Outreach Specialist
- These two sources will be used to meet match requirements. s.

- **Grant Compliance:** The City of Largo has demonstrated capacity to administer state and federal grants, comply with reporting requirements, and manage multi-year funding agreements. The City will meet all requirements of the Florida DCF Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program.

### Grant Writing Capacity

The City of Largo has dedicated professional staff with experience preparing, submitting, and administering competitive state and federal grants. Staff have successfully managed ARPA, CDBG, and justice-related funding and have the capacity to complete the full DCF Reinvestment Grant application by **March 19, 2026**.

### PSCC Meeting Representation

Meridy Semones, Assistant City Manager from the City of Largo will attend the **PSCC Special Meeting on January 29, 2026** to present and discuss the proposed program for consideration.