

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MENTAL HEALTH,
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE REINVESTMENT
GRANT RFA#112818HSET1**

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL – PINELLAS
COUNTY FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, SIXTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
READY FOR LIFE, INC**

EXECUTIVE PROGRAM SUMMARY

- PROJECT TITLE:** **Road to Success:** An expansion of the Office of the Public Defender’s Pinellas County Crossover for Children’s Program
- LEAD ORGANIZATION:** Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit
- CONTACT INFORMATION:** **Bob Dillinger, Public Defender**
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- PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS/ROLE:** **Ready for Life, Inc.**
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Licensed behavioral health services provider of shelter, treatment, case management, transitional housing, and continuing care

PROGRAM ABSTRACT: The Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and its partner Ready for Life, Inc., propose to work in partnership with Pinellas County and the Public Safety Coordinating Council to administer a CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant of \$1.2M over 36 months. The proposed program, **Road to Success (RTS)**, is an expansion of the Office of the Public Defender’s Pinellas County Crossover for Children’s Program.

This unique project will offer an intensive diversion services program to 50 unduplicated individuals annually (150 over 36 months). The population of focus is juvenile and young adults who have a mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, and who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal or juvenile justice systems. The primary goal of RTS is to divert both low and high-risk individuals (high systems users) from arrest, prosecution, or incarceration in to treatment and support services. Anticipated outcomes include a decrease in recidivism, relapse, and risk factors/behaviors; and increases/improvements in education, transportation, employment, self-sufficiency, housing stability, overall health, and social connectedness, among others.

The proposed expansion is needed because the Office of the Public Defender reports that the number of eligible individuals outnumbers the capacity of its current Crossover for Children’s program. If selected, the Office of the Public Defender will provide additional supporting data in the grant proposal to establish a strong needs statement and justification for funding.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: The Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and its partner Ready for Life, Inc., propose to work in partnership with Pinellas County and the Public Safety Coordinating Council to implement **Road to Success (RTS)**, an expansion of Office of the Public Defender's Pinellas County Crossover for Children's (CFC) Program.

County Crossover for Children's (CFC) Program provides representation of youths who reside in Pinellas County whose cases cross over into both the dependency and delinquency courts. Eligible participants will have a mental health diagnosis, substance use disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder, and who are in, or at risk of, entering the criminal or juvenile justice systems.

Upon identification as a crossover youth the court appoints a CFC public defender with an emphasis on identification and assignment as early as possible. The public defender actively screens for crossover children at daily detention hearings of arrested children. The Department of Juvenile Justice staff at the Juvenile Assessment Center will note that a child's guardian is the local community-based care agency (CBC) provider, or a foster parent or case worker may appear on behalf of the child. These children are reviewed and, if they are still the subject of an open dependency case, a crossover attorney will be assigned. If a child appears with a foster parent or case worker at an arraignment or pre-trial conference, the public defender would again review the case to make sure reassignment to a CFC attorney is appropriate.

The great majority of crossover clients have pre-existing dependency cases prior to becoming involved in delinquency proceedings. However, some clients have dependency cases opened or re-opened during the pendency of their delinquency matters. The court psychologists, employed by the Unified Family Court, are in constant communication with the juvenile division director regarding children in delinquency court whose circumstances mandated the filing of an abuse complaint. If the abuse complaint progresses to the point where dependency proceedings are initiated, the child is reassigned to a crossover attorney.

The crossover program cannot represent all foster children who have charges pending in delinquency court. Foster children who reside and have delinquency charges in Pinellas or Pasco counties will be assigned to a crossover attorney. The public defender's office also receives delinquency cases from other jurisdictions while they are residing in Pinellas County involving foster children with dependency cases in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, which may not have the benefit of a crossover attorney in the originating jurisdiction of the transferred case. Upon transfer from the sending jurisdiction, crossover representation of the child begins. Once assigned, the crossover attorney remains on the client's cases until both the delinquency and dependency cases are closed. In actual practice, the delinquency matters typically resolve first, while the dependency matters remain open much longer.

Ready for Life, Inc., (RFL) has utilized and implemented the Youth Voice in everything they do. They have six young adults employed currently that aged out of the foster care system...they are the EXPERTS. Through strategic planning RFL is dedicated to being a "Skills Center". This provides the opportunity for those young adults raised by our system and involved with DJJ or corrections to receive the life skills necessary to be successful. Most of us take for granted the things we were taught or learned during our childhood and teen years. This population is deficient in academic performance and basic life skills.

RFL engages over 130 community volunteers to come beside us and serve this amazingly resilient population by providing that "ONE PERSON" that cares they are alive, will keep in touch with them, support them, guide them and just be there. This connection is critical to wrapping around each young adult the support and guidance needed.

Identification and referrals will come from the Assistant Public Defender and Case Manager in the Office of the Public Defender, as well as those involved in the Unified Court System such as Guardian Ad Litem, judges, deputies, law enforcement, and probation. Once an individual is admitted to RTS, he/she will participate in the following services:

- Integrated screening and assessment
- Individualized health and wellness planning (includes discharge/re-entry planning)
- Individual and group counseling to explore substance abuse and criminal thinking, as well as mental health treatment

- Education and support groups (e.g., substance abuse, co-occurring, criminal thinking, etc.)
- Comprehensive case management services
- Relapse prevention programming/services
- Services provided by Ready for Life, Inc. include:
 - In-House GED Center/ tutoring services, mentoring program, homelessness support and prevention services, financial literacy course, housing/utility deposits, transportation assistance and employment readiness

The proposed project will utilize evidence-based programs and practices including, but not limited to, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, and Seeking Safety, Solution Focused Brief Therapy, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. RTS will also utilize promising practices such as peer-based recovery support to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services for juveniles who have a mental illness, substance abuse disorders, or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, and who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice systems.

NUMBER AND POPULATION SERVED: The population of focus for the proposed program is at-risk youths (ages 14-21) who reside in Pinellas County, have a mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, and who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal or juvenile justice systems, have been charged with a crime, and dependency and delinquency cases. These juveniles will present one or more at-risk factors associated with possible delinquent behaviors that lead to involvement in the juvenile justice system, (e.g., homelessness, trauma, involvement in the criminal justice system, unemployment, school related factors etc.). The program will serve 50 unduplicated individuals annually or 150 individuals over a 36-month period.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: The lead organization and its partners understand that the primary goal of the CJMHSR Reinvestment Grant is to divert high-risk individuals from arrest, prosecution, or incarceration to treatment and support services. Process and outcome data related to the performance measures will be collected and reported on over the 36-month program period to ensure the goal is achieved. The lead organization and its partners will include a plan in the grant application for how the project will monitor the achievement of performance measures and overall project effectiveness. Data will also be gathered to track individuals during their involvement with the program and for at least one year after discharge, including but not limited to, arrests, and receipt of benefits, employment, and stable housing. The lead organization will work with Pinellas County and the Public Safety Coordinating Council to facilitate data sharing. In the grant application, the lead organization and its partner will outline the objectives that will help to realize the annual outcomes identified below.

- Seventy-five percent (75%) of participants will not be arrested while enrolled in the program.
- Seventy percent (70%) of participants will not be arrested within one year following program discharge.
- Seventy percent (70%) reduction of school arrest rates.
- Seventy-five percent (75%) of participants not residing in a stable housing at program admission will reside in a stable housing environment within 90 days of program admission.
- Seventy-five percent (75%) of participants will reside in a stable housing environment one year following program discharge.
- Eighty-five percent (85%) of participants not employed at program admission, and who are physically and mentally able to be employed, will be employed full or part time within 180 days of program admission.
- Eighty-five percent (85%) of participants who are physically and mentally able to be employed will

be employed full or part time one year following program discharge.

- Eighty percent (80%) of participants will exhibit one or more decreases in risk domains (i.e., housing, employment, health, substance abuse, finances, etc.) at discharge as evidenced by a pre-and post-risk assessment tool administered by the treatment provider.

PROGRAM BUDGET: The Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and its partner Ready for Life, Inc., possess the ability to comply with all requirements of RFA112818HSET1, for all three years of the grant. The Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and its partners understand that grant funding must be spent within 36 months from the date of the award letter, and that Implementation and Expansion Grants will not be renewed at the end of the 3-year grant period. The Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and its partner Ready for Life, Inc., will work together to propose strategies to promote service sustainability at a level that continues to deliver the intended project benefits of the initiative after the termination of a grant award. **A program budget follows on the next page.**

ROAD TO SUCCESS PROJECT BUDGET 36 MONTHS				
		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Salaries: <i>Match amounts included in yearly totals</i>	Office of Public Defender: Case Manager (Bachelor Level) 1 FTE Therapist (Master Level) 1 FTE Assistant Public Defender 1 FTE Data Coordinator .5 FTE Ready for Life Case Manager/Youth Specialist 1 FTE Therapist (Master Level) 1 FTE	\$442,244	\$452,744	\$452,744
Benefits:	Federally approved rate 23.9%	\$105,696	\$108,205	\$108,205
Administrative Costs:	Federally Approved Rate 24.51%. Only requesting 10% of Direct Costs	\$71,000	\$71,518	\$71,518
Staff Travel: <i>Match amounts included in yearly totals</i>	400 miles per month at \$.44/mile	\$5,340	\$5,340	\$5,340
Consultants & Contracted Services:	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment:	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies: <i>Match amounts included in yearly totals</i>	Office Supplies, Program Supplies, Educational Materials for Clients (i.e., Seeking Safety, workbooks/journals, etc.), New Staff Supplies (i.e., computer, cell phone, desk, chair, etc.), HIV Rapid Test, Drug Testing Kits, etc.	\$21,796	\$17,905	\$17,905
Rent/Utilities: <i>Match amounts included in yearly totals</i>	Rent, Electric, Water, Gas	\$27,500	\$27,500	\$27,500
Other Expenses:	Communications (land line, fax line, internet, cell phone service), Copier Lease, Staff Recruitment, Client Transitional Housing, Client Transportation, Client Food, Facility Repair and Maintenance, Insurance, Licensing Fees, etc.	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
Total Project Cost:		\$793,576	\$803,212	\$803,212
Total Request:		\$396,788	\$401,606	\$401,606
Total Match (Cash and In-Kind):	See match explanation in narrative	\$396,788	\$401,606	\$401,606
Match Percentage:	See match explanation in narrative	100%	100%	100%
Total Request (3 YRS)				\$1,200,000

GRANT WRITING CAPACITY: The lead organization, Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit, and its partner, Ready for Life, Inc., guarantee that a full grant application, in response to RFA112818HSET1, will be provided to the County by January 29, 2019, for a full final review and submission by the County. The Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit and Ready for Life, Inc., will assign a grant writer to the project who has extensive experience leading the preparation of state and federal grant applications. Both the lead organization and its partners have extensive experience administering local, state, and federal grants.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS:

Lead Organization: Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit: The Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit, has three offices and represents Pasco and Pinellas Counties. Since 1997, the office has been led by Bob Dillinger. The primary function of the Public Defender's Office is to provide legal representation for indigent adults facing criminal charges and to juveniles involved in delinquency, dependency or crossover cases. Under Mr. Dillinger's leadership, the office provides many other services, including Jail Diversion, Homeless Outreach, and Mobile Medical Unit programs. The Public Defender's Office employs two master's level LMHCs, five master's level therapists/social workers, and two bachelor's level disposition specialist. www.wearethehope.org

Partnering Organization: Ready for Life, Inc.: Founded in January 2009, is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to helping youth exiting foster care to make a successful transition to independence. Ready for Life serves youth in Pinellas County that are 15 – 25 years old and are in foster care or have already transitioned out and are on their own. The youth Ready for Life serves, exit the foster care system regardless of their housing situation, support system or knowing that they have what they need to be successful on their own. Ready for Life helps fill in life skills, learning gaps and remove barriers so the youth can reach self-sufficiency. Ready for Life's Mission is to provide support, resources and guidance that former foster care youth need to transition to adulthood. The founders enacted a unique and powerful philosophy that remains true today, which is the "Youth Voice" is at the top of our organization structure.

The lead organization and its partners are pleased to provide any additional information requested