

2. Emergency Shelter/Bridge Housing Services for Families - \$300,000 – Administered Through HLB

There is an ongoing concern with family shelter demand and the availability of funded shelter beds within Pinellas County. This decision package proposes funding for the availability of new and/or existing shelter space to provide ongoing, flexible bridge housing and shelter for families in crisis.

In many cases, with existing Emergency Shelter beds, family size, eligibility, and even associated funding sources can create significant barriers to a family accessing ES beds. Currently, six providers of ES for families in Pinellas County have a total of 266 beds with an average utilization rate of 82.27%. However, this Utilization rate is somewhat misleading because as the beds are contained within distinct units (ie: 186 family beds are in 53 family units) and utilization depends on family size. This means that if a family unit has 5 beds, but the family size only consists of 3 people, the ES family bed census will show 2 vacancies, lowering the utilization rate. Therefore, many families are often told there are no vacancies at ES, even if there appears to be bed vacancies on the ES list.

Additionally, eligibility barriers can exist to shelter beds based on program, funding source, employment, or other issues making access a challenge. Finally, in some instances, even when there may be vacant beds, there may not be funding tied to operate those beds and provide case management making them unavailable for use.

It important to note that, from September 2017 through February 2018, 2-1-1 referred 153 families to the Homeless Leadership Board's (HLB's) Coordinated Entry team because they were either not eligible for local prevention programs or emergency shelter beds were full.

For the 3 months from 12/01/2017-02/28/2018, a review of families and ES within the Continuum of Care (CoC) shows:

- **117 Total Homeless Households Served**
- **92 Households** - were either new to the system or did not have an Entry in the last 24 months
- **93 Households** - were served during the reporting period in an Emergency Shelter.
- **24 Households** - who received services from a Homeless Provider (Services, Street Outreach, Case Management, etc.) were not served in Emergency Shelter during the reporting period.

As another note, the **2018 Point in Time counted 67 households in Emergency Shelter**.

This budget request will fund flexible bridge housing and emergency shelter beds from both new and existing community resources. This request includes a possible case manager FTE or case management resources to be funded and leveraged as needed to work with the families and ensure connection to resources. The Case Manager will assess the needs of the family, assess the family for prioritization into housing, provide linkage to other services and will follow-up with the family on a frequent basis until the family is accepted into permanent housing or the situation is positively resolved in another way (i.e., move out of state with family).

Funding will be administered by the HLB as part of their system oversight and coordinated entry system. The HLB is uniquely positioned within the system to effectively coordinate bridge housing assignment and tracking. System bridge housing requests will be reviewed and tracked as a component of the homeless system of care with family navigation to prevention, services, and/or coordinated entry. The proposed funding level will serve an average of 10 additional families per night for the year in ES or other bridge housing.

Performance Outcomes - Homelessness for families who have entered an emergency shelter program will be rare, brief, and non-recurring.

- **Rare:** At any point in time, the number of families experiencing homelessness in Pinellas County will be no greater than the CoC’s average monthly, positive, housing placement rate for families.
 - 5% annual reduction in the number of families who identify themselves as homeless, as defined by HUD.
- **Brief:**
 - 20% annual increase in the number of families that exit to permanent housing in 90-days or less.
 - 50% of families in ES will be placed in PH within 30 days of program entry.
 - 75% of families in ES will be placed in PH within 60 days of program entry
- **Nonrecurring:** Annually, the total, unduplicated sheltered homeless families that DO NOT re-enter CoC homelessness after exiting system to permanent housing will be:
 - 95% for less than 6 months from time of housing placement
 - 85% for less than 12 months from time of housing placement
 - 80% for less than 24 months from time of housing placement
- **HLB:** Will administer program activities under this funding proposal which may include subcontracting for services. In addition, the HLB shall:
 - Facilitate regular family case management meetings within the CoC.
 - Maintain a coordinated entry list that includes tracking of the bridge housing and ES utilization for approved families under this proposal.
 - Track/record situational case information, average length of stay, positive and negative exits, and progress for families under this proposal.
 - Effectively manage and prioritize bridge housing/ES resources under this proposal for utilization and invoicing.

Emergency Shelter / Bridge Housing Budget Detail - \$300,000 Budget - Family Emergency Shelter

Case Management Services (Est)	
Staffing and/or operational costs may include 1 FTE, contracted services, or combination of both along with travel, equipment expenses, and administrative costs up to 5% of total program budget.	\$50,000.00
Family Emergency Shelter Nights (Est)	
@ \$67 per night = 3,731.34 Bed Nights with an Average of Just of 10 families per night. (10.23)	\$250,000.00
Total Program Budget	
	\$300,000.00