Navigation Center

Pasco County Public Services, along with several community partners, are requesting BCC support on a multifaceted effort to implement a Navigation Center in Pasco County.

Thus far, we have the support of:
- Pasco County Coalition for the Homeless
- United Way
- Pasco County Sheriff’s Department
- BayCare Behavioral Health

Capital funding will be secured through a legislative appropriation.

Operating expenses will need to be budgeted by the BCC through a combination of grants and general revenue.

Why in Pasco?

There are an estimated 4,500 Homeless individuals, 900 Chronic Homeless, and 100 Estimated Camps.

We have been addressing the consequences, not the root:
- The County has adopted panhandling and trespass ordinances that indicate that approximately 49% of the citations issued are issued to homeless persons (3 months of reporting).

Strategic Plan Goals
- GOAL: Deliver essential services to address community needs.
- We are no longer a small town.
- We are a County of 500,000 with major urban problems and demands.

Proposed Location

Boys and Girls Club - 2 Buildings in Port Richey
- Land is owned by Pasco County
- Lease will be terminated (currently not in use)
- Located at: 8239 Youth Ln., Port Richey, FL 34668

Main Building built in 1989, 5,452 square feet
Teen Center built in 1998, 4,948 square feet

Built with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, along with state and private funds.

CDBG restrictions remain until September 2018.
Proposed Location

Building #1 (Boys and Girls Club)
- Rectangular building
- One large central room with several smaller "office type" rooms surrounding

Building #2 (Teen Center)
- Octagonal building
- One large central room with several smaller "office type" rooms surrounding

Building Grounds
- Large open field
  - Potentially build shower facilities
- Fenced in back yard behind Building #1
Proposed Use

➢ Interface with community partners to operate a Navigation Center
➢ What is a Navigation Center?
  • Provides low barrier pathways to permanent housing for homeless
  • Designed to bring entire encampments to the center for additional resources
  • Case management from community partners to provide jobs, housing, substance abuse, and mental health resources to transition to more stabilized situations
  • Low threshold/requirements for entry remove many of the barriers to traditional programs and focuses on mid-term housing solutions

Similar Activities in the State

➢ Kearney Center, Tallahassee
  • The Kearney Center is a 24-hour comprehensive emergency service center that serves as a point of entry into assistance by coordinating services and responding to immediate needs of individuals and families until appropriate permanent housing can be arranged.
  • Can house 250 individuals, Provide 600 meals a day
  • Provides space for 30 local, state, federal and private agencies
  • Daytime services are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and open to the public. Laundry, showers, telephone and computer use are available to non-overnight clients.
  • The emergency shelter is open to clients seven nights per week, and check-in time is 8:00 p.m. Clients staying overnight must be at least 18 years old, able to physically care for themselves, and do not have a history of sexual crimes. Overnight clients have access to laundry, showers, limited storage, and the on-site medical clinic.

Similar Activities in State

➢ Metropolitan Ministries, Tampa
  • Hope Hall: For women and families experiencing temporary homelessness. Sometimes, unemployment is the only barrier to housing. At Hope Hall, families can stay together while they find work and save for their own housing.
  • Uplift Hall: For families needing help and support for a longer period of time. Often, these families are in need of other services like counseling, job training or education in order to be able to provide for themselves.
  • More than 100 families — including 300 children — eat in the MiraclePlace dining room every day. In addition, 2,500 meals are cooked here and sent out to partner meal sites around the county.

➢ Pinellas Safe Harbor
  • Pinellas Safe Harbor is an emergency homeless shelter and a jail diversion program designed to be a safe haven for those currently homeless and who require services to get back on their feet.
  • Pinellas Safe Harbor came into being as a result of a series of partnerships involving the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office, the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County Government and numerous homeless service providers in Pinellas County
  • Provides 3 hot meals a day
  • Have clothes, socks, shoes, and laundry facilities
  • Loaner Bikes
  • Case Managers and Social Service Workers Available
  • Public Defender, Medical Care, substance Abuse Care and Counseling
Benefits to Pasco

- Benefits to Pasco include but are not limited to:
  - Servicing 50 - 100 highly vulnerable citizens to transition to stable housing
  - Reduce Jail Population – the cost to serve navigation center clients is approximately 90% cheaper than incarceration
  - Focus the varied efforts of multiple not for profit agencies into one location
  - Support of the Mobile Medical Unit from the Public Defender’s Office
  - State Funded (SHIP) extremely low income housing program to provide transitional housing with a case management component
  - Potential county program to hire Navigation Center clients to develop job skills

Capital and Operations

- Capital Cost Estimated at $1,000,000
  - Requesting capital funding from FL legislature
- Operating Costs Estimated at $600,000
  - Operation of the facility would be directed by the County through contracted services with a service provider or potentially the Sheriff’s Office
  - Funded through public and private sources, additional grants, and redirection of existing grant dollars within the County
  - Will explore funding if approved by the Board of County Commissioners

Summary

- This joint effort between multiple community partners, the County, and the Sheriff’s Office would serve the homeless population of Pasco County by providing the below resources to an underserved and often bemoaned portion of Pasco’s population
  - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
  - Law Enforcement
  - Housing
  - Career Counseling
  - Basic Necessities

Next Steps

- If approved Community partners, along with the Public Services branch will:
  - Begin to explore funding opportunities
  - Create community engagement and involvement with stakeholder meetings
  - Interface with not for profits and community leaders to garner support in the form of services and funding
  - Bring a comprehensive plan to the BCC during the next budget cycle to identify funding sources and fully vet the operational costs