

CITY OF SAN MARCOS
2019 CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES APPLICATION



Due Date: June 18, 2021

I. **APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Applicant Organization: Together for a Cause, Inc.

Contact Name: Roland Saucedo Telephone: 512-938-2596

Mailing Address: 326 N. LBJ Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666

Physical Address, if different from mailing address: _____

Contact E-Mail Address: rolishadiva@gmail.org Web Address: www.togetherforacause.org

Who is authorized to execute program documents? Roland Saucedo

II. **APPLICATION SUMMARY INFORMATION**

Project Name: Transitional Housing Program

Amount of CDBG Funds Requested: \$ 85,000

Project Location: San Marcos, Hays County

Will all CDBG funds for this project be expended by July 15, 2021? _____ Yes No

If "No", what percent is expected to be completed by that date? 0%-funds avail.10/1

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Briefly summarize the program for which CDBG funding has been requested.

The GAP Transitional Housing Program (GAP) provides assistance for people in crisis (e.g. unemployed, recently released from jail or prison, victims of domestic violence, recovering from illness or chemical dependency, citizens and veterans with mental health issues) and are in need of transitional housing. Transitional housing is provided for a limited time (from 2 weeks to 6 months) through a partnership with a local motel chain. By providing temporary housing for a longer term than emergency shelters, the GAP program provides assistance long enough for those who are struggling to "get back on their feet". Program staff will work with local low-income apartment complexes and the local Housing Authority to secure permanent housing for the client while providing support services designed to help clients to secure employment, apply for public assistance when applicable and gain necessary life skills that will foster self-sufficiency.

Although there is not a fee for clients to participate, they are required to contribute a co-pay toward their monthly expenses while participating in the program. The co-pay amount and the number of months the co-pay is required is dependent on the client's financial situation and their ability to pay. The average co-pay is \$400 per month for two to four months. During their GAP lodging, clients are required to open and maintain a savings account to serve as their emergency relief fund to prevent them from returning to their current situation in the future.

Upon entry, a case manager will 1) conduct an assessment and write an individualized service plan for each client, entering into an agreement that outlines services to be rendered, goals for the client including a timeline and the expectations of each party (the client and case manager), and 2) monitor the client's progress, ensuring that the plan is followed and goals are achieved in a timely manner. Clients are responsible for maintaining communication with the case manager or another representative of the organization on a weekly basis. Services rendered will be aligned with program goals. Non-compliance with rules and regulations of the program will result in the client's immediate exit from the program.

USE OF FUNDS

How will the funds be used?

All CDBG funding will be used for salaries and benefits for the GAP Program Manager/Case Worker and Finance Manager.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Once the project is completed, how can its success be measured?

100% of clients will participate in life skills and budgeting workshops.

100% of clients who are parents of children under 7 or mothers-to-be will be referred to First Choice for parenting courses and will attend.

90% of clients will exit the program into a permanent, affordable housing situation.

85% of clients who are placed in a permanent apartment will maintain housing on their own for at least one year.

Success is achieved when a client "graduates" by completing their service plan and exits the program with affordable permanent housing, a job (if able to work), a savings account with some funds, appropriate benefits (if applicable) and life skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

TYPE OF PUBLIC SERVICE (choose all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05A Senior Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05B Handicapped Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05C Legal Services | <input type="checkbox"/> 05D Youth Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05E Transportation Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05F Substance Abuse Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05G Battered and Abused Spouses Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05H Employment Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05I Crime Awareness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05J Fair Housing Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05K Tenant/Landlord Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> 05L Child Care Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05M Health Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05N Abused and Neglected Children Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05O Mental Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> 05P Screening for Lead Paint/Lead Hazards |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05Q Subsistence Payments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05R Homeownership Assistance (Not Direct) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Transitional Housing for the homeless & people displaced due to COVID-19; assistance finding affordable housing | |
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PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Program eligibility (please select one):
 - a. This is a new program.
 - b. This is an existing program that: (select one of the following)
 - Has previously received CDBG funding and the amount requested for this year is the same or less than previous funding; or
 - will expand to serve more beneficiaries or to provide more services if the CDBG funding as requested is approved. *Please attach an analysis that details how the program or service will be expanded, how many new beneficiaries will be served by the expansion, and how this number was determined.*
 2. Programs receiving funding from the City at this time (during the current program year):
 - a. How much CDBG funding was awarded? N/A
 - b. Is this program receiving any other City of San Marcos sources? N/A
 - c. If yes, how much was received and from what source? N/A
 3. Is there a fee to clients to participate in the program? Yes No
If yes, please provide fee structure.
 4. Describe the days and hours of operation of the program: 8:00A - 5:00P, Monday through Friday; with 24 hour on-call
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NEED AND JUSTIFICATION

Describe the need for this program.

Homelessness in America is a difficult and complex problem. The primary causes of homelessness, according to researchers, are 1) lack of affordable housing, 2) poverty, 3) unemployment, 4) mental illness and lack of needed services, 5) substance abuse and lack of needed services, 6) lack of affordable healthcare, 7) chronic health conditions, 8) domestic violence, 9) family conflict, 10) a jail or prison stay, and 11) PTSD. In January 2020, there were 102 individuals in San Marcos who were experiencing homelessness. 48% were unsheltered and 23% were in emergency shelters or transitional housing (H.O.M.E. Center, 2020 P.I.T). The problem of homelessness has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment rates skyrocketed during the pandemic and there has been a major increase in hospitalizations due to COVID with many people who contracted the disease still experiencing ongoing COVID-related health problems. A prolonged illness can result in job loss and exorbitant hospital bills which can lead to homelessness. Although 2021 P.I.T numbers are not available for San Marcos at this time, we know that the numbers have increased since 2020 and with Austin's recent camping ban, the staff of the Southside Community Center anticipates an influx of people from the Austin area coming to their shelter for help. Research has shown that public assistance alone is not the answer because homeless people experience various problems that keep them from accessing these services (e.g. no permanent address, no place to store or refrigerate the food purchased with their Lone Star card, communication difficulties, lack of transportation to attend required appointments, etc.). To meet the needs of the homeless community and help get them "back on their feet", it will take an approach like the one proposed by the Transitional Housing Program which combines affordable housing with support services that help individuals maintain housing stability. THP embraces the philosophy of Housing First programs, prioritizing permanent housing, thereby ending the client's homelessness, making way for them to set and meet their goals of self-sustainability.

IMPACT

Describe in detail the impact this program will have on the identified need and on San Marcos residents.

Homelessness does not just affect the those who experience it but it affects the entire community. It can have an impact on healthcare resources, crime and safety, the workforce as well as the use of tax dollars. "Between shelters and emergency rooms and jails, it costs about \$40,000 a year for a homeless person to be on the streets (Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department, 2012). A 2017 study of a program called CaringWorks, conducted by the RAND Corporation, found that the costs of public services consumed in the year after the receipt of long-term housing decreased by almost 60%. Ending homelessness in the San Marcos community is a win-win for all.

Three out of four families who are eligible for housing assistance must be turned away due to lack of funding. Shelters that are at capacity are forced to turn people away. CBDG funding will allow the Transitional Housing Program to assist more families who would go without assistance minus the funding. By offering long-term transitional housing, assistance with access to permanent affordable housing along with specialized services that foster self-sustainability, GAP graduates will become assets to the San Marcos community - citizens who are working, paying taxes, paying rent or mortgages, purchasing groceries, spending money at local businesses, less dependent on public services and volunteering.

EXPERIENCE OR REFERENCES

Describe your experience in implementing a similar program, or if this is a first time venture, provide an explanation of why you believe you will be successful in implementation. You may attach up to three letters of reference.

Together for a Cause president has worked with a similar program in his position on the Board of the Salvation Army. A letter of reference is included with required documents.

IV.

PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

Applicant must be able to document that at least 51% of the beneficiaries have an annual income that is at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and are San Marcos residents.

A. PRESUMED BENEFIT: See definition above of “Presumed Benefit”.

1. Will all of the program’s beneficiaries in a Presumed Benefit Category? Yes or No

If “yes”, list the categories: _____

2. How many persons in each presumed category are proposed to be assisted if funding is received?

Abused Children	Elderly Persons	Battered Spouses	Homeless Persons	Severely Disabled Adults	Illiterate Adults	Persons living with AIDS
			100%			

3. If this program was carried out the previous full program year (10/1 – 9/30), how many persons were served in each presumed category:

Abused Children	Elderly Persons	Battered Spouses	Homeless Persons	Severely Disabled Adults	Illiterate Adults	Persons living with AIDS

B. BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED “PRESUMED”

Up to 70 clients, depending on clients' needs

1. How many persons are proposed to be assisted if funding is received? _____

If this program was carried out the previous program year (10/1 – 9/30), how many persons were served?
N/A

100%

2. What percentage of persons proposed to be assisted are expected to be low/mod? _____

90%

3. What percentage of persons proposed to be assisted are expected to be San Marcos residents? _____

4. How do you propose to document the income of the beneficiaries? (check all that apply)

_____ Evidence that the child is approved for free or reduced lunch

_____ Evidence that the family lives in housing sponsored by the Housing Authority

_____ Evidence that the family is WIC approved

Income documentation using one of the 3 HUD approved methods

_____ Self-certification, with income verification required of 20% of certifications

Other, describe: _____

Pay stubs and bank statements

VI.

LINE ITEM BUDGET

Please use the following format to present your proposed line item budget. Secured funds are funds on-hand, pledged, or awarded. Following the Line Item Budget, please complete the Supplemental Budget Form – Use of Other Resources. Funds and costs, as outlined on the Sources and Uses of Funds form, may **not** be spent or incurred prior to a contract award date (usually October 1st) from the CDBG Program. Supporting documentation may be attached as an Appendix.

Expense Category	Total Program Budget	CDBG Portion	Other Funding Source	Other Funds Amount
Personnel Services				
Salaries	70,000	70,000		
Fringe Benefits	15,000	15,000		
Supplies				
Office Supplies				
Program Supplies				
Client Materials				
Operating				
Training				
Insurance				
Utilities/Rent/Mortgage				
Other (please specify)				
Transitional housing/ hotel stays	15,500			15,500
Total	\$100,500	\$85,000	Anonymous donor	\$15,500

Please provide an explanation for any unusual budget expenditures listed in the line item budget above. All funding will be used for salaries and benefits for the Program Manager/Case Worker and Finance Manager.

VII.**PROJECTED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE WITH PERFORMANCE GOALS****Projected Start Date:**

October 1, 2021

Projected Completion Date:

September 30, 2022

Activity Description	Start Month/Year	End Month/Year	Performance Measurement Goal
<i>Example: Hiring New Staff Member</i>	<i>October 2021</i>	<i>December 2021</i>	<i>Employment process complete</i>
Hiring New Staff Members	October 1, 2021	October 15, 2021	Employment process complete
Open Enrollment	October 15, 2021	October 25, 2021	List of potential clients generated
Assessment/ Selection	October 25, 2021	October 31, 2022	Client Selection
Clients Placed in Temporary Lodging	November 1, 2021	May 1, 2022	Clients' active participation in program begins
Follow-up Tracking	May 2, 2022	September 20, 2022	Organization representatives track process of GAP graduates