

Budget Detail Request - Fiscal Year 2016-17

Your request will not be officially submitted unless all questions and applicable sub parts are answered.

1. Title of Project: Bethel Ready4Work- Tallahassee Reentry Program
2. Date of Submission: 12/08/2015
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Darryl Rouson, Alan Williams

4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? Yes
If answer to 4a is ?NO? skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded? 2015-16
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? Yes
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request (Note that Column E will be the total of Recurring funds requested and Column F will be the total Nonrecurring funds requested, the sum of which is the Total of the Funds you are requesting in Column G):

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2015-16 (If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 (If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)	Recurring Base Budget (Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A)	INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested	TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested (Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)	Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)
Input Amounts:	0	400,000	400,000	0	500,000	0	500,000

- e. New Nonrecurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs
- f. New Recurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs

5. Requester:

- a. Name: Rev. Dr. R.B. Holmes, Jr.
- b. Organization: Bethel Empowerment Foundation, Inc.
- c. Email: lshawcollins@gmail.com
- d. Phone #: (850)545-7427

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Bethel Empowerment Foundation, Inc.-Bethel Ready4Work-Tallahas
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Leon
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Wakulla

7. Write a project description that will serve as a stand-alone summary of the project for legislative review. The description should summarize the entire project's intended purpose, the purpose of the funds requested (if request is a sub-part of the entire project), and most importantly the detail on how the funds requested will be spent - for example how much will be spent on positions and associated salaries, specifics on capital costs, and detail of operational expenses. The summary must list what local, regional or statewide interests or areas are served. It should also document the need for the funds, the community support and expected results when applicable. Be sure to include the type and amount of services as well as the number of the specific target population that will be served (such as number of home health visits to X, # of elderly, # of school aged children to receive mentoring, # of violent crime victims to receive once a week counseling etc.)

Summary of Program and Purpose: The primary objectives of the Bethel Ready4Work-Tallahassee Reentry program are to: significantly reduce the recidivism rate in this community; provide hope and direction to inmates and ex-offenders to live a productive life; save taxpayers money; cultivate a safer community; strengthen, save, and sustain families of inmates and ex-offenders; and create a faith-based model for authentic prison transformation. The Bethel Empowerment Foundation, Inc., has partnered with the Operation New Hope (ONH) Ready4Work Reentry program in Jacksonville, Florida to establish the Bethel Ready4Work-Tallahassee Reentry program. ONH is a nationally recognized, replicated model for facilitating the return of nonviolent ex-offenders back into the community, providing employment in the private sector and reducing recidivism significantly below state and federal re-incarceration rates. Based on the replication model of ONH, participants in the program will be non-violent/non-sexual offenders released from a Department of Corrections facility. Eligibility for participation is limited to inmates and recently released ex-offenders who are transitioning back into the communities and workforces of Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, or Wakulla Counties. Bethel Ready4Work-Tallahassee (R4W) will offer pre-release services to include risk assessment, a plan-of-care, career development and life skills training, and referrals for incarcerated inmates who may be eligible for the job training and skill development component of the program upon release. Post-release services will include case management, career development and life skills training, life-coaching (mentoring), family reunification, and job placement assistance for ex-offenders. Bethel R4W-Tallahassee will provide ex-offenders with the skills and support necessary to re-enter the community workforce as productive and responsible citizens. The program will partner with local businesses in Leon and surrounding areas who are willing to employ returning offenders. The success of the program will be measured not only by the number of offenders placed with employers, but with their retention and the feedback received from those businesses. In that ONH has a near 90 percent retention rate within the first year of an offender's employment, it is projected that the Bethel program will have similar successes. The major components of the Bethel R4W-Tallahassee Reentry program include: ? Job

training and skill development ? Character education, mentorship and guidance ? Mental health and substance abuse treatment ? Education ?

Housing Local, Regional or Statewide Interests and/or areas served: Data released in May 2015 by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement indicated that from 2013-2014, the crime rate statewide dropped 5 percent, however, Leon County's crime rate rose 7 percent from 2013 to 2014 and includes an all-time high for murders and forcible sexual offenses. Those murders, along with sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts combined to rank Leon County with the highest (5,049) crime rate in the state. (Emphasis added). According to the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC), over 100,800 inmates are housed in its 56 state prisons per year at a cost of \$18,064 per inmate. In FY 2013-14, Leon County residents, along with residents in the three surrounding counties, accounted for an estimated 1,000 of those inmates. During that same fiscal year, a total of 983 inmates were released back into the communities. Studies reflect that without intervention, nearly 50% of those offenders will commit new crimes in our neighborhoods and be sentenced to a county jail, federal prison, or recommitted to the Florida correctional system within three years. On an average, 87% of inmates within the Florida prison system will be released -- many without adequate job skills, untreated mental health and substance abuse problems, without a GED or diploma, or safe housing. There is a desperate need in our community for a reentry program to offer jobs, treatment, and other services to offenders as they prepare for transition from prison to home. This reentry program will significantly reduce recidivism, save tax dollars, cultivate a safer community, and strengthen, save, and sustain families of inmates and ex-offenders. Details on how the funds requested will be spent: During the first year of operation, it is anticipated that the Bethel Ready4Work-Tallahassee Reentry program will be able to offer specific services to an estimated 50-75 offenders at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per offender for a total range of \$250,000 - \$375,000. The Operation New Hope replicated model identifies at least 10 classifications/positions that would be needed when services are provided for up to 100 participants. However, it is anticipated that until the Bethel program becomes fully operational, only 4-5 full time positions will need to be filled with most employees handling multiple job responsibilities. Those positions will cost approximately \$202,000 - \$233,000, plus benefits. Other costs the first year will include: replication; operational supplies; operations professional services; occupancy expenses; office expenses; transportation expenses; and direct client costs, for a total projected program cost of \$977,500. It is requested that language be included in Proviso to authorize up to 25 percent of the total funds appropriated to be used for startup activities for the Bethel Ready4Work-Tallahassee Reentry program.

Measurable Outcomes Anticipated and Beneficial Return on Investment to Florida taxpayers: The most common metric for measuring successful reentry in the recidivism rate. The Ready4Work model defines recidivism as any re-arrest within three years after release from prison. The evaluation tools for each program component are as follows: Job Training and Skill Development: Eligible offenders who have less than one year remaining in their sentence will be offered an opportunity, upon release, to participate in a comprehensive 4-6 week career development training course, featuring employment and life-skills. Employment readiness workshops will be provided, a monitoring system will be in place to document workshop attendance, job referrals, job placements, employer contacts/agreements, and other services provided to participants. Incentives will be offered to offenders who demonstrate the ability to remain employed for at least 90 days, continue to participate in a mentorship and guidance program, and participate in a character education program. Using the replication model of Operation New Hope R4W program, it is expected that nearly 90% of the participants will maintain employment and continue to receive follow-up services which will strengthen their ability to care for themselves and their families. Character Education, Mentorship and Guidance: One of the primary objectives of the program is to provide hope and direction to inmates for a full recovery. The faith-based model offered by this program will be introduced to inmates with 12 months remaining on their sentence. Persons participating in the program will be assigned a mentor who will guide them through the transition from incarceration to life outside of the institution and are willing to provide support to the offender for at least a year after release. The effectiveness of the program will be based on several measures including improvement in personal decision-making, the ability to articulate a healthy and

holistic plan for life after incarnation, and consistent patterns of demonstrating the required life principles. ? Mental Health: The Bethel Empowerment Foundation, Inc., will partner with a mental health and substance abuse treatment provider who will evaluate each participating offender to determine the level of treatment needed for success, including helping to provide intervention and prevention strategies, self-help techniques, and social skills training, anger management training, and parenting training. The program will work collaboratively with the offenders and families to link them with the services needed to gain and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Progress, or lack thereof, will be evaluated every 30 days through a Treatment Plan Review. Offenders will be taught to implement interventions to cope with and/or decrease mental health and substance abuse symptoms. Discharge criteria will include, but not be limited to: when offenders have met 90% of his treatment plan, when services are no longer medically necessary, and/or the client is no longer eligible for services. ?

Education: According to the Department of Corrections, at the time of admissions, 71.7 percent of inmates have less than GED Prep skills and about 25 percent are classified as having functional literacy skills (6.0 to 8.9 grade level). Providing an opportunity for inmates to receive general education and vocational training will significantly reduce the likelihood that the offender will return to prison and are more likely to find employment. A multifaceted evaluative model will be developed to include the following analysis: 1. Percentage of inmates completing their GED or skills training 2. Reduction in the rate of recidivism 3.

Employment after release statistics ? Housing: Based on information provided, most offenders indicate their intentions of returning to their family residence upon release. Family dynamics, legal ramifications, the need for treatment in transitional housing, or court-ordered placement are reasons other offenders cannot or should not return home. It is therefore estimated that safe and secure housing may need to be found for as many as 45-50% of ex-offenders. The Bethel Empowerment Foundation, Inc., will partner with organizations in the community who offer treatment facilities or residential housing for a select group of offenders. Finding and maintaining employment and obtaining safe housing are proven indicators that an offender is less likely to reoffend. This will result in reducing recidivism and saving tax dollars. Documented Need for this program: Research indicates that there is an overwhelming need for mental health, substance abuse, job training, and educational programs in correctional institutions; however, sufficient dollars have not been allocated to keep up with the growing population and demands. In that over 87% of offenders will be released from prison, there needs to be a commitment to prepare them to be productive members of society when released. Research also shows that inmates/offenders who are not prepared to reenter society. i.e., with a job or having adequate job skills, alternative housing, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment before and after release, or having obtained a diploma or GED or plans to become an entrepreneur, are more likely to return to prison within three years of release. The Bethel Empowerment Foundation/Bethel Ready4Work-Tallahassee Reentry Program can begin to fill that void in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla Counties.

8. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding:

Federal: 0

State: 0 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)

Local: 0

Other: 577,000

9. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

Yes