

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: HANDS of St. Lucie County
2. Date of Submission: 01/14/2016
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Gayle Harrell, Larry Lee

4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
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?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- 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 <i>(If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 <i>(If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)</i>			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)</i>	Recurring Base Budget <i>(Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A)</i>	INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested	TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested <i>(Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)</i>	Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)</i>
Input Amounts:					700,000	240,000	940,000

- 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: Dr. Andrew Passeri, Ph.D.
- b. Organization: HANDS of St. Lucie County
- c. Email: andrew.passeri@handsofslc.org
- d. Phone #: (772)344-2548

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: HANDS of St Lucie County
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Saint Lucie
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Saint Lucie

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.)

Organized by a handful of concerned citizens in 2006, chartered in 2008, and opened in October of 2010, St. Lucie County Health Access Network, dba HANDS of St. Lucie County, provides free, primary healthcare services and access to a continuum of healthcare to qualified, low-income, uninsured, adult residents of St. Lucie County. Services provided include primary medical care, adult dental clinic, vision care, mental health assistance, patient prescription program, and health education, which includes classes on diabetes management and nutrition, smoking cessation and chronic disease self-management. HANDS also provides dental checks and screening to more than 9,000 children each school year through its pediatric dental program - an increase of more than 2,000 from last year. HANDS is a Volunteers in Medicine affiliate. Thanks to the dedication of so many volunteers, more than \$10 million in donated services is provided to HANDS patients each year, giving donors a \$10.50 return on each dollar invested in the future health and well-being of St. Lucie County. In 2015, HANDS had 2,800 unduplicated patients with more than 9,000 patient visits. According to the US Census Bureau, there are 65,000 uninsured adult residents in St. Lucie County. If this clinic is not funded, it will close in May 2016.

According to the 2014 US Census Bureau and Florida PUMA 120330 report, the number of uninsured adults living in St. Lucie County has risen from 43,000 in 2010 to 65,457 in 2014, despite the call for citizens to enroll in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act and despite the overall growth in numbers served as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Access to health care for the indigent, uninsured and working poor is a major issue in the St. Lucie County. The goal of HANDS is to continue to offer a medical home in the form of a no-pay healthcare clinic that:

1. Provides early access to healthcare for the low-income, uninsured population

2. Provides early diagnosis and treatment, leading to better prognosis and earlier, less costly treatment
3. Provides preventive education and awareness programs
4. Reduces instances of non-emergency patients using high cost emergency rooms
5. Continues to find ways to reach more of the low-income, uninsured population and to add additional programs in order to provide access to healthcare and reduce unnecessary visits to hospital emergency rooms.

SERVICE PROVIDED:

? Primary Care and Continuum of Care -- HANDS collaborates with more than 65 partner physicians, dentists, hospitals and other healthcare providers to increase access to primary healthcare, to reduce unnecessary ER visits, and to provide a continuum of care.

? Adult Dental Care

? Adult Vision Care

? Mental Health Assistance -- HANDS' volunteer Psychologist will see qualified patients as needed for counseling. Physicians may refer patients to partnering providers for long-term care or pharmaceutical management.

? Prescription Assistance Program

? Educational Classes -- To increase awareness and health management skills, HANDS offers free classes, at which licensed Nutritionists and Counselors help patients plan for better health and a better life. Classes include Diabetes & Nutrition, ?Waist-Watchers,? Smoking Cessation, and Chronic Disease Self-Management.

? Diabetes Program -- More than 15-percent of HANDS patients have diabetes. HANDS is the only full-time, free healthcare clinic in this county, and is the only charitable clinic seeing to the complete needs of those diagnosed with diabetes, which includes A1c testing supplies and educational materials. Self-management of diabetes is a critical element of care for all people with the disease and is necessary in order to improve outcomes.

? Pediatric Dental Program -- Pediatric dental disease is the number one chronic childhood disease in this country. To address this issue, HANDS provides pediatric dental screenings, sealants, and referrals to more than 9,000 children in the county's school system annually. Although children are not treated on-site at the HANDS clinic, the pediatric dental program offers a collaborative solution to contribute to the oral health of St. Lucie County children.

WHO BENEFITS:

According to the 2014 US Census Bureau and Florida PUMA report, 65,457 adults are uninsured in St. Lucie County, or one in three adult residents; which has risen from 43,000 in 2010. St. Lucie County has a diverse population, which is also reflected in the demographics of this clinic: 60.8% Caucasian, 20% African-American, and 17.3% Hispanic. 18% of this county's population lives below poverty level.

As of June 2015, the local unemployment rate improved to 6%, but it remains higher than both the national rate of 5.3% and the state rate of 5.6%. The majority of businesses in this county are locally owned, small businesses, usually offering part-time positions without benefits.

According to the US Census Bureau, the population of the City of Fort Pierce is 45% Caucasian and 41% African-American. The median household income is \$26,414, with 35.7% of the population living below the current poverty level. In addition, 33.9% of population in the area known as North Fort Pierce is uninsured. These residents rely entirely on the ER at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center for their medical needs, both emergent and non-emergent. In order to begin addressing this unmet need HANDS has entered into a partnership with the Community Services Department of St. Lucie County who is now offering free transportation twice a day on Mondays and Wednesdays to and from the Clinic.

And, while matters affected by the recession are ever so slowly improving, the fact remains that more than 65,000 adults are without health insurance in St. Lucie County, and it is feared the number will rise with the cost of health insurance premiums also increasing in 2016.

The population served by HANDS of St. Lucie County is low-income, uninsured, adults residing in St. Lucie County.

PROJECT NEED

There is both a direct and indirect benefit of services provided by HANDS of St. Lucie County. The obvious benefit is to patients and their health and overall well-being.

* Patients are being taught how to manage their health, participate in their outcomes, and are learning dental hygiene. As a result of the care provided by HANDS staff and volunteers, patients gain confidence and oftentimes employment.

* HANDS benefits the community, as a whole, by providing access to healthcare and a continuum of healthcare to those whom otherwise would have nowhere to turn; no place to call their healthcare home.

* HANDS is working to keep health insurance premiums and hospital rates down and the number of healthy people in the workforce up. History dictates that those without health insurance use their local hospital emergency room as their primary care facility. According to www.floridahealthfinder.gov, the average cost at any of the three hospital ERs in St. Lucie County is \$5,520. During its first four years, HANDS had 18,000 patient visits, which could have resulted in more than \$99 million in uncompensated care. Accounting for the \$10 million per year in donated services to HANDS patients, there remains a cost avoidance of more than \$59 million in just four short years. In 2015, HANDS had 9,000 patient visits, accounting for an additional \$49 million in cost avoidance.

* The burden of healthcare costs contributes to the economic distress in a community. The indirect benefit of this free and charitable clinic is to the entire population of this county. Hospital cost avoidance, keeping hospital rates and insurance premiums down, providing a healthy workforce, and enabling elected officials to entice new businesses to the area contribute to the overall health and well being of this entire community.

The need is urgent and continuing. These folks do not have a healthcare home.

Without funding, HANDS will close its doors by May, 2016.

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: 300,000

Other: 0

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

Yes