

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: Selah Freedom Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Victims Programs
2. Date of Submission: 01/05/2016
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Ray Pilon, Ross Spano, Dana Young

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? 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 (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	250,000	250,000	0	1,000,000	0	1,000,000

- 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: Elizabeth Fisher
- b. Organization: Selah Freedom
- c. Email: elizabeth@selahfreedom.com
- d. Phone #: (941)348-9141

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Selah Freedom
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Sarasota
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Statewide

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.)

Selah Freedom: Exists to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited.

2016 Legislative Appropriations Issue

Summary of \$1 Million Request

Appropriations Request: \$1,000,000 (Recurring Annually)

As society evolves, perspectives on old problems change. When we talk about old problems, there are none older than sex trafficking, human trafficking, the act of prostitution and child abuse. Knowing that Florida ranks in the top three states with the highest incidence of sex trafficking, in 2009, Selah Freedom founders began programs and services to confront these horrifying problems. Selah Freedom's mission is to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited. We accomplish this through advocacy, training and restorative services. Selah Freedom is the only organization in Florida to offer four successful programs addressing the entire scope of the issue of sex trafficking. Our major objective is to provide programs and services to end human trafficking and exploitation by providing a full scope of programs to include teen prevention, outreach to those currently in the life and a court diversionary program as well as a residential recovery program. We provide solutions to the entire scope of the issue, setting standards with our outcomes

Selah Freedom, working in collaboration with law enforcement and local state's attorneys, provides a framework and program design to assist victims and help them become productive members of our community. We are proud to be making a difference in the world of sex trafficking and exploitation.

"As a prosecutor for over 20 years, I can attest that Selah Freedom has helped educate me personally and has changed my view on prostitution and how we handle these cases in our office and in the criminal justice system. Selah's outreach is saving young people's lives, and making our communities safer in the process." ?Craig Schaeffer, Sarasota State Attorney Office

The construction and adoption of anti-human trafficking laws such as the 2012 Florida's Safe Harbor Act gave law enforcement more tools to combat traffickers and to protect the victims of trafficking. With this new awareness, Selah Freedom was positioned to provide programs and services to victims.

Legislative Action: Support from 2015-2016 appropriations provided Selah Freedom with funds for outreach to victims who were living their life on the streets, many who were homeless, and to open and operate an assessment house in Tampa, Florida. Recurring funds will provide for the expansion of programs and services to further address the needs of these victims.

Requested Funding: Funds are being requested to support four programs, all to benefit and improve quality of life for victims of sex trafficking, exploitation and child sexual abuse.

OUTREACH AND ASSESSMENT-\$304,655 recurring support: Selah Freedom provides outreach on the streets and in the jails through our sex trade educational support groups, led by Kindsey Pentecost, Director of Outreach and Law Enforcement Liaison. Kindsey has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and has been certified with the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute for Human Trafficking. Our first point of contact with women identified as sex trafficking victims or at high risk of being recruited into sex trafficking is through a partnership with local law enforcement. These women who are still "in the life" are able to attend weekly educational groups, receive resources, job placement, counseling, legal assistance and more. The goal is to have a women build a trusting relationship with Selah Freedom so that when they are ready to step into freedom and leave the abusive lifestyle they have been trapped in, we are able to bring her into a place of safety and restoration.

In addition to our street outreach program, Selah Freedom spearhead TYLA (Turn Your Life Around), a prostitution court diversionary initiative that employs community outreach and a re-directed law enforcement philosophy. TYLA provides support and education in the form of case management, counseling, job training and residential services. TYLA is also supportive during judicial proceedings and is committed to the victims held in bondage within the various levels of sex trafficking. The TYLA initiative still promotes the enforcement element in regards to prostitution/sex trafficking, however, instead of taking the detainee directly to jail, the subject is taken to a location to meet with a Selah Freedom case manager. The case manager, working with the detainee, determines their candidacy into a diversion program. Not all detainees qualify for the TYLA program. If deemed appropriate, a TYLA representative attends the detainee's arraignment and, in collaboration with the State Attorney's Office, assists in ensuring that the detainee is a good candidate for our diversionary program.

"The efforts of Selah Freedom have had a significant impact toward making our community a safer and a better place to live and the Sarasota Police Department

wholeheartedly supports their efforts."

??..Chief Bernadette Dipino, Sarasota Police Department

With court approval the candidate is moved into our Tampa assessment house. Women remain in assessment phase for four to six weeks. During this phase, women are given the opportunity to rest and reflect on the direction of their lives. They work with our trained clinical staff to determine new pathways to freedom and to determine which community based program most adequately meets their specific needs.

Identify expected program results and the expected benefit associated from the requested funds. Program participants who have survived commercial exploitation will be viewed as victims and not criminals and will be afforded programs that support their re-entry into our communities as productive members.

Who will benefit from receipt of State funds? In 2015 the Outreach program served over 575 survivors on the streets and in the jails and partnered with law enforcement and the State Attorney's office to provide TYLA (Turn Your Life Around), prostitution diversionary program. The average cost of prison for one year is \$18,000+. Selah Freedom has saved the state of Florida \$540,000 through our prostitution diversion program (TYLA)! In addition to survivors benefiting, law enforcement departments throughout the State have benefited from TYLA training. The TYLA initiative been adopted by the Sarasota County Police Department. To date, Manatee, Polk (which included 12 different jurisdictions), Broward, Collier, Duval, Miami-Dade, Martin, Seminole, Hardee, Osceola, Highlands, Brevard and Orange Counties police departments have all been trained and exposed to the TYLA model.

?Girls use to run from us, now they run to us for help? ???Sarasota Police Officer

What specific measures will be used to document performance data for the project, if it receives funds? Job placement, drug and alcohol rehabilitation group, keeping commitments to therapy programs, educational goals, attendance in sex trade support groups, jail groups and therapeutic support groups are all monitored and recorded to assess performance.

TEEN PREVENTION- \$54,500 recurring support: Selah Freedom is the only organization in our region certified to bring the nationally acclaimed Teen Prevention Program My Life, My Choice to girls between the ages of 12 ? 17. Originally out of Boston, this survivor-written and survivor-led curriculum has proven to lower the chances of girls being sexually/commercially exploited by over 90%!

My Life, My Choice is a six to eight-week program that works to stem the tide of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States by harnessing girls' strength, resilience, and outrage. It directly benefits those most at-risk ? adolescent girls, particularly those abused, neglected, or exposed to family violence and addiction - that are especially vulnerable to recruitment by pimps. In 2006, the United States Department of Justice recognized this program as a national model for sex traf?cking prevention. Adolescent girls, particularly those abused, neglected, or exposed to family violence and addiction, are especially vulnerable to recruitment by pimps. It is reported that the most frequent age of entry into sex trafficking nationally is 12-14 years old. Often, these girls are hidden in plain sight?in our schools, group homes, juvenile justice facilities, and probation departments. Pimps, also known as traffickers, systematically target vulnerable youth by frequenting locations where they congregate?malls, schools, bus stations, group homes and social networking sites such as snapchat, twitter or Instagram.

Today, the internet gives pimps greater access to a wider array of girls. They are able to reach girls through conversations on social networking sites, later selling those girls' service on backpage. By reaching these girls early with preventive education and arming them with skills and tools to avoid exploitive relationships, we are actually preventing them from being commercially sexually exploited.

Funding will allow us to facilitate 20 My Life My Choice teen prevention groups and reach 237 at risk teens, double the number of 2015 participants, funding support will allow Selah Freedom to position themselves to become a regional training hub for other organizations working with sexually abused children. This research-based training curriculum was developed to increase providers' knowledge about the scope of the commercial exploitation of children, the relationship between sexual abuse and CSEC, methods used to exploit children, why people exploit children, and risk factors associated with CSEC and warning signs. Most importantly, participants must learn about the coping mechanisms used by CSEC survivors, post-traumatic stress disorder, and trauma reenactment as well as appropriate intervention and treatment strategies

Identify expected program results and the expected benefit associated from the requested funds. My Life, My Choice equips participants with the knowledge to:

- ? Reduce the likelihood that they will be a victim of CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children), or help them or someone they care about find a path to safety out of the Life.

- ? Lower the chance of being sexually and commercially exploited by providing educational programs that teach participants how to identify the signs of a predator, describe the most common recruitment tactics used by pimps and understand the realities of day to day life of victims of prostitution.

- ? Provide a safe, secure environment for program participants to grow and prosper.

Who will benefit from receipt of State funds? At risk teen girls who have been victims of sexual abuse are the targeted beneficiaries of the My Life My Choice program. By educating girls who have been identified as at risk for exploitation, we are effectively enabling them to take back their lives, giving them hope to become productive members of our community.

What specific measures will be used to document performance data for the project, if it receives funds? The My Life My Choice program is a self-evaluated program. Pre and post surveys assess the curriculum's relevance and effectiveness in changing participant's attitudes and knowledge of the commercial sex industry and skills developed to avoid being recruited. Past program participant surveys indicate a noticeable difference in the girl's familiarity and comfort levels in seeking community resources including reaching out to police and/or social workers.

RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY HOUSE-\$277,077 recurring support: Upon completion of the assessment program, women, if deemed appropriate candidates relocate to our residential safe home located in Manatee County. This 12 to 24 month provides safe housing and comprehensive restorative healing for women. The women work closely with live-in coaches, teachers, clinical social workers, psychologists and survivor-led mentors. The women learn basic life skills (cooking, budgeting etc.) as well as GED support and job placement assistance. Educational training is tantamount for turning women's lives around. We work very hard to

ensure that the women receive all the support they need to achieve educational success. In 2015 we were able to intervene and play a primary role in the rehabilitation of thirty-nine women

"Everything about me is changing-the way I eat, the way I care for my body and the way I feel about myself. ".....residential treatment participant

Who will benefit from receipt of State funds: Victims of sex trafficking are the recipients of residential programs.

What specific measures will be used to document performance data for the project, if it receives funds? Job placement, drug and alcohol rehabilitation group, keeping commitments to therapy programs, educational goals, attendance in sex trade support groups, jail groups and therapeutic support groups are all monitored and recorded to assess performance.

CAMPUS EXPANSION (CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND OPERATIOANL SUPPORT)-\$363,767 recurring support. There exists a critical on-going need for additional residential housing for sex trafficking survivors. We operate continually from a wait list and have received zoning approval to expand from serving seven survivors to sixteen survivors at a time. Once a woman has completed the residential recovery program it is imperative that they continue to receive on-going support as they transition back into the community as productive members. Relaunch-Independent living is the final stage. Selah Freedom has positioned themselves to assist women in this final transition phase by moving forward with a planned housing expansion on our five-acre property located in Manatee County. This expansion will create three independent living cottages. Women will begin their new life by moving into a cottage where they start to regain total control of their future. During the independent living phase, the women are monitored and assisted by trained mentors while they assimilate into active, productive members of our community. Currently, we are placing women in community half-way houses. However we have found this arrangement to be less than conducive and quite costly. To date, 83% of women have been able to reunite with their families and continue to build and maintain a healthy community of support. Attached please find a detailed project letter and blueprints for this expansion. The women we serve are victims of a sex trafficking and exploitation and as such, alternative measures to incarceration must be considered. Selah Freedom's three phase residential continuum of care program has saved the state of Florida over \$540,000 in 2015 alone.

Identify expected program results and the expected benefit associated from the requested funds.

These programs have successfully increased care coordination survivors by developing and implementing emergency response and assistance, victim support, survivor mentors, screening, access to clinical services, individual care plans, coordination of mentoring services, training, public awareness and collaboration.

Who will benefit from receipt of State funds? The thousands of children the system has missed who have been victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, living on the streets and have been sold for the last seven to twelve years. Expansion allows us to increase the number of victims served.

What specific measures will be used to document performance data for the project, if it receives funds? Job placement, drug and alcohol rehabilitation group, keeping commitments to therapy programs, educational goals, attendance in sex trade support groups, jail groups and therapeutic support groups are all

monitored and recorded to assess performance.

CONCLUSION: Selah Freedom utilizes a public-private partnership approach. Through partnerships that include law enforcement personnel, we work closely to provide a solution to sex trafficking and exploitation in our communities. We train law enforcement officers in how to identify human trafficking and how to effectively deal with victims. Selah Freedom serves as a direct resource for law enforcement to refer victims, providing them with a way out of "the life". No longer are police arresting these women, they are now able to identify them as the victims of sex trafficking.

We collaborate with numerous organizations to provide educational programs that enlighten community members to the issues of sex trafficking and exploitation. These include public, private and faith based community.

Our teen prevention program partnerships include numerous non-profit organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts and PACE. Our staff of professionals, mentors and volunteers are all dedicated to actively confronting the issue of sex trafficking and exploitation. Selah Freedom is being upheld as the statewide model for how to effectively bring solutions to survivors. Selah is a Hebrew word which means to pause, rest, and reflect. We give survivors a chance to do just that. Women in our programs have an opportunity to dream again; to discover who it is they were created to be.

Through a partnership with the State of Florida, we can bring light into the darkness of sex trafficking.

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: 0

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

Yes