

Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWF
ARPA Funding Recommendations
September 20, 2021

The Homeless Reduction Task Force of NWF believes that our community is experiencing a state of emergency for people who have no other option than to live in places that are uninhabitable for human beings. From the recent Point in Time count and data from the Escambia School System, we now understand that there are 4,000 children experiencing homelessness on any given day in our county. With the I-110 encampment on Hayne Street nearing 100 tents, housing 120 people including children, and at least two other homeless encampments of a similar size that are not within view, this task force knows that *today* we must be intentional about solving the issues surrounding homelessness.

After weeks of research, review of ARPA guidelines and thorough discussion, the task force leaders created a multi-level strategy that will support our citizens experiencing homelessness, relocating them from the streets and into a new way of life. These recommendations are part one of a three-year plan.

Because the first step in helping a person move from a state of contemplation to one of action and lasting transformation, longstanding service providers that are in the position to manage federal funds, will provide critical case management and counseling services. MSW's-Masters in Social Work that are certified supervisors, will each oversee three MSW students at each site, providing vital internship opportunities and resources at these locations:

- Alford Washburn Center
- Bright Bridge Ministries
- Children's Home Society
- HER Foundation
- Family Promise

\$50,000 each for two years=**\$500,000**

MSW's in separate proposals will provide services at:

- Canopy of Hope-Dream Center
- REAP-Reentry Alliance of Pensacola
- Waterfront Rescue Mission

The MSW's will be involved with the task force subcommittee on Mental Health/Addiction/Case Management and their outcomes will be recognized and clearly tracked on the task force dashboard and website.

Summary of other recommendations:

Waterfront Rescue Mission (1) Ten Medical Respite beds for people experiencing homelessness who need a clean place to recover from surgery or illness after discharge from a local hospital; and (2) mental health/case management services on site for three years (*see attached proposal for details*)
\$400,000

Canopy of Hope: the opening of a new residential facility with plans to provide support for 84 women in their first year. Staff: MSW/Certified Supervisor with three interns and House Mother for 2 years = \$150,000
Construction Costs = \$112,300 (*see attached proposal for details*)
\$262,300

Lakeview Mobile Response Behavioral Health Team:

- Assessment/treatment for mental health and substance use disorders
- A Hub and Spoke model - team members are available to different sites
- Scaled Tele med availability to a large continuum of services
- Urgent Care intervention services to target population (Homeless, coordinated response with law enforcement, churches as spoke sites)
- A Co-Responder Model to partner with Law Enforcement for individuals in a behavioral health crisis
- Links with other community resources including street outreach
- Services at other community homeless service sites
- Engagement with target population to establish and provide services for a period of up to 90 days for each client, with transition to ongoing services, as applicable.
- Team Composition Team capacity for engagement of **200 people** per month in city/county encampments
 - Medical psychiatric provider
 - Two Case managers
 - One Nurse
 - One Peer Specialist
 - One Masters Level Counselor

\$500,000

REAP – Reentry Alliance of Pensacola

- Funding for the 52-bed REAP's Lodges and Emergency Shelter for Women and Women with Families
 - Personnel: Program Manager-\$50,000; MSW/Certified Supervisor overseeing and providing Case Management with three interns-\$50,000 **x 2 years**; 2 Night Clerks at \$24,000 each; 23% for benefits and taxes-\$32,890. Total Personnel: \$180,890.
 - Occupancy: Annual rent \$60,000; utilities-\$16,000; insurance-\$12,000; maintenance and repairs: \$6,000. Total Occupancy: \$94,000.
 - Food-\$50,000; Linen and laundry equipment and supplies: \$10,000. Total: \$60,000.
 - Administrative: 10%-\$32,989.
 - Total Operating Expenses: \$417,879.00
- Funding for a 5-acre campsite with enhanced amenities. REAP proposes to construct and outfit a campsite with the following enhancements: concrete or treated lumber tent spaces; a bathroom/shower facility with separate men and women's facilities, including 4 toilets, sinks and showers for each side; including 4 commercial washers and dryers; a charging station for cell phones electrical devices; a secure mailbox area; lockable storage lockers; and an emergency call station. The facility will be staffed during normal working hours with 1 paid staff person and several volunteers. The following are the projected Start-up and Operating Expenses for one year:
 - Personnel: MSW/Certified Supervisor overseeing and providing Case Management with three interns-\$50,000 **x 2 years**; Camp-site Manager-\$35,000; PT Driver/Counselor-\$15,000; Taxes and benefits-\$11,500. Total Personnel: \$161,500.
 - Land permits, and fees: \$35,000.
 - Foundation expense: \$15,000.
 - Building facility: Donated.
 - Vehicle, gas, and insurance: \$7,200.
 - Office and Other Expense: \$6000.
 - Utility Expense: \$12,000.
 - Administrative Fee: 10%-\$13,670.
 - Total Expense: \$250,370

\$668,249

Another goal of the task force is to move women and children out of homelessness by engaging churches and faith based organizations who will support the development of a Shelter Village. By adopting the concept of pallet shelter villages and developing them on their properties, their volunteers can provide the love and support needed to heal from past trauma. A pallet shelter village is not what we would ultimately want for women, children and families experiencing homelessness, but, by relocating them from their current living situations, that include their automobiles, tents and the woods, we will provide a haven of hope. With an array of homeless service providers, trained volunteers and mentors teaching life skill classes, workforce certifications, assisting with transportation, employment, etc. we will make a difference.

One pilot shelter village will include:

- A beautifully landscaped area with privacy fencing
- Four 100 sq. ft. shelters for women and children and two 64 sq. ft. shelters for single women for a *maximum* total of 20 people at the site. These shelters will not be white, uniform structure, they will be painted by local artists with aesthetically pleasing colors and words of encouragement
- The site will have a communal bathroom/shower facility
- The site will be equipped with security cameras
- The services of a full time executive- a liaison between a Mobile Response Behavioral Health Team and the Pensacola Police Department and/or Escambia Sheriff's Office; assist in building a self-governed culture within the village to include rules and peer-based recovery support; engage and train volunteers and mentors, recruit a spectrum of service providers to include treatment and personal support. As this pilot project gains support from faith based organizations, this position will increase in scope.

Cost estimates:

Pallet Shelter Village within city limits (see drawings and proposal):

- Four 100 sq. ft. Pallet Shelters
- Two 64 sq. ft. Pallet Shelters
- One 2 stall Bathroom unit
- Six 120v electrical kit w/1500w heater
- Two A/C and install kits for 64' units

- Four A/C and install kits for 100' units
- Twenty Folding Bunk Bed/custom fit mattresses
- Electrical and staking of pallet shelters (cost depends on site)
- Paint or professional wrapping for front of 6 shelters
- 4 Security Cameras
- Privacy Fence
- Landscaping (provided by sponsors)
- 1 Executive-Shelter Village development and FBO recruitment x 2 years
\$100,000

\$243,019 + electrical

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/everett-based-pallet-offers-a-novel-way-to-shelter-homeless>

"Pallet Shelters" are:

- small units designed and equipped for 2-4 persons
- not meant to be permanent housing
- low cost and quickly assembled by volunteers with minimal equipment
- placed on the ground, a parking lot, or other surface
- not required to be established on traditional foundations
- properly staked and rated to withstand 170 mph winds
- air conditioned and heated
- provided with bathroom units that include two toilets and two showers
- able to be taken down and stored as quickly as they are put up
- guaranteed a 10-year life span
- mold, mildew, and rot resistant
- built with a number of safety features such as CO monitors, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors
- provided with laundry, kitchen/dining communal settings by the church or nonprofit sponsor

Pallet Shelter Project Goal

- Provide accompaniment and resources within a communal and supportive environment so that the unhoused can sustainably self-actualize
- Utilize a strengths-based, client and solution-focused trauma-informed approach, working with each villager according to their individual needs
- Offer stability and dignity through safe and high-quality supportive housing, with an emphasis on substantive long-term growth and progress.

- Facilitate training and practice in being a good and productive neighbor—within the village and in the broader community
- Commitment to ongoing accompaniment of villagers, beyond their stay at the village, by providing the necessary tools to successfully sustain themselves as they find alternative housing accommodations outside the village

Some Suggested Guidelines

- Be currently unhoused
- Be willing and able to participate in community building through general village participation
- Be willing and able to participate in the maintenance and running of the village
- Agree to pay the \$30 utility contribution by the 1st of each month
- Agree to work with the support team on personal growth and self-care
- Agree to take advantage of assistance benefits
- Agree to abide by the village community agreement

Suggested Residency Requirements

- No registered sex offenders or those found guilty of a sex offense charge
- No illegal substance nor alcohol use permitted on-site
- No guns or lethal weapons allowed
- Village occupancy capped at 20
- No overnight guests; guest security rules apply

TOTAL PROPOSAL \$2,573,568

ARPA PROPOSAL ATTACHMENTS:

Agenda

Waterfront Rescue Mission

Canopy of Hope

Lakeview Center

REAP

Pallet Shelter Village

ARPA Guidelines