



Submission of Information

Request for Changes from Currently Contracted Network Service Providers or Request for Funding from Uncontracted Service Providers

Introduction

LSF Health Systems (LSFHS) is the Managing Entity for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) programs in the Northeast and North Central Florida Region. LSFHS is responsible for the administration of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for the underserved populations creating a safety net for vulnerable consumers.

Each program serves the neediest individuals that meet DCF's SAMH target population criteria in the Northeast and North Central region and provides for a comprehensive array of outpatient, inpatient and residential services including, but not limited to; therapy, case management, medication management, residential, room and board, crisis and emergency support, prevention, intervention, outreach, peer services, supported housing, and supported employment.

LSFHS uses the Submission of Information process for the following:

- Requests for funding from uncontracted service providers;
- Requests for restoration of funds pulled due to lapse;
- Requests for changes to programming;
- Request for shifts between funding areas;
- Requests for an increase in funding for any reason.

It is the policy for contracted Network Service Providers to provide information and justification for any of the above circumstances. LSFHS accepts submissions from providers at any time and may also initiate this process due to a specific funding concern within the system of care including the need to redistribute lapsed funding.

Submissions shall be submitted to the Network Service Provider's assigned Network Manager via email. LSFHS Management Team will review all submissions, conduct an analysis of the impact of the request, and provide a written response, if chosen for the next step in the selection process. Additional information and follow-up questions may be solicited based on this review.

Funding Request Form

Please fill out the information below accurately and completely, then submit to procurement@lsfnet.org.

1. Organization Name, Address and Contract Number (if current Network Service Provider):

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

2. Organization Contact Person Name, Email, and Phone Number for this Submission:

Misty Woods mwoods@alachuacounty.us 352-384-3136

3. Briefly describe the programs, counties and populations served which are impacted by this request.

This request is being solicited on behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners for Alachua County residents. The County's population is approximately 279,000 people. In the last 4 years, there have been 3,025 overdoses in the County. Year-to-date in 2024, Alachua County responded to 327 calls for overdoses and 206 instances requiring administration of Narcan. Alachua County Fire Rescue has developed an overdose response program with a specialized team to connect identified at risk residents to social support, recovery support, and health care services to disrupt opiate addiction. A major focus is to reduce barriers to treatment for affected residents addicted and at risk of an overdose.

4. Briefly describe your organization's need for additional funding, for a change in programming and/or for a change in funding as currently allocated. **Please include the dollar amount(s) you are requesting and whether or not the amount requested is for a full year or partial.** If the need for additional funding is due to funding being lapsed in the previous Fiscal Year, please provide an explanation for the lapse and describe your organization's capacity to spend funds if restored.

Alachua County is requesting \$1,039,975 for the 2025-26 year (\$1,089,975 Less GFR allocation \$50,000.00). The estimated rollover funds from 2024-25 are \$1,156,334 for a total budget of \$2,196,309.

Salaries and Fringe benefits \$704,149 (one .5 FTE moving to 1.0 FTE; eliminate Clinical Supervisor .15 FTE)
 Equipment \$384,500
 Medical and Pharmacy \$344,160
 Subcontracted services \$50,000
 Insurance (worker's comp) \$15,500
 Operating Supplies and Expenses \$253,500
 Training/Travel and vendor services \$25,000
 Other Expenses \$419,500
 Total = \$2,196,309

5. Briefly describe your organization's plan for the additional funding, change in funding or change in programming. In the event that a service is being discontinued, this plan should outline how the previously served population will be served after the change is made.

The program goal is to provide wrap-around services to those at risk of overdose/suicide in a way that reduces the barriers for treatment and increases access to needed care and streams of support. For those struggling with addiction and withdrawal, we will provide case management and connection with resources such as primary care providers, SNAP, housing assistance, and employment assistance. The Mobile Integrated Healthcare Team will provide peer support coaching and development of a peer support and recovery network.

Mobile Integrated Healthcare staff will provide mental health services and referrals to ensure participants are receiving the most appropriate care and support. The Team will provide critical Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) during gap-times when a participant might be experiencing significant withdrawals but have not yet accessed a provider for help.

- 6. If a license is required for the proposed program, have you obtained it (DCF Substance Abuse license for Outpatient services, AHCA license, etc.)? If not, but you have submitted your application, please describe what stage in the process you are in?**

Yes, OPUS has an active license with DCF as a substance abuse outpatient provider. According to DCF, MAT services can be provided under a Doctors' medical license. Alachua County Fire Rescue has a Medical Director who provides Telehealth consultations as needed.

- 7. Briefly describe your organization's expertise about the delivery of service to the identified population which will be impacted by this change.**

The Clinical Supervisor of Court Services OPUS Outpatient Counseling program is a licensed mental health counselor and a licensed marriage and family therapist in Florida. He is a board qualified supervisor in both disciplines, and has over 15 years of experience providing substance abuse treatment in multiple levels of care. The clinical supervisor also has a graduate degree in Health Care Administration. Alachua County Fire Rescue has experienced para-medicine professionals and a medical director that can provide clinical guidance and supervision for the Paramedic providing healthcare services (such as MAT) and medical case management.

- 8. Are the changes outlined above to be made for this fiscal year only or to be continued beyond year-end into subsequent fiscal years, assuming an ongoing contractual relationship between the agency and LSF Health Systems? Please explain this response.**

The program is intended to extend into the future in perpetuity if there continues to be a need in the community. The intent is to expand the scope of the program as experience is gained and demand for access is understood.

- 9. Define and describe the Program Goals.**

Increase access of recovery services for citizens at-risk for overdose. Recovery services include social program benefits to increase stable housing, employment support, access to primary care, access to MAT, as well as mental health services. Provide outpatient counseling and support as well as peer coaching and mentoring.

Increase harm reduction services available to the community to include distribution of free Narcan and fentanyl test strips (FTS) and provision of community outreach and education. Reduce the number of drug overdoses in the County. Become a best-practices site for Mobile Integrated Healthcare and para-medicine planning and implementation providing substance abuse services and support.

- 10. Define and describe the Proposed Outcome Measures for the program in which funding is being requested.**

The proposed outcome measures for the Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program focus on increasing engagement in SUD treatment and expanding access to care through innovative and flexible outreach methods.

To date, the program has identified a total of 108 potential participants for SUD treatment. Of those:

- 26 individuals (24%) are currently in the process of receiving treatment.
- 3 individuals (3%) have successfully completed treatment (graduated).
- 2 individuals (2%) declined services.
- 4 individuals (4%) are currently incarcerated, and we are actively working to re-engage them through outreach and in-custody support.
- 73 individuals (68%) have disengaged or become unreachable despite outreach efforts.

Our goals include improving engagement and retention in care by:

- Responding and engaging on scene whenever available and not committed to another participant.
- Implementing a jail outreach component to initiate SUD referrals during incarceration, addressing a critical gap in service continuity.
- Offering Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the field—whether that is in a home, shelter, or other non-traditional setting—to reduce access barriers and meet patients where they are, both physically and in their recovery journey.

We also aim to expand and measure harm reduction services through:

- Tracking the number of Narcan kits and fentanyl test strips (FTS) distributed.
- Documenting outreach functions performed, contacts made, and referrals to appropriate care or services.

Another critical outcome is a reduction in the number of overdoses within Alachua County. This will be measured by evaluating the decrease in drug poisoning/overdose calls recorded by Alachua County Fire Rescue over time.

By integrating these expanded capabilities, the program aims to improve engagement rates, increase successful treatment initiation and retention, and reduce recidivism and emergency department utilization related to substance use.

11. Outside organizations only: Describe your organization's data collection capacity and list the name of the data collection system. If you utilize an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, confirm its capacity to export data as an XML file.

Alachua County Fire Rescue has procured an Electronic Health Record system that has the functionality to generate and integrate with state reporting requirements for both emergency services and DCF purposes. This EHR has the overdose response program's data separate as its own confidential program with privacy walls between it and other therapeutic programs in Court Services. The EHR contains participant case management data, medical screening information, and other medical and psychotherapeutic documentation.

12. Outside organizations only: Describe your organization's business administration capacity specifically related to human resources and financial management.

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners has a Human Resources Department that facilitates the advertisement of positions, the screening of applicants (to include vehicle driving histories as well as criminal background checks), hiring, and new employee orientation. Alachua County also has dedicated staff for all financial management aside from the programmatic operations. Annually, an outside accounting firm performs an audit of all funds.

13. **Outside organizations only:** Level 2 Background Screening, through the DCF Clearinghouse, is a requirement for staff members from each agency who enters into a contract with LSFHS. Does your organization currently conduct Level 2 Background Screenings for staff members using this method? If not, are you willing to conduct the required screenings for compliance with the contract?

Alachua County currently conducts Level 2 Background screenings for staff members as required.

14. Please provide, as an attachment, the Exhibit C and D - Projected Operating and Capital Budget, using the most recent template, outlining the requested funding including OCAs and associated covered services. Statistics or data regarding utilization to substantiate the request may also be supplied.

Signature of Organization's CEO

Cheryl Ellis

Signature of Organization's Contract Manager

Date

7/8/2025

Date