



**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs	452,000				
External Revenues	(452,000)				
Program Income					
In-Kind Match (County)					
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<b>-0-</b>				

# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	-0-				
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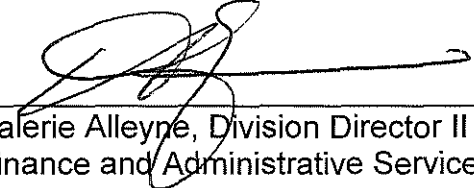
Is Item Included In Proposed Budget? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does this Item include the use of Federal funds? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does this Item include the use of State funds? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Budget Account No.:

Fund 1160 Dept. 143 Unit 1446 Object 8201 Program Code/Period \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Approval of this agenda item will appropriate \$452,000 in Federal CDBG-CV funds to Facilities Development & Operations.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:   
 Valerie Alleyne, Division Director II  
 Finance and Administrative Services, DHED

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:**

 4/17/2024  
 OFMB GA 1/16 DA 1/16  4/17/24  
 Contract Development and Control

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

 4/17/24  
 Chief Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Director

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Community Planning and Development  
Office of Economic Development – Congressional Grants  
Grant Number B-22-CP-FL-0253  
Palm Beach County Department of Community Services  
c/o Wendy Tippett, Director of Human Services and Community Action  
Submission of Required LOI Materials

Palm Beach County has a large homeless population that is estimated at approximately 1,400 unsheltered persons or families. This is based on the 2022 Point in Time Count, a count conducted over a 24 hour period in late January. This is only a small estimation of the true homeless number in the community. Discharges from hospitals to homelessness have continued to rise throughout Palm Beach County and often result in remittance to area hospitals or frequent users of the emergency medical services. Palm Beach County area shelters for the homeless are not able to accept medically involved clients or clients that are seeking medical respite. The need for a designated medical respite facility in our community has never been higher as the homeless providers struggle to keep the homeless population safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and the attempt to find safe placement for persons who have been injured or have physical illnesses who are residing on the streets of Palm Beach County.

Medical respite shelter care is acute and post-acute medical care for people experiencing homelessness or HIV/AIDS who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets, but who are not ill enough to be in a hospital. The program closes the gap between hospitals and homeless shelters/housing facilities that do not have the capacity to provide medical and support services to the frail or recovering.

People experiencing homelessness and/or HIV/AIDS have significant health care needs and use hospitals and emergency rooms at higher rates and for longer periods than their housed counterparts do. Unfortunately, because they lack housing, hospital discharge planners often have difficulty finding a safe and appropriate placement for these patients to rest and recuperate after they no longer need acute care.

Medical Respite is often used interchangeably with “recuperative care”, a term defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as “short-term care and case management provided to individuals recovering from an acute illness or injury that generally does not necessitate hospitalization, but would be exacerbated by their living conditions (e.g., street, shelter, or other unsuitable places).” Medical respite care is not skilled nursing care, nursing home care, assisted living care, or a supportive housing program. Instead, it offers a safe and humane alternative when “discharge to home” is not possible for those without homes.

Palm Beach County’s Medical Respite program is a partnership with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, who operate Federal Qualified Health Clinics, and facilitates access to specialty care for those that are considered very low-to-low income residents including the homeless, HIV/AIDS patients, persons with no payor source or medical homes and the indigent; the Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC); Non-Profit service providers; and government entities.

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The Medical Respite Program will be able to serve homeless persons with the following conditions or circumstances:

- Post-operative care
  - Examples include:
    - Needs following orthopedic surgery
    - Needs related to feeding tubes that will remain in place, post-discharge
    - Needs related to new medical devices
    - Physical therapy and occupational therapy
- Wound care
- Infusions
- Cancer-related treatment such as chemotherapy
- Oxygen dependency
- Diabetes
  - Examples include insulin dependency and support needs for newly diagnosed patients
- Cognitive impairment
  - Examples include Traumatic Brain Injury
- Mental health and/or substance use conditions causing increased complexity and obstacles to recovery from acute physical health conditions
- Infectious diseases
- Sickle Cell crisis

The benefits of Medical Respite Care for the community and businesses such as the hospitals include:

- Reducing hospital inpatient days and readmissions for a segment of hospital systems' patients that account for substantial unreimbursed costs
- Reducing social service organization excess staff time required to serve a relatively small cohort of patients with medical needs beyond their scope
- Reducing avoidable procedures, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, specialty care visits, and first-responder calls and thus minimizing avoidable costs for the health care district and other County First Responders
- Reducing County Human Services Department resources devoted to serving the relatively small group of people experiencing homelessness who are the hardest to successfully place in permanent housing and help achieve greater stability.

In addition to the benefits listed above, a recent Literature Review outlines evidence our community will use to determine the return-on-investment (ROI) for Medical Respite care.

Outcomes cited in the research literature related to ROI include:

- Medical respite stays overall resulted in \$1.81 of cost savings for the hospital for each dollar they invested (Shetler & Shepard, 2018).
- Respite care, a transition into housing, and case management resulted in \$6,300 of cost savings per participant compared with those who received care as usual (Basu et al., 2012).

- Completing OPAT treatment at medical respite resulted in \$25,000 cost savings per episode (Beieler et al., 2016).
- Persons experiencing homelessness who lacked access to medical respite had higher costs for acute admissions and in-hospital days. Patients who had access to medical respite care had overall lower average costs (Bring et al., 2020).

**Budget:**

Palm Beach County, Department of Community Services was awarded a Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending award for \$1,000,000 through Congresswoman Lois Frankel. The budget for the renovation project of the building targeted for Medical Respite is \$1,451,828. The building identified has previously been used as a homeless health clinic and conversion to medical overnight respite will require the following:

**1) Interior Plumbing modifications** –facility has common bathrooms and medical respite will require private bathroom accommodations.

**2) Interior and Exterior modifications** to the HVAC system including chillers and mechanical grilles and ductwork to allow for adequate cooling and heating of the facility as well as provide thermostats to patient rooms.

**3) Fire Sprinkler requirements** – self-explanatory

**4) Modifications of the Interior** – modifications include reconfiguration of interior walls, ceilings and floors allowing for client privacy through the creation of private patient rooms, appropriate nursing stations, pharmacy and treatment rooms. Modifications also include paint, floor covering, casework built-in for files and supplies and medications.

**5) Interior Electrical** – modifications of electrical panel, fire alarm wiring and new wiring for the remodel of the client rooms, nurses station, etc.

**6) New doors, frames, hardware and windows** – modifications include wheelchair accessibility for patients and a modification to the exterior wall opening for new egress windows that will be hurricane impact glass.

**7) Contractors overhead, bond, general conditions and profit value** – This expense covers the cost of any bond, contractor's overhead and any general conditions and profit values. Palm Beach County anticipates the total cost of \$263,088 to which \$25,600 is being charged to the CPF allocation.

Palm Beach County has committed the remaining balance of \$451,828 for the Professional Design Fees, MEP Engineering and Structural Engineering for the project as well as committed funding for the payment of the mechanical chiller piping work, the contractors overhead, bond, general conditional and profit value as well as the professional services design fee from the mechanical engineer.

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Palm Beach County Facilities and Community Services will oversee the work on the Medical Respite Center jointly. The Palm Beach County Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability oversaw the Environmental Review completed for the grant application.

**Conclusion:**

Palm Beach County's homeless and indigent populations continue to rise as the housing stock becomes less affordable and very scarce for the very low and low-income renters in our community. As the homeless population rises, the need for Medical Respite has risen too. Persons without homes are being discharged to the streets with health conditionals that require medical aftercare or continued treatment. The CFP program provides the community with the opportunity to provide adequate and equal care not only are poor but also our homeless neighbors throughout the community.