

October 1, 2020

George Stokus  
Assistant County Administrator  
Martin County  
2401 SE Monterey  
Stuart, FL 34994



Dear Mr. Stokus,

Thank you for the opportunity to partner with Martin County to provide critical services to our residents. As promised, I am attaching our proposal to assist with the increased demand in Mental Health Services for our community. The total amount we are requesting of CARES Act dollars for direct mental health assistance related to COVID-19 is estimated at \$330,686. This funding will be directed to 4 programs in Martin County of which 3 are more youth serving and one is serving adults.

Here is a brief summary of each program that we are requesting funds for.

1. Banner Lake Community Center ~ Covid – 19 affected the children and families of Banner Lake Community Center. Over the summer, the center realized they needed assistance with helping children with anxiety, depression and overall behavioral issues. The pilot program was funded over the summer from Children’s Services Council by allowing the Center to hire a behavior and developmental specialist. This staff person was able to work with the families to identify needs and pairing them with local resources to assist them. Unfortunately, the funding for this newly created program ended after the summer funds were depleted. They are looking to continue this program.
2. Project Lift has been affected by COVID – 19 with an increased demand in services to the agency. Since COVID began in March, the average daily attendance to the program has increased from 39 students to 88. They now have a waitlist for students for their program. Since this pandemic hit, they have seen a spike in teen suicide attempts and an increase in mental health/substance abuse issues. This program will receive dollars from Children’s Services Council but needs the additional resources to maintain this increased demand.
3. Tykes and Teens ~ response to COVID – 19 has been second to none. The staff transitioned to Telehealth services. They have provided over 16,000 telehealth appointments. Their proposal is to help defray the costs of moving to this platform and scholarship 574 sessions for clients in the next 90 days for those who can no longer afford the sliding scale fee due to the loss of employment for their children. In addition, they would like to expand their targeted case management program for the next 90 days to assist high risk or significant mental health symptom clients.
4. SunCoast Mental Health Services has been responding to the increased demand in mental health services by using Telehealth. Current services are available for adults who are current clients of the program. They have seen an increased demand from adults in Martin County who have lost their health insurance and or their jobs. In addition, they will create programs specifically for two areas that are critical to the wellbeing of our county. They are looking to offer short term services to our Martin County School District Personnel and to healthcare workers in Martin County.

Please let me know if you have any questions on the attached financial proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol G. Houwaart-Diez".

Carol G. Houwaart-Diez  
President & CEO