



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

Transitional Housing for Individuals experiencing Street Homelessness

Funding Request

\$2,000,000.00

Issue Summary

In 2025 alone, more than 1822 individuals in Broward County experienced homelessness, with 979 residing within the City of Fort Lauderdale. These sobering statistics underscore the profound impact of escalating housing costs, inflationary pressures, and an ever-increasing demand for affordable housing.

The funding will be used for _____

Full Detailed Background

Florida's remarkable population growth and evolving economic landscape have brought unprecedented challenges to urban centers like Broward County, where the homelessness crisis has reached a critical juncture. Since the early 1990s, visible tent encampments have periodically emerged in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale. Initially at Holiday Park and near the Broward bus terminal. One of the most persistent sites was between Stranahan Park and the Broward County Main Library, where a "tent city" became a symbol of both the region's struggle with homelessness and its attempts to address it. Early efforts at management in the '90s and 2000s often failed to resolve the root issues. These encampments reappeared again and again, prompting legal and public backlash.

In 2017 and 2018, the city shifted toward a "housing-first" model. The Fort Lauderdale Business Council on Homelessness, United Way of Broward County, Broward County and the city of Fort Lauderdale launched a coordinated "Home for the Holidays" initiative in November 2018. Approximately 82 residents from encampments were initially placed into motels and then moved to permanent housing.

However, after dismantling that downtown camp, smaller groups reformed elsewhere in the city, underscoring that displacement without broader housing solutions only shifts the issue geographically. With Florida's anti-camping law taking effect in October of 2024, stakeholders have had to balance new legal restrictions against efforts like community courts and proactive outreach aimed at connecting people to housing, mental health, and job service.

This program represents a strategic and fiscally responsible investment in the future of our communities. It will also help address the needs of our most vulnerable citizens improve public health and safety and demonstrate our community's commitment to the importance long-term stability for all individuals who reside in our county.

Benefits/Expected Outcome:

By implementing _____ we expect _____. Using a baseline set by the most recent Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, we anticipate reducing the number of unsheltered individuals in Downtown Fort Lauderdale by 50% within 24 months. The metrics used to determine the reduction will be the change in PIT Count for Downtown sub-area between 2025–2027.

Points of Contact

Bill Feinberg bill@alliedkitchenandbath.com, 954-868-1819

Solomon Schoonover Sol.schoonover@gmail.com, 954-243-891