

The Florida House of Representatives
Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23
For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14

1. Title of Project: Empowered To Change International
2. Date of Submission: 11/12/2021
3. House Member Sponsor: Chris Latvala

4. Details of Amount Requested:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request.

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2021-22 <i>(If appropriated in 2021-22 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2022-23 <i>(Requests for additional RECURRING funds are prohibited.)</i>		
Column:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated	Recurring Base Budget	Additional Nonrecurring Request	TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds
Input Amounts:					500,000	500,000

- e. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2022-23 from all sources of funding (Enter "0" if amount is zero):

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent of Total	Are the other sources of funds guaranteed in writing?
1. Amount Requested from the State in this Appropriations Project Request	500,000	100.0%	N/A
2. Federal	0	0.0%	No
3. State (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column F)	0	0.0%	No
4. Local	0	0.0%	No

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5. Other	0	0.0%	No
TOTAL	500,000	100%	

5. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

No

6. Which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue requested? Department of Economic Opportunity

a. Has the appropriate state agency for administering the funding, if the request were appropriated, been contacted? No

b. Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated.

Unspent funds will be returned to State.

7. Requester:

a. Name: Michele Snyder

b. Organization: Empowered To Change International Inc.

c. Email: msnyder@empowered-to-change.org

d. Phone #: (727)688-3288

8. Contact for questions about specific technical or financial details about the project.

a. Name: Michele Snyder

b. Organization: Empowered To Change International Inc.

c. Email: msnyder@empowered-to-change.org

d. Phone #: (727)688-3288

9. Registered lobbyist working to secure funding for this project.

a. Name: None

b. Firm: None

c. Email:

d. Phone #:

10. Organization or Name of entity receiving funds:

a. Name: Empowered To Change International Inc.

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b. County (County where funds are to be expended): Pinellas

c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding): Alachua, Hillsborough, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas

11. What type of organization is the entity that will receive the funds?

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government
- University or College
- Other (Please describe)

12. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds being requested?

The specific purpose is to ensure Safe Housing for vulnerable individuals in our community that suffer from human trafficking, homeless aging out of foster care, and those individuals who suffer from addiction due to trauma. Safe Housing means zero tolerance for illegal drug and alcohol use and we have a seven month comprehensive program that includes trauma therapy, job coaching education and life coaching.

13. Provide specific details on how funds will be spent. (Select all that apply)

Spending Category	Description	Amount Requested (Should equal 4d, Col. E) Enter "0" if request is zero for the category
Administrative Costs:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director and Project Head	65,000
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Other Salary and Benefits		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Three Computers, Microsoft licenses and printers	6,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Media/Video Contracted Service	15,000
Operational Costs:		

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e. Salaries and Benefits	Salaries for supervisor, case mentor, and data integrity	100,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> f. Expenses/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	House rentals, utilities and furniture for one year/Transport Vehicle	254,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Research and consultant	60,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
<input type="checkbox"/> h. Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		500,000

14. For Fixed Capital Costs requested in Question 13, what type of ownership will the facility be under when complete?

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government (e.g., police, fire or local government buildings, local roads, etc.)
- State agency owned facility (For example: college or university facility, buildings for public schools, roads in the state transportation system, etc.)
- Other (Please describe)

15. Is the project request an information technology project?

No

16. Is there any documented show of support for the requested project in the community including public hearings, letters of support, major organizational backing, or other expressions of support?

Yes

a. Please Describe:

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Operation Underground Railroad/CEO Tim Ballard, 6th Judicial Circuit Court Drug Court and Prostitution Court, Human Trafficking Task Force Florida/St. Petersburg Police Dept , Alachua County Sheriffs Office, FBI, Pinellas County Jail Diversion, Pinellas County Public Defenders Office, Pinellas County State Attorneys Office and Florida DOC.

17. Has the need for the funds been documented by a study, completed by an independent 3rd party, for the area to be served?

No

18. Will the requested funds be used directly for services to citizens?

Yes

a. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the purpose of the funds?

The activities and services provided are Safe Housing, life coaching, job placement, GED or college placement assistance for individuals aging out of foster care who are a prime target for predators of human trafficking. These services will also be available to the vulnerable who are survivors of sex trafficking, addiction struggles or homelessness.

b. Describe the direct services to be provided to the citizens by the funding requested.

The direct services to the citizens will be Safe Housing provided, one on one case mentorship, employment coaching, and direct financial and life skills coaching.

c. Describe the target population to be served (i.e., "the majority of the funds requested will serve these target populations or groups"). Select all that apply to the target population:

- Elderly persons
- Persons with poor mental health
- Persons with poor physical health
- Jobless persons
- Economically disadvantaged persons
- At-risk youth
- Homeless
- Developmentally disabled
- Physically disabled
- Drug users (in health services)
- Preschool students
- Grade school students
- High school students

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- University/college students
- Currently or formerly incarcerated persons
- Drug offenders (in criminal Justice)
- Victims of crime
- General (The majority of the funds will benefit no specific group)
- Other (Please describe): Young adults aging out of Foster Care.

d. How many in the target population are expected to be served?

- < 25
- 25-50
- 51-100
- 101-200
- 201-400
- 401-800
- >800

19. What benefits or outcomes will be realized by the expenditure of funds requested? (Select each Benefit/Outcome that applies)

Benefit or Outcome	Provide a specific measure of the benefit or outcome	Describe the method for measuring level of benefit or outcome
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve physical health	While the Program Participants are residing in our Safe House they are frequently and randomly drug tested. We perform touchpoints with the participants to ensure that they have learned to engage life in healthy ways such as dieting, wellness check-ups and exercise. They complete an independent living plan (ILP) upon intake and physical health is	The ILP (Independent Living Plan) is assessed monthly by the case mentor and program participant. This allows for the assessment of goals, discussing road blocks and creating new goals for the following month.

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	a target goal they must meet.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health	If an individual in the program has a mental health need, he/she will attend Suncoast Mental Health Center to get a mental health evaluation and prescribed necessary non-narcotic prescriptions.	Upon intake each Participant engages in a psychosocial evaluation that will cover any previously diagnosed mental health disorders, as well as the participants desire to receive services. We then add this goals to their ILP to ensure that when the ILP is reviewed, any potential concerns or problems are addressed and new goals are set for the following month.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience	Participants will be encouraged through the duration of the program to engage in their community by means of opportunities provided by the community.	During the ILP review areas of interest will be discussed and goals set to engage in the community.
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve agricultural production/promotion/education		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve quality of education	While in our program, participants are listed under Florida State Statute as "homeless" and receive free access to obtain their GED or college education. We encourage all participants that gaining their GED, Pinellas Technical College or College empowers the individual	When the ILP goals are set, the case mentor and program participant are able to set goals and ensure they are following through to obtain the desired outcome.

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	to improve their quality of life.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.)	When individuals are released from the county jail or from the Florida State Prison System they are able to receive safe housing, mentoring and accountability. This helps aid in public safety and helps reduce the cycle of recidivism.	While in our Safe Housing participants can receive trauma therapy, life and financial coaching, case mentoring, job placement and education assistance which empowers each individual to experience their passion and purpose in life. These goals are set through the ILP.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve transportation conditions	We provide bus passes and teach them to navigate the public transit system, encourage them to get a drivers license, if applicable, and advocate for them to take responsibility for their own ability to safely get from one location to another while living in a safe place that provides accountability.	We give weekly bus passes and the ability to apply for discounted county bus passes until they have a stable job and can afford it themselves.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase or improve economic activity	employed. When the participant is gainfully employed they are paying taxes and contributing to the economy.	Our employment coach meets with every participant during the intake phase and ensures that they gain employment and create professional goals. We measure this by an employment log that must be filled out for accountability. When hired, we

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		verify with an employment fact sheet and a verified schedule.
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase tourism		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create specific immediate job opportunities		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency	While in the our program, the participants learn to manage their finances, make responsible decisions with their income and learn the difference between a "want" and a "need". They also learn about saving money to be able to become financially independent.	Program participants must turn in paystubs and receive financial coaching during their stay in the program. They are taught how to budget and pay their bills on time.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce recidivism	We are able to help aid in reducing recidivism by empowering formerly incarcerated individuals with accountability, employment, drug testing and a strong support system.	The ILP assists the individual through case management, to meet employment and educational goals thus empowering the participant to be accountable to themselves and their community. This gives the returning citizen a sense of self-worth and confidence to be a productive member of their community.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce substance abuse	Our participants who suffer from substance abuse issues receive accountability through drug	We provide random drug testing including lab verification. We gauge their progress in sobriety

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	testing and life coaching. We recognize that in many cases, individuals are self medicating to heal a deep psychological wound.	by meeting with them weekly with case mentoring and touchpoints.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Divert from Criminal/Juvenile justice system	Our program is used in many courtrooms to divert an individual from incarceration to a structured learning and housing environment. This relieves the burden on the state to house them while we empower the individual to be accountable in learning how to live successfully in the community.	We work alongside Pretrial Intervention Programs in felony court that divert first time offenders from jail to our safe housing program.
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve wastewater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve stormwater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve groundwater quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve drinking water quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve surface water quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):		