



Pinellas County Substance Abuse Advisory Board Meeting

November 20, 2025

PINELLAS COUNTY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

November 20, 2025 | 9:00 AM
SPC Epicenter-Room 2-304
13805 58thth St. N., Clearwater, FL 33760

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of June 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
4. Adult Drug Court Quarterly Update Nicholas Bridenback, *Judicial 6*
5. Juvenile Drug Court Quarterly Update Alicia McLane, *Judicial 6*
6. Membership updates, vacancies or, resignations Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*
 - a. City of Largo PD – Ann Starling (vacancy), New appointee - Major Amodeo, Alternate Major Richelle Bradshaw
7. FY 2024-2025 JAG Performance Reports
 - a. ALPHA House – Breaking Cycle of Generational Abuse.....Jasmine Randolph
 - b. Boley Centers – Intensive Case Management.....Jennifer Strong
 - c. HEP – Emergency Shelter Beds..... Katerina Gerakios-Siren
 - d. MORE Health – Firearm Safety and Firearm Prevention.....Carlene Lemaster
 - e. Operation PAR – Recreation Equipment.....Martin Bimler
 - f. Westcare – Mustard Seed Inn..... Linda Welborn
 - g. Pinellas Park Police Dept – Law Enforcement Equipment.....Elizabeth St. Pierre
8. FY 2024-2025 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund Reports
 - a. Gulf Coast JFC Services – Visitor Management SystemTess Benham
 - b. Operation PAR – PAR Village Residential FurnitureMartin Bimler
 - c. PEMHS – Desktop Computers..... Joe Stumpo
 - d. Westcare – Davis Bradley Convection Oven..... Linda Welborn

9. SAAB Board Final Recommendations Chief Adam Geissenberger, *Chairman*

a. FFY24-25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C)

b. FY25-26 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund

10. Roundtable

11. Adjournment

Next Meeting: TBD Spring 2026

Minutes from June 25, 2025 meeting

**Substance Abuse Advisory Board
Pinellas County
June 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB) met at 10:00 AM on this date in Conference Room 1900 at the Pinellas County Justice Center, 14250 49th Street North, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Chief Adam Geissenberger, Chair, City of Pinellas Park Police Department
Megan McGee, Vice Chair, City of St. Petersburg Police Department (alternate)
Becky Albert, Juvenile Welfare Board
Bruce Bartlett, State Attorney
Tim Burns, Pinellas County Human Services (alternate)
Marianne Dean, Pinellas County Health Department (alternate)
Michael Hasty, Clearwater Police Department (alternate)
Dawn Holcomb, Department of Corrections
Jim Miller, Operation PAR, Inc.
Ashley Roura, Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Judicial Circuit (alternate)
Ann Starling, Largo Police Department
Courtney Sullivan, State Attorney's Office (alternate)

Not Present

Ulyee Choe, Pinellas County Health Department
Lisa DePaolo, Pinellas County Schools
Chief Eric Gandy, Clearwater Police Department
Antonio Gilliam, St. Petersburg Police Department
Melissa Leslie, Department of Children and Families
Scott Matthews, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Sara Mollo, Public Defender
Melissa Reid, Department of Juvenile Justice
Kimberly Todd, County Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Karen Yatchum, Pinellas County Human Services

Others Present

Martin Bimler, Operation PAR, Inc. Vice President of Grants and Philanthropy
Nick Bridenback, Drug Court Program Manager, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Lisa Carrillo, Human Services Grants Services Section Manager
Victor Gonzalez, Human Services Contract Analyst
Yashira Gonzalez, Pinellas County Justice Coordination Section Manager
Sara Gordils, Human Services Contracts Section Manager
Maggie Miles, Human Services Justice Assistance Grant Analyst

Joe Morrissey, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tiffany Nozicka, Human Services Management Analyst
Ashley Pabilonia, Board Reporter
Other interested individuals

All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been filed and made a part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Geissenberger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves; whereupon, he indicated that there are several new alternates; and that due to the upcoming retirement of Captain Scott Matthews, with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, a new alternate will be named.

Public Comments

No one responded to the Chair's call for public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Upon the Chair's call for a motion to approve the minutes, State Attorney Bartlett made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Starling and carried unanimously.

Adult Drug Court Quarterly Update

This item was not addressed.

Juvenile Drug Court Quarterly Update

Referring to a document titled *Juvenile Drug Court Program Quarterly Report*, Chair Geissenberger provided statistical information for the period of October through December 2024. He indicated that 28 juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court; that 17 graduated with successful completion, while seven were discharged for non-compliance; and that there were 15 juvenile referrals to Suncoast Center; whereupon, he noted that information pertaining to demographics and referring agencies is included in the agenda packet; and that no juveniles were referred to mental health services for this quarter.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Updates, Vacancies, or Resignations

In response to a query by Chair Geissenberger, Ms. Miles confirmed that the members must make a motion to accept the membership updates, including the new alternates; whereupon, Chair Geissenberger made a motion approving the permanent Board replacement for the Juvenile Welfare Board, Becky Albert, and the following alternates:

- Erinn Izykowski, Department of Children and Families
- Michael Hasty, Clearwater Police Department
- Courtney Sullivan, State Attorney's Office
- Ryan Sturm, Pinellas County Schools
- Jennifer Harrington, Department of Juvenile Justice

The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement JAG Grant Updates

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Carrillo provided an update regarding guidance received from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) following a site visit in May, which included tiered sub-award training for staff. She indicated that, over the last year, FDLE has been more attentive in its review of applications, contracts, and invoicing; and that FDLE has posed follow-up questions, requested additional supporting documentation that was not previously required, and stressed that all projects must have a direct tie to the criminal justice system and include strong justifications.

Ms. Carrillo also related that FDLE provided recommendations during its site visit regarding updating procedures, including one recommendation related to providing pre-evaluation training; that staff will now conduct training webinars in advance of reviewing applications; and that, moving forward, staff will continue working closely with awarded partners to ensure that they have all the knowledge and compliance measures needed to meet FDLE and federal guidelines.

In response to a query by Chair Geissenberger, Ms. Carrillo provided brief comments regarding staff's collaborative efforts with partners to identify and strengthen their projects' direct tie to the criminal justice system.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Chair Geissenberger indicated that he, Messrs. Miller and Hasty, and Ms. McGee completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms; whereupon, he related that those who

completed a form may participate in discussion but cannot provide input regarding voting or outcome.

SAAB Review Committee Grant Funding Recommendations

FY24-25 ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TRUST FUND

Deviating from the order of the agenda, Chair Geissenberger indicated that seven applications were submitted for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund; and that the total amount of award funding is \$35,000.00; whereupon, he invited the members to discuss applications for the purpose of scoring.

In response to State Attorney Bartlett and Chair Geissenberger, Ms. Gordils and Mr. Burns provided brief comments regarding submission and review of applications through the Neighborly system and suggested changes for future funding cycles.

Ms. Gordils noted that the Recovery Epicenter Foundation is not eligible for funding because they are not a licensed substance abuse provider; whereupon, following brief discussion regarding details related to individual applications, Ms. Gordils recommended that the members move forward with standard scoring.

Mr. Burns noted that Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund monies not expended by applicants would remain in the Fund and could be carried over to the next year.

Thereupon, the members reviewed the applications and agreed to the following scores:

Boley Centers, Inc.

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**

Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**

Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**

Budget Summary (10 points): **8 points**

Total Score: **48 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

WestCare Gulf Coast - Florida

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**

Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**

Project Impact/Need (20 points): **18 points**

Budget Summary (10 points): **2 points**

Total Score: **40 points**

Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **50 points**

Operation PAR

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **50 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

Recovery Epicenter Foundation

Not eligible – not a licensed substance abuse provider

Suncoast Center, Inc.

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **2 points**
Total Score: **42 points**

Eleos

Brief Description of the Organization (10 points): **10 points**
Does the Application Clearly Describe the Proposed Project? (10 points): **10 points**
Project Impact/Need (20 points): **20 points**
Budget Summary (10 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **50 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

SAAB Board Award Recommendations Vote

FY24-25 ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TRUST FUND

Thereupon, Ms. Gordils reviewed the ranking of applications based on their total scores and indicated that the applications submitted by Boley Centers, Inc., Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc., Operation PAR, and Eleos could be funded fully; and that the remaining Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund monies could be rolled over to the next funding cycle.

Responding to comments and queries by State Attorney Bartlett, Mr. Burns, with input from Ms. Gordils, provided historical information regarding annual Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund collections received by the County; whereupon, following brief discussion, Chair Geissenberger made a motion to fully fund the applications submitted by Boley Centers, Inc., Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc., Operation PAR, and Eleos; and that, should any applicant refuse, the money would go toward surplus and be rolled over to next year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Albert and carried unanimously.

SAAB Review Committee Grant Funding Recommendations

FY24-25 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
COUNTYWIDE (JAG-C)

Chair Geissenberger indicated that 12 JAG-C applications were submitted for a total of \$474,696.50 in requested funding; and that the total award amount, following administrative costs, is \$209,268.00.

Thereupon, the members reviewed the applications, with input from Mses. Gordils and Carrillo, and agreed to the following scores:

Van Gogh's Palette Inc dba Vincent House (SFA)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **15 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **15 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **75 points**

Later in the meeting, the members agreed to modify scoring for the application submitted by Van Gogh's Palette Inc dba Vincent House (SFA) to reflect zero points for Federal/State Priorities, resulting in a revised total score of 60 points.

Recovery Epicenter Foundation (SAF)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **15 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **10 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **60 points**

Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) (SAF)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **5 points**
Total Score: **90 points**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tampa Bay (OAF)

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **0 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **15 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **8 points**
Total Score: **53 points**

Suncoast Center, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **15 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **10 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **5 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **12 points**
Total Score: **57 points**

Starting Right, Now

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **0 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **15 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **12 points**

Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **52 points**

Ms. Roura left the meeting at 11:22 AM.

St. Petersburg Police Department

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **20 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **10 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **90 points**

Abstaining member: Ms. McGee

MORE HEALTH, Inc.

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **20 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **95 points**

Eleos Wellness

Problem Identification (20 points): **15 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **20 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **90 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Miller

Chair Geissenberger left the meeting at 11:35 AM.

City of Pinellas Park

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**

Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **100 points**

Abstaining member: Chair Geissenberger

Chair Geissenberger returned to the meeting at 11:37 AM.

City of Clearwater

Problem Identification (20 points): **20 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **25 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **25 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **15 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **15 points**
Total Score: **100 points**

Abstaining member: Mr. Hasty

CASA Collateral for Pinellas Law Enforcement 2

Problem Identification (20 points): **10 points**
Federal/State Priorities (25 points): **17 points**
Scope of Services (25 points): **10 points**
Program Outcomes and Goals (15 points): **5 points**
Budget and Expenditure Report (15 points): **10 points**
Total Score: **52 points**

SAAB Board Award Recommendations Vote

FY24-25 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
COUNTYWIDE (JAG-C)

Thereupon, Ms. Gordils reviewed the ranking of applications based on their total scores and indicated that the top scoring applications are those submitted by the City of Clearwater, the City of Pinellas Park, MORE HEALTH, Inc., Eleos Wellness, the St. Petersburg Police Department, and the Homeless Empowerment Program; and that if the top scoring applications are fully funded, there would be \$11,000.00 in unallocated monies; whereupon, she noted that the application submitted by Van Gogh's Palette Inc dba Vincent House (SFA) is next in order of rank.

Following brief comments by Mr. Miller, discussion ensued regarding options related to the \$11,000.00 in unallocated funds, including non-usage or awarding it to another project further down in the ranked order.

Discussion ensued regarding the option to award the \$11,000.00 in unallocated funds to the two highest ranked applications, which were submitted by the City of Pinellas Park and the City of Clearwater; whereupon, Chair Geissenberger suggested that all of the funds be deferred to the City of Clearwater.

Thereupon, Ms. Gordils indicated that her understanding of the motion before the Board is to fund the applications submitted by the City of Clearwater, the City of Pinellas Park, MORE HEALTH, Inc., Eleos Wellness, the St. Petersburg Police Department, and the Homeless Empowerment Program; and that the remaining balance would go to the City of Clearwater, since their purchase can be more easily increased. Ms. Dean related that this would be her motion, which was seconded by Ms. Starling; whereupon, upon the Chair's call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously, with Chair Geissenberger, Ms. McGee, and Messrs. Miller and Hasty abstaining.

Mr. Burns recommended that the members consider establishing steps that could be taken if an awarded partner could not move forward with their project; whereupon, brief discussion ensued wherein Mr. Miller further suggested that funding could go toward the next highest ranked application or split between the next highest ranked applications with identical scores.

In response to Chair Geissenberger's request for a motion, Mr. Burns made a motion to move forward with Mr. Miller's suggestion, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Miles indicated that all municipalities who receive funding will be responsible for applying through FDLE's AmpliFund grant management system.

In response to comments and queries by State Attorney Bartlett, Ms. Gordils provided clarifying information regarding scoring documents; whereupon, Mr. Burns noted that, next year, staff will try to schedule this process earlier in order to ensure that there is ample time for preparation and review.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Geissenberger adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Drug Court Reports

Pinellas Adult Drug Court – 3rd and 4th Quarters

Active

Total Participants	Number of New Admissions	Number of Graduates	Still Active at End of Reporting Period
485	155	101	293

	Clients	Percentage
Graduated	101	52.60%
Terminated: VOP	44	22.92%
Voluntarily Withdrew	26	13.54%
Terminated: New Charge	6	3.13%
Transferred	5	2.60%
Jail	5	2.60%
Terminated: Fails To Appear (FTA)	2	1.04%
Terminated: Failure to Participate	2	1.04%
Deceased	1	0.52%

Graduates Avg Days in Program	408.94
Minimum Days	57
Maximum Days	1,171
Median Days	330

Total Exits Avg Days in Program	357.59
Minimum Days	22
Maximum Days	1,171
Median Days	288

Grad Exit Points	Exit Count
0-6 months	4
7-12 months	54
13-18 months	17
19-24 months	19
Over 24 months	7

Non-Grad Exit Points	Exit Count
0-3 months	18
4-6 months	26
7-9 months	13
10-12 months	11
13-18 months	13
Over 18 months	10

Pre-Acceptance

Total Participants	Number of New Admissions	Still Active at End of Reporting Period
498	381	129

Juvenile Drug Court Program
Quarterly Report

Period beginning April 1, 2025
Ending June 30, 2025

For this quarterly reporting period, 46 juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court.

16 Graduates/Successful completions
5 Discharges (non-compliance)

There were 25 juveniles* referred to Suncoast.

11 north county, 9 south county, 5 central county

*(9 black males, 8 white males, 1 hispanic male, 1 mixed/ multiple male
3 white females, 2 black female, 1 mixed/multiple female)*

Referrals from:

PCSO	=	3
PCSB	=	6
JVCT	=	1
PPPD	=	3
SPPD	=	2
SAO	=	8
LPD	=	1
PCSBPD	=	1

* For this quarter, we included in the number of juveniles referred to Suncoast for the Mental Health services offered for our diversion participants—2 from State Attorney referrals.

Juvenile Drug Court Program
Quarterly Report

Period beginning July 1, 2025
Ending September 30, 2025

For this quarterly reporting period, 21 juveniles entered Juvenile Drug Court.

17 Graduates/Successful completions

10 Discharges (non-compliance)

There were 16 juveniles referred to Suncoast.

8 north county, 6 south county, 2 central county

*(5 black males, 7 white males, 1 hispanic/male
2 black females, 1 white female)*

Referrals from:

PCSO	=	6
PPPD	=	3
JVCT	=	1
SAO	=	3
SPPD	=	1
PCSB	=	2

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
(JAG) Program Presentations



The current status: ALPHA House was short on expending all grant funds for a multitude of reasons including staff turnover and group therapy being billed differently than planned for.

Service provided:

ALPHA provided 989 life skills education hours via one-on-one therapy sessions and group therapy sessions. Additionally, minor clients were provided assistance and education on budgeting and healthful grocery shopping and all clients were guided on general cleanliness and housekeeping skills. By using a variety of teaching methods, clients are able to learn skills towards self-sufficiency and will be able to use those skills to establish a safe and stable future for themselves and their families.

Resident Success Story:

At just 15, a pregnant foster youth came to ALPHA House unsure if she would be allowed to raise her baby. With a history of physical and sexual abuse, her unaddressed trauma affected her decision-making, and many doubted she could parent safely.

Thanks to intensive supervision, daily coaching, and one-on-one parenting education, she learned essential infant care skills, emotional regulation, and safe sleep practices—addressing early concerns like co-sleeping through immediate, hands-on guidance.

Today, she is a capable, confident young mother. She follows safe parenting practices, is working toward her high school diploma, participates in life skills programming, and meets regularly with ALPHA's clinical social worker to address her trauma. ALPHA's 24/7 support has kept this young family together and helped set them on a healthier, more hopeful path forward.

Grant amount awarded: \$24,715.10

Grant amount spent: \$23,059.08



Yearly Summary: Boley Centers Clinical Services Manager for High-Risk Homeless Clients

Reporting Period: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Overview:

The Clinical Services Manager program at Boley Centers continued its mission to support high-risk homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness in achieving stability in permanent supported housing. While no measurable data was reported for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 due to staffing transitions, the program successfully met its intended outcomes by the end of the reporting period.

Key Achievements:

- **Crisis Management:**

The program aimed to reduce involuntary hospitalizations to no more than 15% of clients served. By year-end, hospitalization rates were significantly below this threshold, demonstrating improved crisis management and compliance with mental health treatment plans.

- 7% admission rate to Crisis Stabilization units for residents served.

- **Substance Abuse Support:**

- 100% of Permanent Supported Housing residents working with the CAP were referred to local AA and NA meetings, exceeding the goal of 85%.
 - 37 unduplicated residents received referrals for substance abuse treatment (both inpatient and outpatient), surpassing the annual target of 30.

Impact:

These outcomes reflect the program's success in helping high-risk individuals maintain housing stability, reduce psychiatric crises, and access substance abuse treatment. Staff were able to focus on holistic care, addressing both mental health and addiction needs.

Staffing Note:

The Licensed Clinical Manager position funded by this grant experienced a vacancy during the first half of the year. Damia Kelly, VP of Homeless Services, provided interim coverage to ensure continuity of services. The position was later filled by Jennifer Strong, LMHC, Director of Homeless Services, who is currently being oriented while Ms. Kelly continues to assist during the transition.

Grant amount awarded: \$23,813.00

Grant amount spent: \$10,714.06

**CHAIRPERSON**

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TREASURER

Michael Kindt

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Phil Beauchamp

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

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The Late Rev. Otis C. Green

FOUNDER EMERITUS

Barbara Green

PRESIDENT & CEO

Ashley Lowery

November 10, 2025

The Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP) is a recipient of the 2024-2025 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award. JAG funds were used to provide three justice-involved individuals experiencing homelessness with up to 333 nights of emergency shelter along with an array of wraparound services, including case management, housing navigation, behavioral health support, wellness check-ins, nutritious meals, transportation, employment & job training, and community integration.

Program Outcomes:

- **100%** of program participants secured transitional or permanent housing. **Goal: 75%**
- **100%** of program participants report feeling good and experiencing improved self-esteem. **Goal: 75%**
- **100%** of program participants seeking employment secured meaningful employment. **Goal: 75%**
- **80%** of program participants seeking vocational/educational opportunities enrolled. **Goal: 75%**
- **100%** of program participants report feeling optimistic about their future- **Goal: 75%**
- **0%** of program participants returned to homelessness. **Goal: <15%**

Client Spotlight: In July 2025, after serving more than ten years in prison, Lasonya Larry came to HEP determined to rebuild her life. She immediately engaged in counseling services, began anger management, and has been consistent in attending all mental and physical health appointments. Lasonya also enrolled in HEP's Workforce Development Center, where she is actively searching for employment, and is working closely with our Benefits Coordinator to reinstate her disability income. In addition, she participates regularly in relapse prevention groups and has become an active and positive presence in the HEP community.

Her hard work and commitment paid off when she was approved for HEP's Permanent Supportive Housing Program and moved into her own unit on November 6, 2025 — marking the first time she has lived independently in more than twenty years. The following day, she was officially released from probation, a major milestone in her journey to stability and independence. Lasonya has also begun reconnecting with her six daughters and building meaningful relationships with her grandchildren, finding strength and joy in family connection.

"I've never had a team of people stand behind me like HEP."
— Lasonya Larry

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Amount Spent: \$47,900

Amount Unused: \$2,100

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (#CH4621) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE (800-435-7352) OR ONLINE AT WWW.800HELPFLA.COM. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

HOMELESS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

1120 North Betty Lane – Clearwater, FL 33755 – P: 727-442-9041 – F: 727-446-1516 – www.HEPempowers.org



Current Status of 2024-25 Goals

Goal 1 MORE HEALTH met and exceeded the goal of presenting the Firearm Safety Lesson in 340 classrooms. This year, we provided 361 presentations. Some of the presentations were given to two classes at one time. The additional classes were not counted in the number of presentations. MORE HEALTH visited 89 schools to teach children what to do if they encounter a firearm.

Our “You can be a Hero” Video is available on our website to view or download for free. We encouraged the parents to watch the video together and have a conversation about gun safety.

Barriers The biggest barrier we had again this school year was the October 2024 hurricane that came ashore two weeks after the first one hit the Tampa Bay Area. Working with the schools, we were able to meet our goals by rescheduling the presentations to another time.

Impact of the Project

Classroom teachers were invited to grade the lesson on Relevance, Quality of Instructional Aids, Presentation, Rapport, Student Engagement, and Pre and Post Lesson Activities. We are very proud to report that once again the Firearm Safety Lessons received an average of **98%** satisfaction from classroom teachers.

It is hard to measure prevention education. Every presentation we deliver, we know that we are helping children and adults stay safe through interactive safety educational lessons. The following quotes are from a few elementary school teachers.

They loved all of it...very engaged! Excellent job...keep up the good work.

Curlew Creek

Great presentation! Lots of good information that they should know.

Cypress Woods

It is relatable to their everyday lives. Great lesson! I'm happy my students were educated on this topic. Bear Creek

Grant Award: **\$26,064.34**
Amount Spent: **\$26,064.34**



Administrative Offices
6655 66th Street North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Ph: 727-545-7564
Fax: 727-545-7584
www.operationpar.org

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FUNDERS



RECIPIENT NAME: Operation PAR, Inc.

The mission of Operation PAR is to strengthen our community by caring for families and individuals impacted by substance use and to promote mental well-being. As a leading provider of services for prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health issues, we help children, adults and their families to overcome struggles with substances and to maintain their recovery. Operation PAR provides residential substance use treatment and support services, outpatient treatment, peer support services, case management, medically managed withdrawal services, and medication assisted treatment (MAT) using all three FDA-approved Medications for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD).

Operation PAR received a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award of \$56,600 for the purchase of sports and recreational equipment. All funds have been expended.

While we were successful in receiving and installing the equipment during the funding period, it was not without challenges. The original target population was adolescents in residential substance use disorder treatment at our Academy facility. However, when it became apparent that the adolescent facility would not be reopening as anticipated in Spring 2025 due to state budget cuts, hurricane damage, and construction/renovation delays, Operation PAR requested a change in scope to use the requested equipment at our Adult Residential Treatment programs.

This created a great opportunity to provide dedicated spaces for both men's and women's exercise facilities but also created a challenge in that an appropriate physical space needed to be identified within the women's program to house the equipment. This briefly delayed the purchasing process as Operation PAR could not receive equipment without an appropriate place to put it. When the equipment was ordered, we were notified of a manufacturer's back order that would cause a delay in receiving the items. Working with both the vendor and the manufacturer, we were able to monitor the delay and expedite items as they became available.

The equipment purchases included two (2) stack gyms, four (4) elliptical machines, four (4) treadmills, two (2) upright stationary bikes, two (2) recumbent stationary bikes, four (4) kickballs, five (5) basketballs (men's and women's), one (1) portable volleyball court system, two (2) 3-hole disc golf systems, two (2) pickleball net systems and pickleballs and eight (8) paddles, and a yoga mat pack with storage for twenty-four (24) yoga mats.

The change in scope allowed us to redirect the project to serve adults, but new goals were not created to address this population. As the equipment was not installed until mid-September, any goals specific to the adult population would not be likely to have been achieved given the short timeframe for measurement. Since that time, program staff have started working to integrate the use of gym equipment and recreational activities into personal treatment goals for adult residents for which it would be appropriate, with the goal of helping individuals understand how physical wellness can support their long-term recovery.

While the original scope of use anticipated 30 adolescents using the equipment annually, we anticipate more than twice that number of adults will benefit from the use of this equipment annually. We also anticipate that the adult residents will experience outcomes similar to those expected among the original youth population, namely that a minimum of 75% of participants will report enhanced physical and mental health and a minimum of 70% of participants will develop enhanced coping skills and stress management strategies. Despite the relatively short period of time in which the equipment has been available for use at our adult residential treatment facility, residents have already expressed how access to the equipment has helped them. Attached are two testimonials from residents expressing their appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity provided through JAG funding.

Grant Award Amount: \$56,600.00

Grant Amount Spent: \$56,000.00



October 2nd, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am currently a resident here at the PAR villages adult rehab program. I have been here a little over 60 days. I am learning different coping skills that help me in many different areas of life including stress, grief, anger, and of course to help me stay clean and sober and away from drugs and alcohol. One of the best coping skills that I have found that works wonders is the Gym. They recently opened a new gym here with all new equipment and it is so nice and very exciting! The gym and working out is not only good for me physically but mentally as well. Since the new gym has opened I have incorporated working out as part of my daily routine! It is such a great way to start the day or to kill time if I get bored. The gym is such an awesome addition to the program here and will help many clients including myself and future clients gain and start practicing a healthy habit that will be key to creating a healthy lifestyle that we can look forward to maintaining once we complete the program. Thank you for allowing us the ability to work out and create healthy habits that will help create a healthy life.

♡ Thank You! ♡

10-2-25

To whom it may concern

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of the gym equipment. It really helps me so much on my recovery journey in finding healthy ways to express negative emotions and with this new found love I have for working out makes me want to take real good care of myself. I have done enough damage to my body with all the substance abuse but now I am very hopeful and full of joy thanks to my new found hobby that will remain in my life moving forward. All thanks to people like yourselves making all this possible.

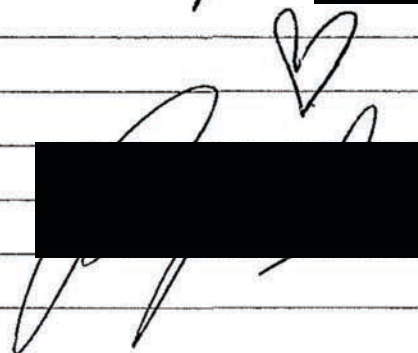
Whenever I'm having a bad day or just full of anxiety and no where to go because we are in a rehab where we are not allowed to come and go as we please I find it very helpful going to our new gym and just getting a good workout in not only is it a healthy way of expressing myself it has also built up my confidence in my physical appearance at first I was very shy and insecure but with these new gym gains I been getting I felt great.

~~Support~~ I am so grateful for your support and looking forward to seeing the impact this will have on all my peers that are here trying to start

a new way of life. This new
equipment will and already has
made a significant difference
in my life all thanks to
you so once again and I
can't seem to say it enough
because this is my new favorite
area in this program. So
thank you and God
bless you so much

Sincerely,

Felipe

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Felipe', with a heart symbol drawn above the end of the signature. The signature is written over a black rectangular redaction box.



WestCare GulfCoast- Florida

Mustard Seed Inn

2510 Central Ave
St Petersburg FL 33712
727-490-6769

Totals for the 2025 fiscal year

Presenters: Linda Welborn and Tiffany Foster

Mustard Seed Inn is a FARR accredited recovery residence and the only level III recovery residence in Pinellas County. We have staff on duty 24 hours a day to help provide services for the clients as they are needed because as we all know, this is not a 9-5 type of business or population. We work with people who are experiencing homelessness that also have a history of mental illness, substance abuse, and/or a history with the criminal justice system. We work closely with the courts in Pinellas, Pasco, and Hillsborough County and we work diligently to get individuals linked with services like mental health, MAT, medication management, counseling, and signed up for health insurance, and so much more.

Goals

1. 90% of participants will attend at least 1 LifeSkills group every week.
2. 95% of the clients who can work will find work within 30 days of entering the program.
3. 70% of program participants will exit into permanent housing within 12 months of entering the program.

Outcomes

1. LifeSkills is a group that is required for everyone in the building to attend. We teach vital life skills such as time management, stress management, budgeting, coping skills, and identifying triggers to name a few.
2. With the help of CareerSource, WestCare's Workforce Development program, other community partners, and bringing clients to local job fairs we were able to get all the clients who can work working within their first 30 days of entering the program. We also teach resume writing, hold mock interviews, and even teach them how to dress for success while preparing for their future.
3. We served a total of 178 clients with 78 % of them exiting into permanent housing within 12 months.

We were able to meet our goals because we've been working closely with clients on financial literacy, credit building, finding creative ways to keep them engaged in groups, in their recovery, and in their future. We have peer support and case managers on staff who work closely with the clients and with the community to be sure clients have the skills and confidence needed to get out on their own and maintain a healthy drug-free lifestyle. This helps prevent clients from returning to the program and reoffending and ending up back involved in the criminal justice system.

Success Stories:

We recently had a young lady come to us from the Mental Health Court, and she had an extensive history of arrests along with a high-profile case which is what ended up bringing her to Mustard Seed. She had a lot of reservations and a severe distrust of the court system and treatment process. She had never lived on her own before nor did she ever learn to become independent. While in the program she worked hard on herself and her case manager was able to build a solid relationship as well as gain her trust and together they were able to get the client to learn to be confident and independent. The client was able to work and save money while also paying off all the fines and fees necessary to get her license and she was able to find stable housing nearby. She saved enough money to get into her own place, get furniture and begin a better future while maintaining her independence and her relationship with her kids.

Although he is still living in the facility, we have a client who continues to be a success and felt it necessary to share his story. He was a Mental Health Court client that graduated from their program successfully and was granted PTI even though that was not part of his original offer but since he did so well, the state granted it to him. When he got here, he had no intention of staying sober once he finished probation and had some trouble when he first arrived and relapsed. He completed 90 in 90, IOP, counseling, and all treatment recommendations. He has taken full advantage of the resources available and has been attending advanced classes at St Petersburg College for IT Security and even received his certification in that field all for free through the RISE Grant that is offered as a resource to our clients so they can attend classes at PTEC or St Petersburg College for free all while working part-time and attending all the groups, meetings, and treatment. He has been paying his own rent on time, continues to attend classes and meetings and is highly involved in the community. He volunteers for various activities at church, school, and with the city. He is part of the Honor Society and Student Government at school, and he even takes some of our new clients to meetings to help them get adapted. He no longer desires to go back to using substances and is always looking for new ways to stay involved. He has rebuilt his relationship with his father and is currently in his first healthy relationship and brings his significant other to meetings with him. Even though it is not required by us nor the courts, he has recently signed himself up for additional counseling and mental health services because he believes it is necessary for his future and overall well-being. We are looking forward to his continued success in the program and beyond.

Grant Award Amount: \$50,000.00

Grant Amount Unspent: \$1,581.25



CITY HALL - P.O. Box 1100
PINELLAS PARK, FL 33780-1100

Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C) Program FY 2024-2025

Project Title: Conversion Rifle Bolt Kits and Training Rifle Magazines
Award Amount: \$12,561.56

Project Summary

The City of Pinellas Park received funding through the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C) Program to enhance officer training capabilities through the purchase of Conversion Rifle Bolt Kits and Training Rifle Magazines.

Project Status

All grant funds have been expended as planned, and the equipment – Conversion Rifle Bolt Kits and Training Rifle Magazines - were procured, received, inventoried and integrated into the Police Department's firearm training curriculum.

The Conversion Bolt Kits allow officers to safely train using their assigned service rifles with alternative training ammunition, significantly reducing wear on duty weapons and lowering ammunition costs. The Training Rifle Magazines complement the conversion kits by providing reliable feeding during simulated exercise. Together, this equipment enables officers to participate in more frequent and realistic training scenarios, including rapid response drills and scenario-based tactical exercises.

Project Goals

The outcomes of this project directly reflect and fulfill the department's goal of enhancing officer training. The new equipment has:

- **Increased Training Realism:** Officers now train with their assigned rifles under conditions that more closely simulate real operational use
- **Expanded Training Opportunities:** The cost-effectiveness of using conversion kits allows for more frequent and intensive training sessions
- **Improved Skill Proficiency:** Officers have measurable improvement in weapon handling and tactical decision-making.
- **Enhanced Training Safety:** The conversion system enables realistic training while reducing risks associated with live ammunition during certain exercise.
- **Strengthened Readiness:** The enhanced training capacity ensures officers are better prepared to respond effectively and confidently in real-world situations.

These results demonstrate this project successfully accomplished its goal of improving officer training quality, safety and effectiveness.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
6051 78TH AVENUE NORTH
PINELLAS PARK, FL 33781

Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C) Program FY 2024-2025

Pinellas Park Police Department
11/20/2025



Project Summary

- **Project Title:** Conversion Rifle Bolt Kits and Training Rifle Magazines
- **Award Amount:** \$12,561.56
- The City of Pinellas Park received funding through the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Justice Assistance Grant Countywide (JAG-C) Program to enhance officer training capabilities through the purchase of Conversion Rifle Bolt Kits and Training Rifle Magazines.



Project Purpose

- Conversion Bolt Kits allow officers to:
 - Safely train using their assigned service rifles with alternative training ammunition
 - Significantly reduces wear on duty weapons and lowers ammunition costs.
- Training Rifle Magazines complement the conversion kits by providing reliable feeding during simulated exercises.



Project Outcomes

- The outcomes of this project directly reflect and fulfill the department's goal of enhancing officer training. The new equipment has:
 - Increased Training Realism
 - Expanded Training Opportunities
 - Improved Skill Proficiency
 - Enhanced Training Safety
 - Strengthened Readiness



Project Status

- All grant funds have been expended as planned, and all equipment has been procured, received, inventoried and integrated into the Police Department's firearm training curriculum.



Grant Funding in Use



Thank You



Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund Presentations

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Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc. d.b.a Eleos

Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services d.b.a. Eleos functions as a part of a community system of care and has been committed to providing care in crisis since 1981. JARF Pinellas County provides alcohol and substance abuse detoxification services for youth under 18 years of age in a secure environment. JARF is a Marchman Act Receiving Facility. Early intervention is one of the best ways to help your child live drug-free. The JARF is designed to provide quality, comprehensive care and assessment for youths, ages 13 through 17, who are in need of assessment and stabilization due to substance abuse impairment.

Project: IT Improvement Project – Dell Desktop Computers

The funding from the grant was used to update a portion of our fleet of computers in the agency. As Microsoft has sunset Windows 10 more than two thirds of the computers in our agency had to be replaced because the processors could not support the upgrade to Windows 11. The grant assisted us in completing this upgrade as we prepare to move into our new Emergency Services and children's crisis unit.

Grant Award: \$5,203.86

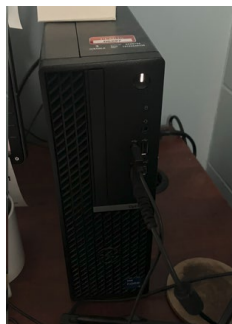
Amount Spent: \$5,203.86

Photographs

Our old equipment was purchased in March of 2014



Our new equipment allows us to modernize the agency and gives the staff a more efficient work environment.



Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services

For more than five decades, Gulf Coast JFCS has served as a lifeline for individuals and families navigating life's most challenging moments. We work to **protect the vulnerable, empower individuals, and strengthen families**. What sets us apart is the breadth of our programs, our commitment to client-centered, trauma-informed care, and decades of proven community impact. Last year alone, we served 16,400 individuals through 27 programs in Pinellas County.

Our agency provides both **Substance Use Prevention and Intervention services**, addressing risk factors and promoting protective factors through single-serve and ongoing interventions. Demand continues to grow, with program capacity reaching 90%. The **Pinellas County Quick Response Team (QRT)**, supported by case managers and peer navigators, conducts outreach to individuals who have recently experienced an overdose—providing naloxone, education, and connections to treatment. To date, the QRT has responded to hundreds of referrals and distributed more than 500 naloxone kits. Additionally, our **Supported Housing program** helps more than 150 Pinellas County residents living with substance use disorders or severe, persistent mental illness secure and maintain stable housing.

Through this grant, Gulf Coast JFCS was awarded **\$8,000** to purchase a **visitor management system** featuring a standalone iPad kiosk with an enclosed badge printer, Wi-Fi capability, and an integrated ID scanner. This system enhances security and operational efficiency while creating a welcoming, professional environment for all visitors.

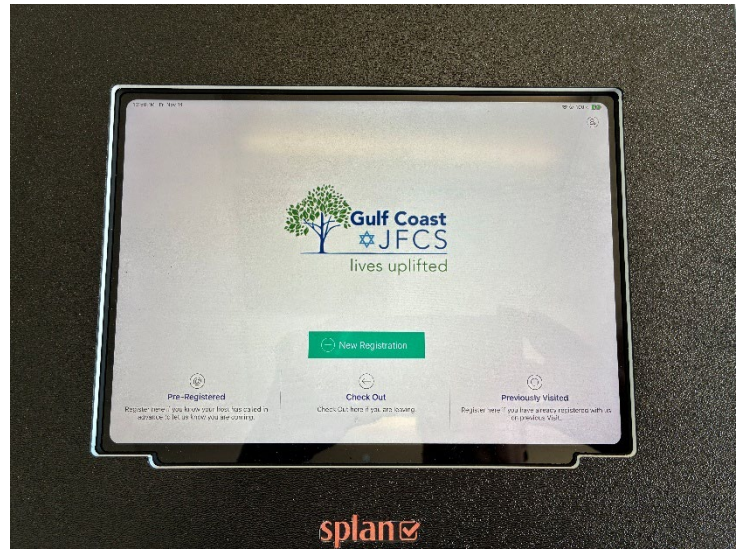
Project: Visitor Management System

Through this project, we implemented a visitor management system that includes a standalone iPad kiosk with an enclosed badge printer, Wi-Fi connectivity, and an integrated ID scanner. This system provides a streamlined, user-friendly check-in process that enhances security and creates a safer environment for staff, clients, and visitors.

Grant Award: \$8,000.00

Amount Spent: \$8,000.00

Photographs





Administrative Offices
6655 66th Street North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Ph: 727-545-7564
Fax: 727-545-7584
www.operationpar.org

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RECIPIENT NAME: Operation PAR, Inc.

The mission of Operation PAR is to strengthen our community by caring for families and individuals impacted by substance use and to promote mental well-being. As a leading provider of services for prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health issues, we help children, adults and their families to overcome struggles with substances and to maintain their recovery. Operation PAR provides residential substance use treatment and support services, outpatient treatment, peer support services, case management, medically managed withdrawal services, and medication assisted treatment (MAT) using all three FDA-approved Medications for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD).

Operation PAR received \$9,021.99 from the SAAB Trust Fund to purchase 12 "guest" chairs for counselors' offices and 15 steel-frame desks for residential use. All funds have been expended.

Project: Operation PAR – Trust Fund

Funding was provided to create a more functional and welcoming environment for residents in our care. The quality of a resident's experience in treatment can have a significant impact on their retention in care. And, their experience is impacted by both their time in and out of counseling sessions.

Item	Qty	Unit Price	Total
Guest Chairs for Counselor Offices:	12	\$205.99	\$2,471.88
Residential Room Desks:	15	\$420.00	\$6,300.00
Shipping for Desks:	1	\$250.11	\$ 250.11
			\$9,021.99

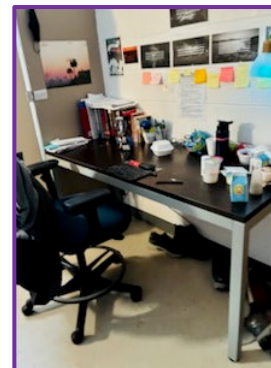
Grant Award: \$9,021.99 Amount Spent: \$9,021.99



Comfortable chairs help to enhance client experiences and make meeting with counselors and staff more effective.



Personal desks provide an opportunity for residents to create a space of their own that helps to meet their needs while in treatment.





Westcare Davis Bradley is a 200-bed residential treatment facility for criminal justice involved clients who have a substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health. Length of stay ranges from 8-18 months during which the clients attend daily clinical and therapeutic groups. Clients are assisted in obtaining identification, county health insurance and connections to mental health and medical providers as needed. Participants obtain and engage in employment prior to discharge ensuring that they leave with the resources in place for future success.

Project: Convection Oven

The acquisition of a new double oven at Davis Bradley has significantly enhanced the efficiency and reliability of our kitchen operations. With this equipment, staff are now able to prepare meals for all 180 clients simultaneously, eliminating the need for staggered cooking shifts. This improvement has reduced staff workload and stress, ensured that clients consistently receive hot and timely meals, and removed the operational disruptions previously caused by frequent repairs to aging equipment.

Grant Award: \$9,923.05

Amount Spent: \$9,923.05



FY25-26 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund Recommendations

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Trust Fund

Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (to be spent October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026)

Amount Available: \$35,000.00

AGENCY NAME	PROJECT TITLE	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT
Boley Centers, Inc.	Koenig Center Caboose Renovation	\$10,000.00
Eleos	Medical Equipment	\$10,000.00
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, Inc.	Technology Update	\$6,000.00
Operation PAR	Largo Campus Accessibility	\$7,898.00
TOTAL		\$33,898.00

Remaining funding balance of \$1,102.00 will rollover to next fiscal year

FFY24-25 Edward Byrne Memorial
Justice Assistance Grant Countywide
(JAG-C)
Fund Recommendations

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT-COUNTYWIDE

(JAG-C) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024

AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$232,520.00

APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT
City of Clearwater Police Department	Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase	\$66,429.40
City of Pinellas Park Police Department	Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase	\$12,938.60
City of St. Petersburg Police Department	SPPD Rapid Response Drug Detection Initiative	\$25,000.00
Eleos Wellness	Restraint Chairs	\$24,900.00
Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP)	Emergency Shelter Program for Justice-Involved Adults	\$50,000.00
MORE HEALTH, Inc.	Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention	\$30,000.00
Pinellas County Human Services	JAG Planning Grant Position	\$23,252.00
TOTAL		\$232,520.00

*The Committee recommends that if any of the above agencies decline the award, funds will be disbursed equally to projects in order of ranking until funds are exhausted.