



Submission of Information

Request for Changes from Currently Contracted Network Service Providers or Request for Funding from Uncontracted Service Providers

Introduction

LSF Health Systems (LSFHS) is the Managing Entity for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) programs in the Northeast and North Central Florida Region. LSFHS is responsible for the administration of mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for the underserved populations creating a safety net for vulnerable consumers.

Each program serves the neediest individuals that meet DCF's SAMH target population criteria in the Northeast and North Central region and provides for a comprehensive array of outpatient, inpatient and residential services including, but not limited to; therapy, case management, medication management, residential, room and board, crisis and emergency support, prevention, intervention, outreach, peer services, supported housing, and supported employment.

LSFHS uses the Submission of Information process for the following:

- Requests for funding from uncontracted service providers;
- Requests for restoration of funds pulled due to lapse;
- Requests for changes to programming;
- Request for shifts between funding areas;
- Requests for an increase in funding for any reason.

It is the policy for contracted Network Service Providers to provide information and justification for any of the above circumstances. LSFHS accepts submissions from providers at any time and may also initiate this process due to a specific funding concern within the system of care including the need to redistribute lapsed funding.

Submissions shall be submitted to the Network Service Provider's assigned Network Manager via email. LSFHS Management Team will review all submissions, conduct an analysis of the impact of the request, and provide a written response, if chosen for the next step in the selection process. Additional information and follow-up questions may be solicited based on this review.

Funding Request Form

Please fill out the information below accurately and completely, then submit to procurement@lsfnet.org.

1. Organization Name, Address and Contract Number (if current Network Service Provider):

Hernando County Fire Rescue
15470 Flight Path Drive
Brooksville FL 34604

2. Organization Contact Person Name, Email, and Phone Number for this Submission:

John S. Pearson, EMS Supervisor MIH-CP Coordinator.
jpearson@co.hernando.fl.us
(352) 540-0697

3. Briefly describe the programs, counties and populations served which are impacted by this request.

Hernando County's estimated 2025 population is 224,551 with a growth rate of 2.69% in the past year according to the most recent United States census data. Hernando County is the 26th largest county in Florida. The 2010 population was 172,978 and has seen a growth of 29.81% since that time.

Hernando County consistently shows higher fentanyl incident rates than the Florida average. The gap between Hernando County and Florida has widened from 16.7% in January 2023 to over 60% by early 2025. A significant spike occurred in October 2024, when Hernando's rate jumped to 48 incidents per 100,000. By Q1 2025, Hernando's rate (54 per 100,000) is 62% higher than Florida's average (33.3 per 100,000). The trend shows an accelerating crisis in Hernando County compared to the rest of Florida.

EXHIBIT G

4. Briefly describe your organization's need for additional funding, for a change in programming and/or for a change in funding as currently allocated. **Please include the dollar amount(s) you are requesting and whether or not the amount requested is for a full year or partial.** If the need for additional funding is due to funding being lapsed in the previous Fiscal Year, please provide an explanation for the lapse and describe your organization's capacity to spend funds if restored.

Hernando County Fire Rescue is requesting a budget in the third year of \$691,161. This is a full year's cost of the program as it continues to grow. The budget is inclusive of three personnel and two vehicles dedicated to the program and operating costs of the program. This budget also includes a capital expense of one Life Pak 35 Monitoring unit of \$60,000 to be utilized in the second paramedicine vehicle.

5. Briefly describe your organization's plan for the additional funding, change in funding or change in programming. In the event that a service is being discontinued, this plan should outline how the previously served population will be served after the change is made.

Hernando County Fire Rescue hired an EMS Supervisor / MIH-CP Coordinator to implement and oversee the Florida Mobile Integrated Healthcare Community Paramedicine Program. The coordinator will manage the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network which resulted in the hiring of two dedicated Community Paramedics. This funding will pay for the three mentioned employee's salaries, as well as the operational costs associated with running the program. EXHIBIT G / SUBSECTION 3 outlines the need for additional funding to effectively manage the fentanyl crisis in Hernando County.

EXHIBIT G

6. If a license is required for the proposed program, have you obtained it (DCF Substance Abuse license for Outpatient services, AHCA license, etc.)? If not, but you have submitted your application, please describe what stage in the process you are in?

No additional licenses are required.

7. Briefly describe your organization's expertise about the delivery of service to the identified population which will be impacted by this change.

Hernando County Fire Rescue (HCFR) has been treating overdoses since its inception on October 01, 2000 when the county EMS provider merged with its local fire departments. The population of Hernando County has grown exponentially as the United States Census Bureau reported a population of 131,390 in 2000; whereas, the last study reported in 2022 showed the population had increased to 206,896. Due to the National Opioid Crisis, Hernando County Paramedics can finally treat these patients successfully through Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) via the CORE Network. Rather than just simply administering Nalaxone to the patient and transporting them to the local ER's, HCFR Paramedics who are trained in MAT, can now successfully treat those individuals who have an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and also assist them by providing resources such as clinicians who are trained in helping the patient with their addictions, mental health, or any other problems the patient may need help managing.

EXHIBIT G

8. Are the changes outlined above to be made for this fiscal year only or to be continued beyond year-end into subsequent fiscal years, assuming an ongoing contractual relationship between the agency and LSF Health Systems? Please explain this response.

The above mentioned is for the continuation into subsequent fiscal years. HCFR has purchased most of the relevant equipment and supplies required for year one; however, the program is designed to provide continued and uninterrupted service for subsequent years.

9. Define and describe the Program Goals.

The goals for the Community Paramedicine program are to assist the citizens of Hernando County who currently have addictions to opioids by providing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). HCFR will schedule appointments to visit a patient at either their residence, or wherever the patient can be located. The Community Paramedic and Social Worker will provide a consultation and evaluation to the patient for any needed assistance, treatment, or services. By providing the resources necessary for recovery, the goal is to create a healthier environment and assist the patient by providing information that will assist them with all of their healthcare needs.

10. Define and describe the Proposed Outcome Measures for the program in which funding is being requested.

HCFR documents all patient care via ePCR. Currently, information (stats) is ascertained through EPR FireWorks, or biospatial data. We can run a query on specific call types as well as the patients outcome post treatment through our ePCR reporting software. We can currently track overdoses, nalaxone usage, etc, so we'll be able to track MAT administration as well as patient outcomes.

EXHIBIT G

11. **Outside organizations only:** Describe your organization's data collection capacity and list the name of the data collection system. If you utilize an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, confirm its capacity to export data as an XML file.

12. **Outside organizations only:** Describe your organization's business administration capacity specifically related to human resources and financial management.

EXHIBIT G

13. **Outside organizations only:** Level 2 Background Screening, through the DCF Clearinghouse, is a requirement for staff members from each agency who enters into a contract with LSFHS. Does your organization currently conduct Level 2 Background Screenings for staff members using this method? If not, are you willing to conduct the required screenings for compliance with the contract?

14. Please provide, as an attachment, the **Exhibit C and D - Projected Operating and Capital Budget**, using the most recent template, outlining the requested funding including OCAs and associated covered services. Statistics or data regarding utilization to substantiate the request may also be supplied.



Signature of Organization's CEO

5/6/25

Date



Signature of Organization's Contract Manager

8/28/25

Date