



HOUSING & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (HSS)  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

Public Service Projects  
Application for Program Year 2024

**Veda Ramirez, Director**



Hernando County Housing & Supportive Services (HSS)  
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for Public Services Projects  
Program Year (PY) 2024

**APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**Proposal Preparer/Staff Contact Information**

Locality/Organization Name	Salvare, Inc. d/b/a Dawn Center of Hernando County
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 6179
Organization Website	www.dawncenter.org
Phone #	352-684-7191
Fax #	352-684-7941
Federal Tax ID #	59-3188546
DUNS # / SAMS#	052920324/ UEI: FGVLTGDPNWU9
Authorized Official Name/Title	Dr.Shannon Sokolowski/Executive Director
Official E-mail Address	ssokolowski@dawncenter.org
Contact Person	Jessica Coughlin
Contact Person E-mail Address	jcoughlin@dawncenter.org

**Activity Title (Keep to 50 characters)**

Moving Ahead with Economic Empowerment

**Specify Service Area (in Hernando County)**

Unincorporated Hernando County

**Location where Public Services will be provided:**

Spring Hill Branch Library, West Hernando Branch Library, Dawn Center Emergency Shelter (confidential location F.S. 39.908)

**Proximity to Transit-Rich Area: Will proposed activity be located within one mile of transit service? Or will transportation be provided? Please identify location and distance of nearest transit service or area where transportation will be provided:**

Yes, both library locations are on Hernando County 'The Bus' routes, transportation assistance provided to Dawn Center Shelter residents

**Funding Request – (Minimum \$20,000 for all projects)**

	County	Other Funds	Total
Total CDBG Funds Requested	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 383,933.00	\$ 413,933.00

**Activity Description (Brief – 250 character limit)**

Dawn Center's Economic Empowerment program will address financial stability and self-sufficiency needs of intimate partner violence survivors through financial literacy workshops, goal setting, and childcare. Workshops will be offered publicly as well as at Dawn Center's Emergency Shelter.

## ELIGIBILITY

***Please refer to the instructions for assistance in completing the proposal.***

Agencies in a non-compliance status with any current funding agreement with Hernando County, as determined by HHS, are not eligible to apply under this RFP.

CDBG funding may only be used to provide reimbursement for eligible public services/programs (including salaries and benefits, supplies, materials and other program delivery costs).

Projects must provide a new service or a quantifiable increase in the current level of service and demonstrate that new or increased funding does not merely replace other state or local government funding for an existing service.

**Provided whether the proposed service is either** (check one):

☒

A new service

*\* A project is considered new if the proposed project or service has never been funded by Hernando County under Public Services in response to this RFP*

☐

A quantifiable increase in the level of a service

### I. NATIONAL OBJECTIVE CRITERIA AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### A. National Objectives:

1. To be eligible for CDBG funding from the County, the activity must meet the National Objective: “**Benefits low – to moderate-income (LMI) persons.**” To be considered as benefiting low- and moderate-income persons, an activity must fall into either Area Benefit, Limited Clientele/Low Mod Income or Limited Clientele/Presumed Benefit. Please check the applicable box for your activity:

☐ **Area Benefit** – The activity serves only a limited area, which is confirmed by 2020 Census data or survey to determine Low/Moderate Income. Refer to: <https://hud.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffd0597e8af24f88b501b7e7f326bedd>. By choosing this category, you must be able to prove that your activity benefits primarily LMI households. At least 51% of the residents within the targeted activity area are LMI income households (80% AMI).

Census Tract	Block Group

☐ **Limited Clientele/Low Mod Income**

• How will you verify clientele income?

- ☐ Tax Returns
- ☐ Pay Stubs
- ☐ Bank Records
- ☐ Other, please explain

☒ **Limited Clientele/Presumed Benefit** – Serving 100% of clientele that meet one of the following presumed benefit categories. Only check if applicable.

- ☐ Abused Children
- ☐ Illiterate Adults
- ☐ Elderly Persons (62+)
- ☐ Persons living with HIV/AIDS
- ☒ Battered Spouses
- ☐ Migrant Farm Workers
- ☐ Severely Disabled Adults
- ☐ Homeless Persons

**2. Identify the number of low- and moderate-income households you propose to serve:**

- ☒ 0-30% AMI 10 households
- ☒ 31-50% AMI 2 households
- ☒ 51-80% AMI 2 households

**3. Number & Percentage of LMI Served. Do Not Include City of Brooksville Residents.**

Please select the applicable beneficiary accomplishment type:

Unit	Total Served	Total LMI	% LMI
Individuals to be Served by Activity	30	30	100
Households to be Served by Activity	15	15	100

**B. Eligible CDBG Activities – Select One**

- ☐ Homeless Services
- ☐ Child Care Services
- ☐ Health Care Services
- ☐ Employment Training Services
- ☐ Senior Services
- ☐ Handicapped Services

- ☐ Legal Services  
☐ Youth Services  
☐ Housing Counseling Services

- ☒ Domestic Violence Services  
☐ Substance Abuse Services  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Consistency with Hernando County Consolidated Plan

1. What priority in the 2024-2026 Consolidated Plan does the proposed project seek to address? (Please refer to Instructions for list of priorities)

— Public Services

## III. Performance Measures: (Check all that apply to your proposal)

- ☐ Suitable Living Environment  
☐ Decent Housing  
☒ Creating Economic Opportunity

## IV. Outcome Categories: (Check all that apply to your proposal)

- ☒ Availability/Accessibility  
☐ Affordability  
☐ Sustainability

## V. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- A. **Scope of Services**- Provide a detailed breakdown of the proposed Scope of Services for the CDBG funding, i.e. objective of activities, the service to be provided, and the end product expected. (Limit response to 1000 characters).

Please see attached document

- B. **Activity Timeline** – Please fill out projected timeline. No funds can be spent until the environmental review is complete (as applicable) and funding agreement is executed. Funds will not be available until after October 1, 2024.

Date	Milestone
June 15, 2025	notice of award, notify internal staff who will facilitate workshops and activities
June 16-19, 2025	planning meeting with staff, confirm dates and times with public locations where workshops will be held
by June 20, 2025	prepare marketing materials, determine childcare needs
by June 26, 2025	workshop 1 held at both public locations
by July 24, 2025	workshop 2 held at both public locations
August 28, 2025	workshop 3 held at both public locations
June 16-September 26, 2025	ongoing financial literacy workshops, goal setting, and childcare in Emergency Shelter setting

## VI. ACTIVITY BUDGET

- A. **Sources** – Attach supporting documentation verifying commitment or award letters from sources external to your agency (e.g., financial institutions, government, quasi-government, or grant agencies) for this proposal. Leveraging is calculated using the following formula: Committed External Funds / Total Project Cost = Leveraged % from agency.

Other Funding Source(s) Attach letters of commitment	Amount of Funds	Committed	Pending
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
	\$		
Total	\$	\$	\$

List All Funds Received from Hernando County since 2022	Amount of Funds	Committed	Pending
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$

**B. Uses – Attach supporting documentation**

Budgeted Activities	CDBG Funds Requested	Other Funds	Total Activity Cost
\$	\$	\$	\$
\$	\$	\$	\$
\$	\$	\$	\$
\$	\$	\$	\$
\$	\$	\$	\$

**C. Who prepared the cost estimate? (Attach supporting documentation)**

- ☐ Proposer: Name of Staff Person(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other Contractor or Consultant: Name of Firm \_\_\_\_\_

**C. When was the budget cost estimate prepared?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**D. On what basis did you determine that the estimated costs were reasonable and accurate?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**E. How will you ensure the activity will be financially sustainable after funding? (Limit response to 1000 characters)**

Dawn Center will cross train volunteers. Once supplies are purchased, we can continue to use ongoing We will continue to explore new opportunities for relationship development and funding streams to offset the loss of childcare. Dawn Center will regularly evaluate the impact of the program and make changes if needed.

## VII. FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION

The documentation will help determine whether a Proposer is solvent and has the cash flow available to complete a CDBG project within the timeline of the executed agreement. All financial documents should be provided in a separate attachment from the application.

Hernando County Department of Management and Budget will be reviewing the financial stability of the organization. The following questions will be considered by the Department to determine the financial capacity of the Proposer.

### A. Financial Capacity:

- ☒ Does proposer show financial oversight and internal controls?
- ☒ Can proposer achieve income stability by demonstrating capacity to generate income?
- ☒ Does proposer show responsible stewardship of resources it has received?
- ☒ Is there adequate management that has practices in place for financial reporting?
- ☒ Is the proposer viable based on its mission and its ability to carry out its mission in a stable and effective way?

### B. Financial Documents Required:

1. If the proposer has been awarded more than \$750,000 in Federal funding in the last year, then the proposer must provide the most current (no older than two years) signed copy of proposer's Single Audit.
2. If the proposer has been awarded less than \$750,000 in federal funding in the last year, then they must submit a certified financial statement in lieu of an audit. The certified financial statement must include the following information:
  - a. Current financial position to determine:
    - Stability (cash flow versus reliable income)
    - Sustainability (budget showing a surplus or deficit)
    - Reasonable accounting format (showing assets and liabilities and composition of expenses)
  - b. Results of operations or changes in net assets.
  - c. If the proposer has received any federal award (directly or indirectly), then they must provide the schedule of expenditures of the federal award(s) for the period covered by the financial statement, include the total federal award expended for each individual federal program, federal Organization name, pass-through entity (if applicable), and CFDA number (or other identifying number if CFDA number is not available);
  - d. If applicable, identify in the financial statement notes the total amount provided for a loan or loan guarantee program(s); include the schedule of balance

outstanding at the end of the audit period. Also include notes that describe the accounting policies used in preparing the schedule and if the auditee elected to use the 10% de minimis cost rate on indirect costs;

- Restrictions (temporary and permanent) that impact income statements.
- Copy of financial policies and procedures, and
- Copy of the most recent IRS Form 990.

3. Attachment of the organization's current financial policy and procedures.

**C. Financial Analysis Parameters:**

- ☐ Number of Days from Financial Statement Issued
- ☐ Current Ratio – should be equal or greater than 1 to 1
- ☐ Days Cash on Hand – Industry Average is 90 days
- ☐ Cash Flow Ratio – Ratio should be positive
- ☐ Debt Ratio
- ☐ Reliance Ratio
- ☐ Reliance on Government Ratio
- ☐ Personnel Cost Ratio
- ☐ Benefit Cost Ratio
- ☐ Gen, Admin and Fundraising Cost Ratio
- ☐ Profitability Ratio

**VIII. GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

**A.** Identify names and titles of members of the Board:

Name	Title
Amy Nixon	President
Dr. Lori Romano	Vice President
Sylvia Berringer	Treasurer
Sharon Twyman	Secretary
Tina Hall, Genie Buckingham, Captain John McMurdo	Board Members
Chauntina Mays, Rhonda Jones, Ariel Waskey, Andrew Witherell	Board Members
Rebecca Halaska, Quennise Giles, Barbara Renczkowski	Board Members

**B.** Identify staff members' names and position who will administer the activity and be responsible for all compliance requirements:

Name	Position
Dr. Shannon Sokolowski	Executive Director
Amber Hill	Senior Staff Accountant
Jessica Coughlin	Residential Services Manager



- C.** Briefly describe the extent and years of experience of the staff members who will administer this activity with these CDBG funds. (Limit to 100 characters)

Jessica Coughlin, MS in Criminal Justice, 10 years' experience within child welfare and domestic violence

- D.** Briefly describe the extent and years of experience of the staff members in administering grants, regulatory compliance, and fiduciary responsibilities. (Limit to 100 characters)

Amber Hill, BS in Business Administration, 10 years' experience  
Dr. Shannon Sokolowski, Ph.D. in Public Affairs, 22 years' experience

- E.** Explain proposer's administrative capacity to carry out activity successfully. (Limit to 100 characters)

- F.** In the past year, did your organization have any past compliance findings or concerns from HSS monitoring (in writing) or other agency?

— no

- G.** Have all compliance issues from the past year been resolved, if applicable?

— N/A

- H.** Partnering organizations, collaborating on this program, if applicable:

— Hernando County Public Library, United Way of Hernando County

- I.** Marketing plan to acquire clients, if applicable. (1000-character limit)

Utilization of agency Facebook and Instagram accounts to advertise workshops, development and distribution of flyer that can be posted online and in local offices including Dawn Center's co-located Advocate at courthouse, public library, and other local community partners.

- J.** ☒ Attach Letter from Board Chair authorizing signature of "Authorized Official."

- K.** Other Documentation – Please attach documents.

**Federal Suspension and Debarment Certification:**

Federal Executive Order 12549 prohibits federal, state, and local public agencies receiving grant funding from contracting with individuals, organizations, or companies who have been excluded from participating in federal contracts or grants. The purpose of this certification is for the contractor/vendor to advise Hernando County, in writing, of any current Federal Suspension and Debarment.

Debarment Certification. By signing and submitting a response to this competitive solicitation, I certify that this firm and its principals are not currently suspended or debarred by any Federal Department or Agency from participating in Federally Funded Contracts.

**Authorized Signature of Applicant:** To the best of my knowledge and belief, all information in this application is true and correct. The document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant who will comply with all contractual obligations if the proposal is awarded funding.

Signature of Authorized

Representative:

Typed Name and

Title:

  
Dr. Shannon Sokolowski, Executive Director

Date Signed: 5/29/25.

**IX. CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information contained in this proposal is true and correct and that it contains no misrepresentations, falsifications, intentional omissions, or concealment of material facts. I further certify that no contracts have been awarded, funds committed, or construction begun on the proposed project, and that no action will be taken prior to issuance of official authorization to proceed by the Hernando County Housing & Supportive Services Department. I further certify that I am authorized to submit this Proposal and have followed all policies and procedures of my Organization regarding grant claim submissions.



Signature of Authorized Official

Dr. Shannon Sokolowski

Name of Authorized Official

Executive Director

Title

5/29/25.

Date