

## **Operation Lift Hope, Inc.**

### **Proposed Crisis Bridge Housing Pilot Program**

#### **White paper**

**Serving:** Estimated to serve a minimum of 32 homeless families and 16 homeless individuals residing in Fort Lauderdale. Utilizing the proposed Bridge Housing Pilot Program qualifying homeless individuals and families will receive a hotel room at a negotiated rate of \$60 per night for an average of 21 nights and receive the appropriate support services to determine the best permanent housing solution.

**Earmarked 1,000 hotel rooms for this pilot program in cooperation with Extended Stay America**

**Proposed funding for hotel expenses for the pilot program provided by:**

**\$20,000 - City of Fort Lauderdale Individual and Family Households**

**\$20,000 - Broward County – Limited to Individual Households**

**\$20,000 - Operation Lift Hope – Limited to Family Households**

**\$60,000 - Total proposed project budgeted amount**

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#### **Overview:**

The proposed Crisis Bridge Housing Pilot Program addresses immediate housing needs of families and individuals that are in crises and experiencing homelessness within the City of Fort Lauderdale between State Road 7/441 East to Fort Lauderdale Beach and 17th Street Causeway North to Commercial Boulevard. Operation Lift Hope, a 501.C.3 non-profit engaged the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Broward County Community Partnership Division / Homeless Initiative Partnership – “A Way Home” Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency and area homeless service providers to create a program that provides alternative housing solutions to emergency shelters and other temporary housing facilities. Currently, the emergency shelters and temporary housing facilities are at capacity and families, children and individuals are living in places not meant for habitation in the City of Fort Lauderdale on a daily basis.

Recognizing and working within the Homeless Continuum of Care “A Way Home” systematic Plan to End Homelessness, this pilot program enhances the plan and provides new opportunities to ENGAGE, EMPOWER, EDUCATE and EMPLOY persons experiencing homelessness in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Crisis Bridge Housing Program proposes to ENGAGE homeless families and individuals at the time of their most urgent need and provide temporary housing until an appropriate permanent housing solution is achieved. The proposed Bridge Housing Pilot Program is a catalyst to place qualifying homeless individuals and families in the City of Fort Lauderdale into a permanent housing.

### **The Team:**

Members from the following organization have been working together to develop the proposed Bridge Housing Pilot Program:

- Operation Lift Hope – 501.c.3 non-profit
- City of Fort Lauderdale - Office of City Manager Homeless Intervention Division
- City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department
- Broward County Homeless Initiatives Partnership – “A Way Home” Continuum of Care
- Broward Sheriff’s Office
- The Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc. - Service Provider
- Hope South Florida, Inc. - Service Provider
- Taskforce Fore Ending Homelessness, Inc.
- Extended Stay America – Community partner providing short-term room rentals to bridge the gap from street habitation to an appropriate housing solution

### **Program Guidelines:**

- The proposed Crisis Bridge Housing Pilot Program would be Chaired by designated City of Fort Lauderdale staff member and Andy Mitchell, Chairman and President of Operation Lift Hope
- Use of Broward County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to document client services and to facilitate services via Coordinated Assessment

- Utilization of existing Continuum of Care service providers to ENGAGE the program participants to determine appropriate housing solutions and provide necessary support services to transition to permanent housing.
- Serving the City of Fort Lauderdale homeless families and individuals between State Road 7/441 East to Fort Lauderdale Beach and 17th Street Causeway North to Commercial Boulevard.
- The CoC Family Intake Coordinator is authorized to approve individual and family hotel placements during regular business hours to meet the immediate shelter/housing needs of the person(s) experiencing homelessness in the designated Pilot area and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, the City of Fort Lauderdale Homeless Intervention Division may authorize hotel placement after normal business hours/weekends.
- Through the Broward County Continuum of Care coordinated assessment process the program participants will meet with case managers from Hope South Florida, Inc., and Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc., to determine their appropriate housing solution within five (5) calendar days of placement in the hotel.
- There are five (5) selected Extended Stay Hotels dedicated for utilization throughout Broward County for this pilot program based upon room availability. If a room is not available at time of initial contact, all efforts to coordinate shelter should be exhausted.
- During normal business hours, transportation to hotel(s) may be provided by Broward Sheriff's Office, Fort Lauderdale Police Department or partner service provider agencies after approved entry into the proposed Pilot Bridge Housing Program. After hour and weekend transportation may be provided by Fort Lauderdale Police Department or Broward Sheriff's Office as authorized. Bus passes may also be used during off-hours and/or over the weekend upon entry into the proposed Pilot Bridge Housing Program.
- Hope South Florida, Inc. and Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Inc., are committed to provide case management and support services to homeless families with young children and individuals.

- A monthly tracking system will be used to identify families in the system and success rate in movement to their own apartment to include a six month status check to determine housing stability.
- City of Fort Lauderdale through the Rapid Rehousing Program (as funds are available) may mitigate damages incurred in the hotel rooms during the proposed pilot program.
- The flow diagram attached outlines how the process will work.
- A presentation will be made to the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission and Broward County Board of Commissioners launching the proposed pilot program with a follow up presentation after 3 months to provide the status of the program, the challenges, opportunities for improvement and success of the program.
- The Program Chairs will invite other organizations and municipalities to attend a working session with the Multi-Agency Homeless Taskforce to introduce the pilot program.
- A status report will be provided to all stakeholders involved in the program after 90- days of implementation of the pilot program.