



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):

Levy County Board of County Commissioners

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

Kari Bastow, bastow-kari@levycounty.org, 352-486-5218

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

The Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Program serves residents of Levy County by providing proactive, community-based healthcare support aimed at reducing non-emergency 911 calls, improving chronic disease management, and connecting individuals to appropriate medical, behavioral health, substance use disorder (SUD), and social services. The program primarily benefits vulnerable populations, including elderly residents, individuals with chronic health conditions, frequent utilizers of emergency medical services, individuals experiencing or at risk for substance use disorders, and residents with limited access to primary care and behavioral health services.

Through in-home visits and community-based outreach, Community Paramedicine staff are uniquely positioned to identify individuals whose health or emergency service utilization may be affected by substance use and connect them with qualified community providers offering appropriate SUD prevention, treatment, recovery, and supportive services, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) when appropriate. By addressing healthcare and behavioral health needs in a non-emergency setting and strengthening connections to appropriate providers, the program seeks to improve patient outcomes while reducing strain on emergency response resources countywide.

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.

Levy County is requesting \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 funding to support the continued operation and expansion of the Levy County Paramedicine Program. The funding request represents a full-year allocation and will support critical personnel and operational needs associated with providing community-based paramedicine services throughout Levy County. The requested funding includes support for two full-time (1.0 FTE) positions consisting of a Community Paramedicine Paramedic and a Program Coordinator. These positions are essential to the program's ability to provide proactive healthcare support, chronic disease monitoring, post-discharge follow-up care, wellness checks, resource coordination, and assistance to vulnerable and underserved residents within the community. In addition to personnel costs, the funding request includes partial funding for equipment necessary to support program operations and service delivery. Equipment needs include medical, communication, technology, and field response items necessary for staff to effectively conduct home visits, patient monitoring, reporting, and coordination with healthcare providers and community partners.

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.

Levy County plans to use the requested Fiscal Year 2026-2027 funding to continue operation of the County's Community Paramedicine Program by acquiring essential program equipment and supporting operational needs. The program provides proactive healthcare support services throughout Levy County, including wellness checks, chronic disease monitoring, post-discharge follow-up care, healthcare navigation, and coordination with local healthcare providers and community resources. The funding will help maintain and strengthen services aimed at reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and improving healthcare access for vulnerable and underserved residents. The request represents continued operational support and enhancement of an existing program and does not involve the discontinuation of services.

As part of this community-based approach, the program will support individuals with known or suspected substance use disorders by helping identify unmet SUD-related needs during home visits and patient contacts and facilitating connections to appropriate behavioral health, treatment, and recovery resources. Community Paramedicine staff will serve as a linkage and care coordination resource, helping individuals navigate available services, facilitating referrals to qualified SUD providers, including providers offering Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), and providing follow-up when appropriate to encourage successful connection to treatment and continuity of care. MAT will not be prescribed or administered by Levy County through the MIH/Community Paramedicine Program. Rather, the program will help connect individuals who may benefit from MAT to qualified treatment providers. This approach is particularly important for individuals who repeatedly interact with EMS or hospital emergency departments but may not otherwise successfully connect with ongoing treatment and recovery services.

- 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?**

The Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program does not provide clinical substance use disorder treatment or prescribe or administer Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). The program supports identification of SUD-related needs, care coordination, referral, and linkage to qualified SUD treatment and recovery service providers, including MAT providers when appropriate.

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

Levy County has strong experience delivering community-based healthcare through its EMS and Public Safety operations. The Community Paramedicine Program leverages trained paramedics to provide in-home care, chronic disease monitoring, and care coordination for vulnerable populations, including the elderly and frequent EMS users. Staff regularly collaborate with healthcare and social service providers to ensure effective, coordinated service delivery.

This established community-based model also provides an opportunity to identify residents with behavioral health or substance use-related needs and connect them with qualified treatment, recovery, and supportive service providers, including MAT providers when appropriate. EMS personnel frequently encounter individuals at critical points when intervention and connection to appropriate services may be particularly beneficial. The MIH model allows staff to support that connection through care navigation, referral, coordination, and appropriate follow-up.

- 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 operational expenses requested are specific to Fiscal Year 2026-2027, as program operational needs, equipment demands, and supply requirements may change annually based on service delivery needs and community demand.

- 9. Define and describe the Program Goals.**

The goal of the Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program is to improve health outcomes and reduce reliance on emergency services by providing proactive, patient-centered care in the community. The program focuses on reducing non-emergency 911 calls and avoidable hospital visits, supporting chronic disease management, improving access to care, and identifying unmet medical, behavioral health, and substance use-related needs among underserved and high-risk populations.

An additional goal is to strengthen connections between individuals with known or suspected substance use disorders and appropriate SUD treatment, recovery, and supportive services. This includes facilitating access to qualified providers offering MAT when appropriate. Through in-home visits, health assessments, referrals, follow-up, and coordination with healthcare, behavioral health, SUD, and social service providers, the program aims to reduce gaps in care and promote long-term health and stability for Levy County residents.

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

Proposed outcome measures for the Levy County Community Paramedicine Program include reducing avoidable emergency department utilization and hospital readmissions, improving continuity of care, and increasing access to healthcare and supportive services for vulnerable and underserved residents throughout Levy County. Program performance will be measured through metrics such as the number of residents served, home visits completed,

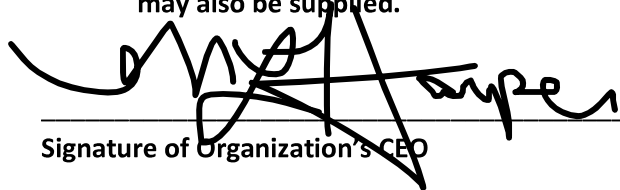
post-discharge follow-up contacts conducted, referrals to healthcare and community resources, successful connections to referred services, and reductions in repeat emergency service utilization among program participants. The program will also track partnerships and coordination efforts with healthcare providers, hospitals, and community organizations that support improved patient outcomes and overall community health. For individuals identified as having SUD-related needs, the program will track, as applicable, the number of individuals identified for referral, referrals made to SUD treatment or recovery support services, referrals to MAT providers when appropriate, successful connections to community-based providers, follow-up contacts completed, and repeat EMS utilization among participating individuals. These measures will help evaluate the program's effectiveness in improving access to SUD services, including MAT, and strengthening continuity of care for individuals who may otherwise rely on emergency services as a primary point of healthcare contact.

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.

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

Kari S. Bastow

Digitally signed by Kari S. Bastow
Date: 2026.05.05 17:00:45 -04'00'

Signature of Organization's Contract Manager

5/8/26

Date

5.5.2026

Date