



State of West Virginia

6/14/2024

OSF-13	Primary Location	Applicant
Opioid Settlement Fund	No location	 Hollis Lewis
Application		 304-410-7049
Status: Active		hlewis@firstchoiceservices.org
Submitted On: 6/10/2024		 1 Hillcrest Dr East
		Charleston, WV 25311

Internal Section

Decision

-

Award Amount

-

Additional Comments

Certification

PLEASE CERTIFY THAT YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE SCHEDULE A CORE STRATEGIES AND SCHEDULE B-APPROVED USES

Digital Signature*

 Hollis Lewis
Jun 10, 2024

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact Information

Organization Name*	Address* 
First Choice Services	1 Hillcrest Dr East
Website (if applicable)	Phone Number* 
https://firstchoiceservices.org/	3044107049
Email Address*	 Tax ID Number
hlewis@firstchoiceservices.org	
Tax ID Type*	Tax ID Number*
TIN	***-**-0507

Project Summary

Please provide a narrative overview or summary of your proposal, including but not limited to the following:

1. Brief description of the proposal *

First Choice Services, a Kanawha County based non-profit agency, along with several community partners including the City of Charleston, Marshall University, Community Connections, the West Virginia Hope in Action Alliance, Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center and the Wheeling Police Department, will host the second annual WV CIT Summit in Charleston July 29-31.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs are community-based programs that bring together first responders, mental health professionals, mental health advocates, and other partners to improve community responses to mental health crises. Although in 2016, WV was one of three states with no Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) trained agencies, today there are more than 3,000 CIT programs across the US with programs in every state.

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes*

The purpose of the WV CIT Summit is to provide community leaders with education on CIT programs which are evidence based to keep communities safer and improve outcomes for community members in need. CIT Summit objectives are to motivate communities to develop CIT programs, to provide education to community leaders about CIT, to provide networking opportunities to those interested in improving community crisis response, to highlight best national practices in community crisis care, and to connect existing WV CIT programs with one another.

3. Individuals or communities served*

First responders, Law Enforcement, mental health professionals, mental health advocates, substance uses disorder advocates, and other community partners throughout Kanawha County West Virginia.

4. Amount of funding requested*

15000

5. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable

70435

6. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization*

36500

7. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization*

Marshall University, WV Hope in Action Alliance, Community Connections, Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center, and The City of Charleston.

8. How Opioid Settlement funds, if awarded, will be used*

Awarded Opioid Settlement funds will be used to pay for remaining speaker fees and travel as well as hospitality services for Summit attendees.

9. Which Core Strategies or approved uses will be met*

The Core Strategy addressed will be G5 - Funding and training for first responders to participate in pre-arrest diversion programs...or similar strategies that connect at-risk individuals to behavioral health services and supports.

10. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

The project will be completed by August 1, 2024.

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address*

It is estimated that behavioral health and substance abuse crises comprise more than 50% of calls to which first responders are dispatched, however first responders receive little to no training on how to respond, de-escalate and transition individuals to appropriate treatment services. With additional training and skills, first responders can divert those in need to services and away from criminal justice involvement when possible and appropriate, relieving the burden on overcrowded jails and ensuring those in need get treatment.

2. Please provide the details regarding the design and strategy of your proposal*

The second annual WV CIT Summit will bring together 250 WV community leaders to learn and network over a period of 3 days. With a few WV communities beginning to build CIT models and many more in need of doing so, the event presents an opportunity for those who have begun the work to learn and grow their programs, and for others to get the information and support they need to get started. CIT programs are research proven to reduce LE use of force and increase positive outcomes for those suffering from behavioral health crises. CIT models effectively divert those in need from the criminal justice system to treatment services when possible.

3. Please provide your project timeline* 

The Summit will be held July 29-31 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston WV. The event has been in planning stages since October of 2023 and will be completed before August 1, 2024.

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.*

FCS is requesting \$15,000 in Opioid Settlement Funds. The total budget for the event is \$70,435.00. See Appendix A for greater detail.

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them. *

Marshall University is covering the cost of the venue at approximately 9K. The WV Hope in Action Alliance has contributed 2,500 as an event sponsor. Community Connections and Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center have each contributed 5,000 as meal sponsors. The City of Charleston has contributed 15K as a network reception sponsor and FCS is contributing 7,500 toward speaker fees and travel. In addition, FCS has already contributed 31K toward the CIT training of local first responders. This training was conducted June 3-7 this year in Charleston and was attended by 22 local first responders.

6. Please identify the anticipated leadership of the proposal and upload/attach their resume(s) or CVs*

Lata Menon, CEO for First Choice Services, along with Hollis Lewis, WV CIT Project Director, will assume leadership roles for the proposed project. Resumes are attached on Appendices B and C.

7. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted

The WV CIT Summit is in its second year. It is the intention of FCS to offer the Summit annually in support of providing continuing education opportunities for those operating and interested in CIT programs. As the event recurs each year and community leaders, first responders and behavioral health providers become more aware of the event and CIT programs, FCS anticipates the Summit will draw more paying attendees, vendors and sponsors and thereby become increasingly sustainable. Having held the first CIT Summit in 2023, the event has already grown from 150 to 250 seats, from one full day to three, and from roughly \$15,000 in sponsorship funds to more than \$35,000 in secured sponsorship for the 2024 event.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement. *

First Choice Services operates several programs and helplines across six states with the common goal of promoting wellbeing and facilitating access to behavioral health and social services. First Choice Services is proud to be a second chance employer, offering opportunities to peers with a variety of lived experiences.

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities*

See Appendix D - FCS History and Programs

3. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Kanawha County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s). *

First Choice Services operates an array of programs many of which are grant funded. At present the agency's funding is comprised of more than 15 state, federal and private grants and contracts. Though too many to detail here, a detailed description of the various contracts and grants can be provided upon request.

4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:*

Lata Menon, CEO; David Sheppard, CFO
FCS Board: Gerry Schmidt, COO Valley Health Care, Board President; Lisa Zappia, CEO Prestera, Board Vice President; Pam Harvit, Board Treasurer; Sara Life, CFO Westbrook Health, Board Secretary; Other Board Members: Mike Landis, CEO Potomac Highlands Guild; Terry Kiser, CEO Healthways; Matt Rudder, CEO Genisis

5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:*

Project Sponsor - Lata Menon, CEO FCS. The Project Sponsor is responsible for the project vision, critical decision making, managing resources and approving expenditures. Project Manager - Hollis Lewis, WV CIT Project Director. The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day operations and overseeing team members. Project Team Members - Vita Alkire, FCS Office Manager; Rozanna Bracken WV 988 Program Director, Robbie Brown FCS Law Enforcement Training Coordinator; Heather Julian WV 988 Program Coordinator. Project Team Members are individual contributors assigned to various project tasks to ensure the success of the CIT Summit.

6. Please upload/attach the following financial documents, if applicable:

Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year



Appendix H - Overall Budget 2023 - 2024.pdf

Two years of audited financial statements



Appendix G - Audit Report 2023.pdf

Current operating budget



Appendix A - Copy of Budget 2024 CIT Summit.pdf

If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant



No File Uploaded

7. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.*

In addition to the funding that FCS has committed, FCS has secured sponsorship funding from the City of Charleston, Marshall University, the WV Hope in Action Alliance, Community Connections and Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center.

8. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization within the last three years

FCS responds to more than 200,000 calls for SUD and behavioral health crises providing support services, information and warmline referral each year. Additionally, FCS added more than 75 full time jobs with benefits during the past two years. In 2022, the FCS 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline successfully transitioned to the new number while maintaining some of the highest KPIs in the nation including answer rates and speed of answer. FCS additionally was recognized nationally by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) for its promising practice of second chance employment. FCS is proud that more than 50% of its workforce consists of individuals in long term recovery from SUD. FCS conceived of the need for the WV CIT Summit to bring disparate statewide efforts together and to create interest in the creation of more CIT in WV communities.

Supplementary Information

1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference.*

Lisa Jones, CEO Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center
lisajones@shcmhc.com

Shawn Schwertfeger, Chief of Police Wheeling Police Department
schwerts@wheelingwv.gov

Michael Ellis, 988 and Disaster Coordinator WV Bureau of Human Services
michael.a.ellis@wv.gov

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County's review.



Appendix I - Letters of Support.pdf

Attachments

**Optional: Additional Proposal Leadership resume(s) or CVs**

Appendix C Resume - Hollis Lewis.pdf

Uploaded by Hollis Lewis on Jun 10, 2024 at 9:01 AM

**Appendix B Resume - Lata Menon.pdf**

Appendix B Resume - Lata Menon.pdf

Uploaded by Hollis Lewis on Jun 10, 2024 at 9:04 AM

**Appendix D - FCS History and Programs.pdf**

Appendix D - FCS History and Programs.pdf

Uploaded by Hollis Lewis on Jun 10, 2024 at 9:05 AM

**Appendix E - FCS Agency Overview.pdf**

Appendix E - FCS Agency Overview.pdf

Uploaded by Hollis Lewis on Jun 10, 2024 at 9:05 AM

**Appendix F - Audit Report 2022.pdf**

Appendix F - Audit Report 2022.pdf

Uploaded by Hollis Lewis on Jun 10, 2024 at 9:06 AM

**Opioid-Settlement-Funds-Application.pdf**

Opioid-Settlement-Funds-Application.pdf

Uploaded by Hollis Lewis on Jun 10, 2024 at 9:06 AM

History

Date	Activity
6/10/2024, 9:24:15 AM	Hollis Lewis added a guest: lmenon@firstchoiceservices.org to Record OSF-13
6/10/2024, 9:18:26 AM	changed the deadline to Jun 11, 2024 on approval step Application Review on Record OSF-13
6/10/2024, 9:18:25 AM	Hollis Lewis submitted Record OSF-13

Date	Activity
6/10/2024, 8:19:57 AM	Hollis Lewis started a draft of Record OSF-13

Timeline

Label	Activated	Completed	Assignee	Due Date	Status
✓ Application Review	6/10/2024, 9:18:25 AM	-	-	6/10/2024	Active
✉ Request Letter of Acknowledgement	6/10/2024, 9:18:25 AM	6/10/2024, 9:18:25 AM	-	-	Completed