

American Rescue Plan

Louisville Metro Government

Project Proposal Submission Form

Project Name: ~~Safe Outdoor Space (LAT-0050)~~

Project Owner: Office of Resilience and Community Services
Project Contact: Tameka Laird
Project Contact Job Title: Director
Contact Email: [REDACTED]
Contact Phone: [REDACTED]
Project Name: Safe Outdoor Space
Are you requesting a continuation of current funding or a new allocation? No. This is a new allocation of ARP funds.
Does the organization have sufficient capacity to lead and conduct the project without hiring new permanent staff? If not, what resources will need to be hired? The organization to operate the Safe Outdoor Space has not yet been chosen. No new staff will be needed at the Office of Resilience and Community Services to manage this project.
Project Executive Summary (please specify if COVID-related): Safe Outdoor Space (SOS) is a temporary project meant to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and better address street homelessness with housing and other resources. The Safe Outdoor Space model is designed as an option for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Louisville. The project's intent is to provide an assertive care-treatment plan with intensive case management, mental/behavioral health services, recovery and addiction counseling, peer support, emergency medical attention, dental/hygiene service providers, COVID testing, employment services, housing navigators, individual and group therapies, onsite security, and monitoring, and coordinating access to other community-based supportive services. Safe Outdoor Space and campgrounds will be committed to the highest level of outdoor sanitation and cleanliness.
Problem Statement (include issue and population served by project.): Louisville has a chronic homelessness problem that has been exacerbated by COVID-19. In addition, to the normal health issues that come with being homeless, the homeless population is more at risk of infection. The downturn in business led to many people unable to pay their rent and increased homelessness in the city. The Safe Outdoor Space is one pillar of a multi-prong plan to transition the homeless population off the streets and into permanent housing. The space will provided needed health and mental services and COVID testing in order to better address the needs of the homeless population.
Goal/Outcomes Statement: The goal is to help those who are living in unsafe and unhealthy situations on our streets transition into more stable shelter and then put them onto a path to permanent, supportive housing. The Safe Outdoor Space will provide another



shelter option for individuals who have declined indoor shelter. It will also provide voluntary wrap-around services of mental health and substance abuse recovery.

Please briefly explain what actions/steps your project proposes to address the above-stated problem:

The Safe Outdoor Space is the first phase of a multi-phase approach to address homelessness. The space will provide a safe place for those facing homelessness to live and access mental health and substance abuse treatment options, as well as get help in transitioning to more permanent housing. Intensive case management will support individuals with the goal of helping clients obtain housing and achieve a high quality of life through developing plans, enhancing life skills, addressing health and mental health needs, building meaningful skills for social inclusion through peer support and connection. These services should be chosen and performed based on trauma-based, low-barrier, and evidence-based practices.

How soon after signing a grant agreement can your project begin serving target populations and addressing the problem(s) described above? What is the anticipated duration of this project?

This is a pilot project expected to last no more than one year. Once the grant agreement is signed, we expect the space to be operational within one month, pending availability of supplies needed to operate the site.

Does this project directly support COVID-19 pandemic related recovery? If yes, please explain.

This project is one piece of a multi-prong plan to help with chronic homelessness that has been exacerbated by COVID-19. Stopping the spread of COVID-19 is an important part of recovery, and addressing homelessness directly affects the city's ability to control the spread of COVID-19.

Evidence Basis for the Project

The US Treasury department encourages the use of SLFRF funds for evidence-based interventions:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf#page=26>

Please describe the evidence base for the interventions proposed by this project. (Maximum 200 words). Include links if possible.

Safe Outdoor Space is based on the Housing First philosophy that HUD promotes. Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect those experiencing homelessness to housing without preconditions or barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent return to homelessness, as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry. Although the Safe Outdoor Space is not permanent housing, it is based on the philosophy of services with no preconditions or barriers to entry.

How will this project define and measure success? Include Key Performance Indicators.

KPIs will be set with the operating organization once the grant is awarded. Specific KPIs the Office of Resilience and Community Services want to track include:

- Number of homeless individuals/families moved from unsheltered to sheltered
- Average length of stay in SOS
- Number of resident case management appointments
- Average days for recovery treatment services
- Number of resident activities offsite to communal public spaces
- Number of individuals exiting into Housing Programs (Transitional, PSH, AFH)
- Reduction in number of days/length of time individuals experience homelessness
- Percentage increase in individual's income from beginning to end of program
- Reduction in recidivism on the street and/or re-entry to jails
- Reduction of point-in-time homelessness count.



Amount of Funding Requested: \$1,500,000.00

