

Foundation 2, Inc
October 6, 2008

Proposal for

Child Welfare Emergency Services
DHS Cedar Rapids Service Area

I. Summary

The summary should contain the following elements:

- Brief identification and purpose of your organization

Foundation 2 Youth Shelter provides a safe nurturing environment for youth between the ages of 11 and 17, who must temporarily live outside their parent's home. We are currently licensed for 15 beds with 11 beds purchased by DHS and four beds available for non-system youth referrals.

- The purpose and anticipated end result of your project

In the first six months of 2008, Foundation 2 received 71 requests for service from law enforcement. We turned away 27 requests because our guaranteed beds were full. We admitted 42 youth and assume that law enforcement made other arrangements for the 27 requests that did not come in. We would propose that we take one bed off-line and restrict its use to emergency law enforcement admissions as part of a pilot project. If this were the case we would have one bed that could only be occupied a maximum of 48 hours per admission. We would only use a guaranteed bed if the pilot bed was already occupied. This should decrease the number of turnaways when law enforcement requests a bed.

In addition, during this pilot project we would like to offer family mediation/assessment to all youth placed in the shelter on a police hold, in an effort to avoid unnecessary extended stays. Currently, we can only provide this service to families that do not have prior DHS/JCS services. At the very least this pilot project would allow us to provide workers with more detailed information about the immediate situation as well as possible options for the immediate future. We would not discharge a youth without explicit consultation with the DHS or JCS worker.

- The number of youth and families impacted, including the number of reduced shelter beds, and the timeframe for the project

If we have a pilot bed restricted to law enforcement placement of a maximum of 48 hours, we would project that 50 youth would be served in the project between January 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009 and no more than 50% occupancy of the pilot bed. We would have 10 guaranteed beds, 1 pilot bed, and 4 non-system beds. The expense of the pilot bed would be included in the \$14,250 as well as the family counseling, record keeping, and follow-up services of the project.

- The total anticipated budget

In addition to the \$14,250 from the guaranteed bed taken off-line, it is our understanding that we could continue to bill the county of legal settlement the standard fee when the pilot bed is occupied. If the bed was occupied 80 days during the 6 month period, this would be approximately \$ 3,732 for a total budget of \$17,982 .

II. Introduction

The introduction should contain the following elements and not exceed one page:

- Brief identification of your organization's history of providing shelter services

Foundation 2 began operating a youth crisis line in 1970 and opened a youth shelter in 1976. Our current building was constructed in 1989 and specifically designed as a youth

shelter. We are supported by the United Way of East Central Iowa, and a Basic Center Grant from HHS as well as having a contract with the Department of Human Services.

- Describe your current licensed shelter bed and contracted shelter capacities

Foundation 2 is licensed for 15 beds. We have 11 guaranteed beds and 4 beds restricted for non-system use as a result of United Way funds and a Basic Center Grant.

- Outline your organization's interest in and capacity to provide Emergency Services

Foundation 2 has a mission to be a "trusted, compassionate resource for people in crisis". Given the strain that families in Cedar Rapids are likely to continue to experience over the next year, we are very concerned about a shortage of emergency shelter beds, particularly as Linn County Youth Shelter has had to take 6 beds off-line in our service area. This plan allows a pilot project without totally eliminating a specialized use of one bed.

- Identify the lead person for the organization, along with their contact information, for this proposal

Bob Hintz, Youth Services Director, would be responsible for organizing staff and keeping records of this process. His email address is bhintz@foundation2.org and his phone number is 362-1170.

III. Concept/Hypothesis

- Identify the intended number of shelter beds to be reduced, and the intended model of service for youth that would be diverted and/or have shortened lengths of stay in shelter. Describe the target population to be served, the model/approach of Emergency Services to be used, and rationale for this approach with the identified target population.

We would transform one guaranteed bed into an emergency law enforcement bed, with the goal of keeping it as empty as possible and absorbing any use of the bed with Pilot Project Funds. The only time a law enforcement placement would utilize a guaranteed bed would be if two or more youth were brought in on the same night and two or more of them required a shelter bed at the same time.

We would provide the same services to all youth brought in by the law enforcement during the six month pilot period. If the youth had an assigned worker, we would consult with that worker before making any changes in the placement situation of that youth and provide any information that we had acquired during the placement at the shelter. This might allow a reduction in conversions to court-ordered placement. Youth without an assigned worker would be transferred to non-system services as quickly as possible. DHS/JCS involvement would be restricted to criminal charges, abuse, neglect or abandonment.

We would anticipate approximately 50 law enforcement situations during the 6 month pilot period. This is an increase over last year as we would be less likely to turn away police requests because we were full. We would track each of these families during the pilot period and compare shelter use to the same time period the year before.

IV. Supporting Data

List the baseline data for the CRSA, for FY09 YTD (all projects should use the same SA data) – and the target population for the project (agency-specific).

	Cedar Rapids Service Area (North) Utilization	Project's Target Population
# DHS placements	99	
# JCS placements	65	
# Law Enforcement placements	115	50
# Minority Youth	33	5
Average LOS	5.04	Less than 2
Other		

V. Goals/Objectives

State the desired goals and objectives to address the needs/problems stated above. Also include key benefits of reaching goals/objectives.

- Goal 1 - Expand emergency service response to law enforcement placements.

Objective: Provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth in crisis situations.

Benefit: Law enforcement can provide service with minimum of hassle and youth are safely removed from crisis situation.

- Goal 2 - Family Counselor will meet with family within 24 hours of Law Enforcement Placement.

Objective: Develop plan to discharge youth to home or other appropriate destination as soon as possible and avoid needing similar services in the immediate future.

Benefit: Reduce duration of out of home experience of youth and help families begin the process of resolving whatever issues led to crisis situation.

VI. Timetable

Provide detailed information on the expected timetable for the project. Break the project into phases, and provide a schedule for each phase.

	Description of Work	Start and End Dates
Preparation	Increase hours family counseling available	Revise schedules
Implementation	Begin service	Jan 1- June 30, 2009
Review/Adjust	Mid term report	March 15, 2009
Evaluation	Final report	July 15, 2009

VII. Budget

State the proposed costs and budget of the project for January – June, 2009.

	Description	Revenue/Expense
Revenue	State funds - \$14,250 (6 monthly payments) County funds - \$3,682 (per diem)	\$17,982
Staff Costs	Supports approximately 200 hours of family counseling	\$4,934
Facility Costs	Supports 80 days of shelter	\$11,070
Indirect Costs	Administrative costs	\$1,978
	Total	\$17,982

VIII. Assumptions and Questions

List the critical requirements, possibilities and concerns – to be answered before and/or during this project.

1. An exception to admission protocol will be granted so that the pilot bed can only be used by law enforcement for a maximum standard placement of 48 hours.
2. The state reimbursement of \$14,250 would be a lump sum grant. The county portion would continue to be a per diem of \$46.65 when the bed is occupied. We would approach county officials concerning a grant to support such services if the pilot is extended beyond the initial 6 months.
3. DHS/JCS would be willing to allow us to provide emergency services to parents and youth during all law enforcement placements, unless the family is receiving other crisis services (FFT). We would actively consult with assigned workers concerning any possible alternatives, but final decisions would reside with them.