



## COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: June 26, 2019

Meeting Date: July 18, 2019

Name: Penny Stanley

Department: BCC Administration

Division Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Penny Stanley", written over a horizontal line.

**1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:**

Linda Brown - On Eagle's Wings Request to Renew Funding

**2. Recommended Motion/Action:**

Requesting Board direction.

**3. Fiscal impact on current budget.**

This item has no effect on the current budget.



*On Eagles' Wings Mentorship Programs*

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Lake City, Florida 32025  
Office (386) 961-8371  
Call (386) 965-2532

June 28, 2019

Mr. Ben Scott  
County Manager, Columbia County  
Lake City, Florida

Re: On Eagles' Wings Mentorship Programs Funding Request

Dear Mr. Scott:

Thank you and the commissioners for your assistance in the continuing success of On Eagles' Wings as we endeavor to present opportunity for the advancement of each participant that we serve post incarceration.

Although we were expectant that the Department of Corrections will reopen their provision of services as it pertains to transitional housing and re-entry programs, we are yet unclear as to when this will be. Therefore, we are requesting your assistance again for this upcoming fiscal year.

On Eagles' Wings continues its services with Career Source Florida Crown as its Lead Agency, while continuing to provide the released offender the opportunity to transition into their communities with a better outlook on life instead of the negative of reoffending which gives an increase to the statistics of recidivism. However, according to the Department's 2018 report on recidivism, the rate shows a decrease from 30.5% from the year of 2007 to 24.5% by the year 2014. The strategies developed in 2009 engaged re-entry programs with a goal to enhance public safety while reducing the rate of recidivism as released offenders successfully reintegrate to their communities of which On Eagles' Wings played a vital role.

Once again, the County Commission's decision to fund our program will allow participants the opportunity post-incarceration, to become responsible law-abiding citizens, employed, successfully reintegrating within the community. Each participant will continue to attend in-house sessions on independent living, including employment retention, money management, and to seek affordable housing.

These efforts will give momentum to the participants as we continue our services throughout the upcoming fiscal year. Please see the attached information regarding the program and its budgetary requirements.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linda Brown, Founder/ Director  
On Eagles' Wings Mentorship Programs, Inc.

## **On Eagles' Wings (OEW) Mentorship Programs**

### **Purpose:**

On Eagles' Wings (OEW) is a Non-Profit 501(C)3 Service Agency whose purpose is to provide transitional housing and supportive services to male non-violent released offenders in the community of Lake City, Columbia County, Florida since 2002.

### **Community Need:**

The three main goals of transitional housing and reentry services enhance public safety, affords the opportunity of a positive and affective reintegration to society within the community, reduces the rate of recidivism as well as providing intervention and diversionary services to the released offender. On Eagles' Wings play a key role in meeting these goals so that every participant is afforded the opportunity to become prominent members of society, within their communities and with family.

As noted by Research and Data Analysis of the Florida Department of Corrections; in 2016-2017, 250 inmates had self-reported release plans to Columbia County; in 2016-2017, 253 released inmates with Columbia County as the County of conviction; as of May 11, 2018, 741 offenders are on active community supervision in Columbia County and the number of offenders released from community supervision in Columbia County within 2016-2017 is 481.

Within these parameters released offenders face many challenges to successful reentry which include unemployment, severed family ties, homelessness, mental and physical health disorders, as well as some with limited education and cognitive skills. Such barriers, without transitional housing and supportive services hinders successful reintegration and the need to become law-abiding citizens.

Therefore, the necessity for On Eagles' Wings to continue services is very important to the safety of the community, and for opportunity to preserve positive moral standards for the released offender.

### **Services provided:**

On Eagles' Wings services are based on the need for stable, safe, transitional housing and services. On Eagles' Wings home-like environment helps the released offender to re-establish stability. The home is located at 185 SE Baya Drive Lake City, Florida.

On Eagles' Wings continue to provide a service approach that is designed to eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency. The core programming model assists participants in rebuilding their lives in correlation with CareerSource Florida Crown through employment assistance by way of job searches, employment counseling as well as other related services. Our service approach sessions include general independent living skills including money management and employment retention, substance abuse intervention sessions and for those needing further assistance or by mandate of probation, are referred to local AA/NA services. Other community service referrals are available as well. For those needing mental health counseling, are referred to Meridian Behavioral Health

Center for services. There have been a few who entered On Eagles' Wings with pre-referral appointment dates to Meridian from their prison facility's medical department.

It is our continued hope to serve each participant throughout the coming fiscal year, affording them a continuous opportunity for a positive transition to the community and with their families.

**On Eagle's Wings Success Rate:**

With the assistance in funding by the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners throughout this fiscal year, we can report the following:

<b>Participants enrolled at the beginning of the fiscal year</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>The stats for those 12 are as follows:</b>	
Participants that secured and maintained full-time employment	9
<b>Of those 9 the stats are as follows:</b>	
Participated in successfully getting their driving's licenses	5
Participants who purchased vehicles	5
Participants who transitioned into personal residences (affordable housing)	5
Participants who are successfully active in AA/NA programs	3
Accessed the services of Career Source Florida Crown	3
Number of participants remaining (all are employed and 1 is a new enrollment)	3
<b>Participants remaining at the end of the fiscal year</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Success Rate</b>	<b>75%</b>
Expected enrollment by September 2019	3
<b>Grand total of participants to include expected enrollment in September 2019</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>*Please keep in mind that this number can increase as the year goes on*</b>	

We are yet thankful to the Board for the funding you have afforded On Eagles' Wings. For without the services of transitional housing and re-entry programs there is no bridge of support for those who seek the availability of transitional housing and services. We've learned over time that these elements play a vital role in reintegrating successfully within the community, altogether rendering our communities safe with its new working community members and law-abiding citizens. We further understand that not all of whom we serve will have a successful outcome, however, the availability of the opportunity is very important.

Our former successful participants as their time permits, are yet involved as positive mentors engaging in tools to help assist the new participant with bicycles as a type of transportation, as well as their efforts in meeting with them and a computer for their use at the home.

**Budget Request**

<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>Description of Line Item</b>	<b>Monthly Cost</b>
Facility Lease (increase expected in new fiscal year)	185 Baya Avenue Lease	\$1,575.00
Utilities	Electricity, Cable Services, Pest Control	\$535.00
Communications	Landline telephone/ Internet Data lines, Cellphone	\$235.00
Equipment Maintenance	Copier Maintenance	\$35.00
Office Supplies/Printing	Consumable supplies and printer ink	\$75.00
Volunteer Stipends (non-wages)	Program Volunteer subsidy	\$70.00
General Liability Insurance	Liability coverage	\$50.00
Sub-Total of Operating Costs		\$2,575.00
Administrative Fees (10%)	Organizational fees to operate	\$257.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,832.50</b>