

Hand Up To Victory Next Steps Sarasota

Hand Up To Victory's mission is to provide stability, resources and peer support to individuals seeking recovery from substance use disorder in order to restore their lives and families torn apart by addiction. Its initiative, ***Next Steps Sarasota***, would further this mission by expanding its established recovery stabilization program in Sarasota County to serve more individuals ready to begin their recovery journey.

This initiative would provide funding for 150 participants per year who would be placed into safe, supportive recovery housing within 24 hours of intake. They would be provided with two weeks of housing fees, 30-day Sarasota County bus passes and access to essential stabilization items. The total initiative budget is \$116,848 with the additional \$8,848 pending. Our grant would fund \$90,000 for temporary funding for two weeks recovery housing for 150 individuals per year, \$10,000 for provision of essentials and \$8,000 of the \$16,848 for the existing staff Intake Coordinator.

During the first two weeks, clients would be expected to find jobs, and each must create an Individual Recovery Action Plan. Their progress would be monitored at least weekly. Clients typically continue to live at this housing for six months to two years, paying privately after the two weeks. Hand Up To Victory would continue to monitor their progress at three, six, and nine months.

Hand Up To Victory is a small, lean organization with a staff of three who, driven by mission, conviction and personal experience, have developed a unique approach to assisting people at this crucial first two week point in their recovery journeys.

For sustainability, Hand Up To Victory currently receives consistent financial support from a dedicated donor base as well as the Manatee County Sheriff's Office and is cultivating relationships with the Manatee County Commissioners. It is working to build those same relationships with the Sarasota County Commissioners and the Sheriff's Department. It believes that it would be able to grow its donations as it serves more clients and the community understands its services, and it plans to raise an additional \$54,000 annually to cover the costs of the grant in 2028 and beyond.

Without immediate intervention, individuals are at high risk for relapse, overdose, or returning to unstable environments during these first two weeks. Through this initiative, Hand Up To Victory would serve an additional 150 individuals per year from Sarasota County who are exiting incarceration, detox, treatment programs, or homelessness, significantly increasing the impact and improving the outcome for those at the highest risk by providing immediate housing and essential recovery support.