

Funding Proposal

“Jump Start” - A Stopgap to Temporarily Assist Individuals Seeking Supportive, Sober Housing

1. Organization Name and Point of Contact

Northeast Florida Sober Living Alliance
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2. Line-Item Budget, Narrative, and Timeline

Item Description	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
One night rental voucher	\$27.00	185 nights	\$4,995

Justification: The approximate weekly rent rate for homes that are members of the Alliance converts to about \$27 for a nightly rate. Many individuals who face financial barriers to entering sober living have a source of income that has been disrupted, and for many people as little as a few days of rent assistance could allow them to enter sober housing. Providing the vouchers nightly, as opposed to weekly, gives the sober homes accepting these vouchers flexibility to determine need on an individual, case-by-case basis, thus maximizing these funds to help as many people as possible. If, on average, individuals using these vouchers need five days of assistance, this translates to 37 people being placed in sober housing who otherwise may not have been able to do so.

Timeline: It is difficult to predict exactly how long the funding will last, as it depends on the number of eligible prospective residents that eligible sober homes encounter, as well as how many nights of assistance each eligible resident needs. A reasonable estimate is that an average of five eligible residents will be identified each month and each will need, on average, five nights of assistance. In this scenario, the funding would last just under seven and a half months.

3. Program Description, Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria, Service Provided, and Process

Jump Start is a stopgap temporary assistance program for individuals seeking supportive, sober living in Northeast Florida. Sober homes can apply for nightly vouchers to cover a variable time period for eligible, prospective residents.

Sober homes applying for a voucher for a prospective resident must meet the following criteria:

- Be member of the Northeast Florida Sober Living Alliance and be current on membership dues AND
- Accept residents who are on Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) such as methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone AND
- Provide Jump Start Residents with food or a food donation box provided by the Alliance AND assist them with a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program application AND
- Provide Jump Start Residents with a hygiene kit provided by the Alliance AND
- Refer Jump Start Residents to Inspire to Rise’s outpatient substance use treatment and case management program AND

- Assist Jump Start Residents in need of employment with job placement AND/OR refer them to Operation New Hope

Prospective residents receiving a voucher must meet the following criteria:

- Opioid dependence or addiction: a past diagnosis of opioid use disorder (OUD) AND/OR currently receiving MAT for OUD such as methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone AND
- Has a job or other source of income, but indicates need for temporary funding assistance OR has a Social Security card and ID and indicates they are ready to quickly find employment or work out of a labor pool

Brief description of program process:

- Eligible sober home receives an inquiry from a prospective resident seeking housing who does not have funds to move in
- Sober home representative determines if the prospective resident may qualify for the Jump Start program
- Sober home representative contacts the Alliance Administrator to request preliminary approval based on eligibility requirements
- Upon preliminary approval, sober home representative submits a completed Voucher Request Form to the Alliance Administrator
- Alliance Administrator approves the Request Form - prospective resident is approved to move into the sober home and is considered a Jump Start Resident
- Jump Start Resident is assigned a unique code for data tracking purposes
- Each participating sober home will submit a Jump Start Resident Tracking Form for each Jump Start Resident as supporting documentation with their invoices to the Alliance
- The Alliance will only pay for vouchers for nights in which the Jump Start Resident actually stayed at the sober home; therefore, invoices cannot be submitted until after the period of time requested in the Request Form has passed
- Sober homes are responsible for alerting the Alliance when a Jump Start Resident leaves and the reason (moved on, relapse, or other) even after the period of time requested in the Request Form has passed, and they must also answer basic questions about the status of Jump Start Residents (are they still at the home? are they employed?) when this information is requested by the Alliance

4. Reporting on Outcomes

A representative of the Alliance will provide a periodic report to the Opioid Trust Fund Committee which includes the following information:

- Cumulative number of approved requests for vouchers from eligible homes
- Cumulative number of nightly vouchers invoiced, number paid, and amount spent
- Cumulative number and percentage of Jump Start Residents who stayed at their respective sober home at least 30 days (including days they were covered by vouchers)
- Cumulative number of Jump Start Residents who have left their sober living home, and why (broken down by three possible categories):
 - Moved on - includes moving in with friends, family, a romantic partner, roommate, etc.
 - Relapse

- Other - such as a house rule violation other than relapse

5. Matching Funds

The NE FL Sober Living Alliance will provide the following “in-kind” donations to the program:

- Food boxes for up to 37 Jump Start Residents at \$50/box = \$1,850
- Hygiene kits for up to 37 Jump Start Residents at \$30/kit = \$1,110
- Private donations as of 3/29/21 = \$108 (covers an additional 4 nightly vouchers)
 - Total = \$3,068

The Alliance is also currently seeking additional matching funds from private donors.