



Housing & Human Services
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building B, Room 103
Viera, Florida 32940

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Frank B. Abbate, County Manager

THRU: James Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager 

FROM: Ian Golden, Director Housing and Human Services Department 

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2024058

DATE: 04/01/2024

CEER #2024058 was received by the County from Susan B Connolly.

Citizen Statement:

Reduce / eliminate duplicate services from non-profit organizations while developing replicable pathways achieving and assuring earned success by supporting the State of Florida Chamber of Commerce "Prosperity Initiative".

Citizen Recommendation:

Reduce / eliminate duplicate services from non-profit organizations while developing replicable pathways achieving and assuring earned success by supporting the State of Florida Chamber of Commerce "Prosperity Initiative".

Staff Analysis:

The Citizen Statement and Recommendation's initial segment "*Reduce / eliminate duplicate services from non-profit organizations ...*" could be interpreted to mean either services between non-profit organizations or County services which are also provided by non-profits. If the submitter meant the former, then the County has no authority to dictate service provision from non-profit organizations. If it is the latter, the Department is not aware of any local non-profit organizations which offer unnecessary duplicative services.

Departmental services, such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), offer similar services (assistance with energy bills) as some local religious organizations, but the Department is not aware of any non-profit organizations providing such assistance. There are some local non-profit organizations that offer small rehabilitation services, such as Aging Matters in Brevard, Inc's Home Improvement Program, which is focused on environmental

modifications to improve accessibility, safety, and security of the home. Some of these same types of improvement efforts (grab bars, wheelchair ramps, etc.) could also be performed under the Department's Repair, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Program, but the rules and regulations guiding each program (including eligibility) is different and there is significant demand for these services indicating that there is little wasteful, duplicative service availability.

The remaining portion of the statement and recommendation, *"...while developing replicable pathways achieving and assuring earned success by supporting the State of Florida Chamber of Commerce 'Prosperity Initiative'"*, appears to be referring to the Florida Chamber of Commerce's Florida Prosperity Project (FPP). The Florida Chamber of Commerce's website identifies the FPP as a **"Chamber-led approach to cut childhood poverty in half – A key objective of the Florida Equality of Opportunity Initiative and essential for achieving the Florida 2030 Blueprint goals overall"**¹. Further, a review of the FPP website shows that the identified promising practices² are led by non-profit organizations and not governmental agencies. Additionally, the Brevard County scorecard³ indicates decreasing overall poverty rates, decreasing rates of children in poverty rates, decreasing crime data, and increasing per capita income. Of the FPP's 10 Root Causes of Poverty¹, several do not appear to be under the purview of the County (for example, Lack of Employment Opportunities appears to be private sector or CareerSource Brevard focused and Lack of Quality in Education & Workforce Development appears to be primarily the domain of the School Board of Brevard County and CareerSource Brevard). The root causes that appear to have a Brevard County Government overlap (housing, transportation, etc.) are already addressed through current programs and services within multiple County Departments as funding allows.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2024058.

¹ <https://www.flchamber.com/prosperityfl/>

² <https://www.flchamber.com/county-wide-promising-practices/>

³ <https://www.flchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Brevard.pdf>

Recommendation #2024058

Recommendation Details

Contact Information

Full Name:	Susan B Connolly	Email Address:	sbconnolly@aol.com
Mailing Address:	3901 DIXIE HWY NE #102 PALM BAY fl 32905	Alt Email Address:	
Group/Organization	N/A	Phone Number	865-924-4238

Recommendation Title:	Replicate Florida Chamber of Commerce "Prosperity Initiative"
Areas Affected:	

Department:	
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Reduce / eliminate duplicate services from non-profit organizations while developing replicable pathways achieving and assuring earned success by supporting the State of Florida Chamber of Commerce "Prosperity Initiative"	Problem Description:
Reduce / eliminate duplicate services from non-profit organizations while developing replicable pathways achieving and assuring earned success by supporting the State of Florida Chamber of Commerce "Prosperity Initiative"	Recommendation Description

Attachments

There are no attachments for this recommendation.

Administrative Action

Evaluation

Recommendation Timeline

User	Status	Date	Remarks
RACHEL HORST	Citizen Submitted	Jan 3, 2024	
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Jan 4, 2024	HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT Assigned

Awaiting action from department director