

Family Services Center Phase 2

Department & Contact: Charlotte County Human Services Department — Director, Carrie Hussey
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Area: Mid County

Location: 21450 Gibraltar Drive, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Category: Quality of Life

Focus Area(s): Infrastructure, Economic and Community Development and Public Services

Need:

The Mid-County Family Services Center houses non-profit agencies that provide community services. There are two phases in the overall vision for this project. Phase 1 was approved as a 2014 sales tax project and will result in the construction of a space for community partners, playground, community gardens and a multi-purpose room that will be used as a youth services area until Phase 2 is completed.

Purpose:

In Phase 2 of the FSC project, the human services staff offices will be constructed along with critical shared support facilities, maker space, and expanded services. The completed project (phases 1 and 2) will provide the community with timely access to an array of health, education, employment and human services through an integrated service delivery model as well as space to meet with groups, neighbors and friends. The project and programming offer coordinated, streamlined, and efficient services responsive to client and community needs, providing stability and support for community engagement.

Objectives:

Phase II components represent approximately 24,000-26,000 square feet.

- Creation of a separate youth services building with independent entry area for safety
- Addition of certified/commercial kitchen for congregate meals, summer feeding programs and educational programming
- Addition of offices and space for the Human Services Department, including veteran services, housing, senior services and case management
- Creation of shared support facilities for county staff, community partners, and volunteers
- Add a maker space to enhance and support educational efforts in partnership with libraries, historical centers, and schools
- Enhanced outdoor space that encourages engagement and play

Project Cost Prior Funding:	\$0
Project Cost Prior from Sales Tax:	\$10,647,000
Total Project Cost:	\$21,547,000
Project Cost Required New Sales Tax:	\$10,900,000
Annual Operating Cost:	TBD

Will the project impact public health and safety? If so, how?

Yes. The project will improve the health and safety of the families and children served by the center. In addition to health & human services programming, the Department of Health and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office have indicated their desire to have a presence in the center.

Will the project foster economic development and create long-term jobs? If so, how?

Economic stability and self-sufficiency are cornerstone programs identified in the FSC project. These types of services support career development and employment.

Project to be funded by the 1% Local Option Sales Tax Extension if passed by the voters of Charlotte County

Will the project result in decreased, increased, or no operation and maintenance (O&M) costs?

The project may result in increased O&M costs, but overall it should be relatively neutral because it combines 2 existing buildings (the current FSC and the current Human Services building).

Will sales tax allow for application of grant funds from another entity?

Grants that will enhance and/or leverage programming will be sought after, but grant awards are unknown at this time.

Will the project enable furtherance of phased projects from 2014 sales tax extension?

Yes, Phase I of the Family Services Center project was funded through the 2014 sales tax.

Is this a joint project with another entity?

Not in the construction, but in the programming.

Will the project meet a community obligation to serve a special needs segment of the County's population, such as: low-income, aged, or minorities?

Placed in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood, the Family Services Center seeks to be an impetus of neighborhood revitalization and redevelopment, providing programs and services to strengthen families and the community. The Family Services Center offers intergenerational programming and services for low-income families, youth, veterans and senior citizens.

Is the project included in a Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or Capital Needs Assessment?

No.

Will the project impact environmental quality of Charlotte County? If so, how?

Other than striving to be a green building using solar panels and community garden beds, the environmental impact of the project is low.

Will the project improve quality of life in Charlotte County?

Yes. The concept of "no wrong door" for services will allow our model to help people recover and be "made whole" more quickly. When residents are health and financially stable our entire community benefits. In addition, youth education, senior services, outreach, and mentoring are all high value social interventions that have long term rewards for all communities.

Is the project state or federally mandated?

No.

Is the project dependent upon or connected with the completion of another project?

Yes, this is phase II of a two-phase concept. Phase I was an approved sales tax project in 2014.