



United Way of the Big Bend 2023-2025 Leon County Program Funding Program Summaries

Housing

- **Big Bend Habitat for Humanity** – A housing program which funds land acquisition and existing infrastructure improvements to build or renovate affordable houses for low - and moderate-income families. Families are active participants, investing sweat equity and time in home ownership workshops. Also provides training in high demand construction industry skills for youth. **\$85,000**
- **Brehon House – Brehon Institute for Family Services, Inc.**, a program providing housing, shelter, educational, and support programs for adult homeless, pregnant women and their infants, supporting the birth and care of healthy babies. The residential facility is the only maternity home serving this specific population between Jacksonville and Pensacola. All services are provided free to the women. The average stay by residents is six to nine months. **\$60,000**
- **HOPE Community Family Emergency Shelter** – A **Big Bend Homeless Coalition** program, HOPE House (now called Family Promise) is a transitional shelter assisting families in exiting homelessness and obtaining permanent housing. The program provides emergency shelter, housing placement assistance, case management, and life skills training in a trauma-informed setting that encourages recovery and responsibility, autonomy, and independence. **\$55,000**
- **Maryland Oaks Crossing At-Risk Family Housing** – A **Good News Outreach** program providing 47 families safe transitional housing for two years, during which families have access to supports including services for their children. It offers food programs, counseling and trauma-informed care, and health and wellness programs provided by

FSU School of Medicine. Adults/families are helped to complete education goals, build work skills, develop financial literacy, and supported in job searches to help them transition into permanent housing. **\$35,000**

- **Permanent Supportive Housing for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** - An **Independence Landing** facility providing supportive housing to individuals who have documented intellectual or developmental disabilities, and who meet certain financial eligibility criteria. These individuals will be provided opportunities to help them build life skills and engage and thrive within their community. **\$30,000**

Early Learning

- **Early Head Start** – A program of **Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend** providing quality educational, health, nutritional and family engagement services to at-risk families with children ages 0-3. The program operates three early learning centers and home-based services in Leon County. A minimum of 10% of children enrolled have special needs. **\$75,000**
- **Annie's Nursery School** – A program of **Project Annie**, Annie's Nursery school, in Frenchtown, offers year-round full day care, including limited time free childcare for unemployed parents looking for work, who, once employed, can then qualify for subsidized care. No other center addresses this need. The school uses a research-based curriculum, has experienced and certified staff, and includes outdoor activities. Its primary objective is to prepare children to be successful in school. **\$50,000**
- **Childcare Tuition Assistance** – An **Early Learning Coalition** program providing tuition assistance for families of young children enrolled in high quality early learning environments. The program specifically targets ALICE families whose income, although below the median income level, disqualifies them from other subsidy programs. This allows parents to work knowing their children are in a positive educational environment. **\$25,000**
- **Great Futures Start Here** – A **Boys and Girls Club** program providing positive afterschool and summer sessions focused on character and leadership development, education and career development, Health and life skills, arts and sports, and fitness and recreation. The goal is to ensure all the kids graduate from high school with a plan for his or her future. **\$45,000**

Safety Net

- **Emergency & Diversion Program Services** – A program of **Connecting Everyone with Second Chances (CESC Inc.), Kearney Center**, which provides shelter for 400 people as well as working to implement diversion services to prevent our neighbors from entering homelessness. Diversion includes identifying immediate, alternate housing arrangements and/or connecting them with services/financial aid (hotel vouchers, rental/transportation/utility assistance). Housing, Food, Transportation and Healthcare are all primary services offered through the Kearney Center. **\$60,000**
- **In-Home and Community Based Services** – A program of **Elder Care Services** providing care for seniors who need help to remain safely at home; specifically for seniors who are frail, functionally impaired, and homebound or suffering from chronic diseases or dementia. Services are based on individualized care plans and may include companionship services, homemaking, personal care services, respite care services and transportation. **\$40,000**
- **Nutrition Services** – A program of **Elder Care Services** which provides meals to seniors suffering from food insecurity. Meals on Wheels provides nutrition to frail and homebound seniors in Leon County by delivering five meals each week directly to the senior at home. Volunteers deliver the meals and do a safety check. **\$55,000**
- **Residential Services Program** – A **Refuge House** program offering life-saving support targeted and tailored for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault including safety services for adults and children after attacks. Support services include emergency shelter, basic needs including food, clothing, personal care supplies, school supplies for children, emotional support, and transportation assistance. **\$90,000**
- **Helpline 2-1-1** – A **2-1-1 Big Bend** program that crosses all five strategic priority impact areas of the UWBB to connect low income and ALICE individuals with service providers. It helps fill service gaps for clients ineligible for help from other agencies. **\$55,000**
- **Food Bank Operations** – An **America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend** program to meet the short-term nutritional needs of the hungry and food-insecure residents in Leon County. Food assistance can also free up funds for families to pay for other expenses such as medicines, school expenses, rent, and utilities. **\$50,000**
- **Access to Independence** – A program of **The Center for Independent Living dBA Ability 1st**, the Access to Independence program helps people under the ALICE threshold with mobility/self-care needs obtain the necessary services, medical equipment, and supplies that allow them to remain safely in their homes. **\$15,000**

Health and Mental Health

- **We Care Network** – A program of **Capital Medical Society Foundation, Inc.** to decrease healthcare disparity and improve health outcomes by facilitating access to specialty healthcare for Leon County’s vulnerable, low-income, uninsured adult patients by coordinating donated specialty medical and dental care. Primary care partners, including BOND, NMC, Apalachee Center, TMH Transition Center, VA Clinic and Care Point, refer patients to the program. **\$40,000**
- **Reach Therapy** – A program of **Pace Center for Girls, Inc.**, which is a prevention and intervention program tailored to meet the unique therapeutic needs of girls not enrolled at the Pace Center. The center provides social-emotional, behavioral, therapeutic, and mental health counseling to at-risk girls and their families at their schools and/or their homes. **\$40,000**
- **Children’s Advocacy Center** – A program of **Children’s Home Society**, the Advocacy Center provides critical intervention and support to children who have experienced the trauma of abuse of any type. Its primary goals are to provide mental health and victim advocate services and to help coordinate continued services for the children. **\$50,000**
- **Women’s Empowerment Program** – A program of **The Oasis Center for Women & Girls** focusing primarily on single mothers whose sons are involved in the programs offered through the Council on the Status of Men and Boys. The center program provides therapeutic counseling and workshops for building positive parenting and reaching personal goals, using well established curriculum that helps give single mothers the support they need to raise their children successfully. **\$30,000**
- **Family Place** – A **Capital City Youth Services, Inc.**, non-residential counseling program providing free solution-focused mental health services to youth ages 6-17 and their families for up to 12 weeks, depending on the severity of presenting issues. **\$30,000**

Skills Development

- **Career Readiness and Vocational Training** – A program of **AMI Kids Tallahassee** that operates a nonprofit after school program in Tallahassee providing comprehensive programming to help local students ages 11-17 determine and develop career pathways through vocational education and training, job placement, and support services. Their aim is to give students who are demonstrating risk behaviors in school and/or the community an opportunity to learn useful vocational career technical skills as well as earn industry recognized certificates, which prepares them to make better choices and contribute to the community. **\$12,500**

- **REfire Culinary** – A program providing on-the-job culinary training and community re-entry support for people experiencing poverty who also face barriers to housing, employment, and self-sufficiency because of a prior felony conviction. Participants of the 8-week program receive basic kitchen and cooking skills, training, on-the-job training wages, job experience, job placement assistance, and a year of follow-up support to bridge the final gap from incarceration to economic self-sufficiency. **\$50,000**
- **Employment Readiness Training and Support** – A **Lighthouse of the Big Bend, Inc.** program helping teens, adults, and seniors who are blind or visually impaired overcome barriers to employment with job readiness assessment, skill development, supported job search, paid work experience and on-the-job training and support. **\$30,000**
- **Omega LampLighters Program** – The **Omega LampLighters, Inc.**, program works to help boys and young men gain skills in leadership, college and career readiness, civic responsibilities and community service, and positive interactions and focuses on engaging youth in activities and supportive services aimed at reducing crime and violence in the community. **\$25,000**