

The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
Letter of Inquiry

Date:	April 14, 2014	Tax ID#	1-74-6001-969-2
Organization:	Fort Bend County Social Services	City, State	Richmond, Texas 77469
Address:	301 Jackson Street	Phone:	(281)238-3506
Website:	www.fortbendcountytexas.gov	Fax:	(281)238-3318
Email:	anna.gonzales@fortbendcountytexas.gov		

Summary of organization's purpose including mission statement:

Fort Bend County Social Services (FBCSS) provides short term emergency assistance to the residents of Fort Bend County. Services include: medication assistance, food voucher, utility assistance, rental assistance, and case management services through our Transitional Supportive Housing Program and application benefits assistance. Annually FBCSS also assists children with a pair of new shoes to begin the school year through the Walk With Pride Shoe Program.

Purpose of request:

FBCSS is requesting assistance with its Annual Walk With Pride Shoe Program and providing Unmet Emergency Needs through its comprehensive short term Transitional Supportive Housing Program.

Issue/need to be addressed:

According to a needs assessment (A report on the Demographic Changes and Changing Needs of Fort Bend County, conducted by The George Foundation) in the summer of 2011, respondents identified food and housing as the greatest critical need. Furthermore, participants listed affordable housing, homeless shelters, food assistance and basic needs as not being met by current services in the region. In fiscal year 2013 (October 2012 through September 2013) Fort Bend County Social Services served 163 clients with rent/mortgage assistance, 639 with utility assistance and 325 with food assistance. During the same fiscal year, 71% reported living at or below 100% of the poverty level (\$23,550.00 annually for a family of 4). The statistics from the needs assessment indicated that from 2000 to 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a 3% increase in the population living below the poverty level. Meal Gap data in 2012 reported that 21% (approximately 55,510) of Fort Bend County's children are food insecure, meaning they do not receive three nutritious meals a day. While the services of the FBCSS are short term we have identified that in assisting individuals and families with more permanent assistance and/or resolving problems, they are less likely to return to the department for assistance. What we have also learned is that in many cases individuals and families lack the financial means to overcome these unmet emergency needs. An example of this service would be a senior citizen whose water was disconnected due to the inability to pay because they live on a fixed income. In the last 6 months our office has identified such cases as water leaks with the inability to pay the plumber to have it fixed, the electricity being disconnected and not having heat during the cold winter days, and other incidents where the elderly go without. While the department has been successful in assisting with these noted incidents and other emergency and transitional needs, there are still many needs which the department is unable to meet.

One need to be addressed through this request is the Walk With Pride Shoe Program held by FBCSS annually. The program assists school age children whose families are at or below 150% of the poverty level. Each year the department receives over 1000 applications from needy families requesting assistance or a new pair of shoes. While assistance for school supplies and uniforms can be obtained through other means, the Walk With Pride Shoe Program is the only program in the county held annually to meet this need.

Anticipated outcomes:

- 100 individuals and families will be immediately impacted by the Unmet Emergency Needs Program. This service will ultimately reduce the number of individuals returning for assistance for the same reason.
- 200 school aged children will be assisted with a new pair of shoes for the start of the school year. Every year the FBCSS attempts to raise \$20,000.00 to assist at least 1000 school aged children with a new pair of shoes.

Timeframe of project/program/operations: June 2014- June 2015**Total project/program/operating cost:** \$20,000.00 Walk With Pride \$10,000.00 Unmet Emergency**Amount requested:** \$3,000.00 for Walk With Pride \$7,000.00 Unmet Emergency**Geographical area served by this request:** Fort Bend County**Funding received to date in support of the project/program/operations:**

Walk With Pride approximately \$1,000.00

Unmet Emergency Needs \$ 0, this is a new service, some funding for this item has been requested through the County's regular budget process. Notification of funding through the county will take place by September 2014.

Funding requests outstanding:

Several letters have been sent to donors requesting assistance with Walk With Pride. No other assistance except through the County has been requested for the Unmet Emergency Needs services.

Primary Contact for the Organization
(e.g. CEO, Executive Director)

Name: Anna M. Gonzales

Phone number: (281) 238-3506

Title: Director

Fort Bend County Social Services

Email: anna.gonzales@fortbendcountytexas.govSignature: **Board Chairperson**

Name: Robert E. Hebert

Phone number: (281) 341-8634

Title: County Judge

Email: ann.werlein@fortbendcountytexas.govSignature: **Primary Contact for this Request**

Name: Anna Gonzales

Phone number: (281) 238-3506

Title: Director

Fort Bend County Social Services

Email: anna.gonzales@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Please mail this completed form to The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation at 611 Morton Street, Richmond, Texas 77469 or email it to info@hw-foundation.com.