

West Fort Bend Women's Charity

Date:	August 5, 2014		
Organization:	Fort Bend County Social Services	Tax ID#	1-74-6001-969-2
Address:	301 Jackson Street	City, State	Richmond, Texas 77469
Website:	www.fortbendcountytexas.gov	Phone:	(281)238-3506
Email:	anna.gonzales@fortbendcountytexas.gov	Fax:	(281)238-3318

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, Unmet Emergency Needs and application benefits assistance.

Purpose of request:

FBCSS is requesting assistance with its Unmet Emergency Needs services to specifically assist Veterans of West Fort Bend County.

Issue/need to be addressed:

According to a recent 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 (page 8). In fiscal year 2013 (October 2012 through September 2013) Fort Bend County Social Services (FBCSS) served 163 clients with rent/mortgage assistance, 639 with utility assistance and 325 with food assistance. During, the same fiscal year, 71% of these clients reported living at or below 100% of the poverty level (\$23,550.00 annually for a family of 4). The statistics from the George Foundation needs assessment indicated that from 2000 to 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a 3% increase in the Fort Bend County population living below the poverty level. When examining the four biggest economic challenges veterans face, it is not surprising that unemployment, poverty, homelessness and mortgage problems are among the top challenges listed (Think Progress, Bryce Covert, posted November 13, 2013). According to the Texas Veterans Commission, there are "32,580 veterans, receiving Veteran benefits in Fort Bend County." While FBCSS services are short-term, FBCSS has identified that in assisting individuals and families with more permanent assistance and/or resolving problems, these beneficiaries are less likely to return to FBCSS for assistance. What FBCSS has also learned is that in many cases individuals and families lack the financial means to overcome these unmet emergency needs by themselves. An example of this service is a 65 year old veteran who needed assistance with permanent housing, but could not qualify due to his lack of identification and social security card. Over the course of 6 months FBCSS intervened, assisting the client to navigate through the process of obtaining his identification, birth certificate and social security card. More recently, the veteran has been placed in permanent housing and is receiving benefit coverage. In the last year FBCSS estimates it has assisted approximately 25 veterans through its Emergency Assistance Program, all of whom were referred by the Fort Bend County Veterans Service Office. Funds from the West Fort Bend Women's Charity will be used to provide Unmet Emergency Needs Services for Veterans of West Fort Bend County. FBCSS will work closely with the Fort Bend County Veterans Service Office to coordinate services to identified veterans. These funds will be utilized to assist veterans with the following services: fees and/or incidentals to include as appropriate, obtaining a birth certificate, identification card, application fees, housing, utility deposits, gas cards, personal

hygiene items, one month of day care, diapers, shoes, undergarments, minor home repairs, water leaks, yard work, housekeeping, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detector, tire repairs, minor car repairs, Laundromat, air conditioner (window units), and/or any additional services that may prevent the veteran from becoming self-sufficient.

Anticipated outcomes:

- 10 veterans and their families will be immediately impacted by the Unmet Emergency Needs Services' additional funding through West Fort Bend Women's Charity. This service will ultimately reduce the number of veterans returning for assistance for the same reason and will assist the veteran and his/her family toward financial independence.

Timeframe of project/program/operations: September 2014- October 2015

Total project/program/operating cost: \$2,500.00 Unmet Emergency Needs For Veterans

Amount requested: \$2,500.00 Unmet Emergency Needs Fort Veterans

Geographical area served by this request: West Fort Bend County

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.gov
Signature:

Board Chairperson

Name: Robert E. Hebert
Phone number: (281) 341-8634
Title: County Judge
Email: ann.werlein@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Signature:

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

