

## American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund Recommendation Cover Sheet

Please submit this document with any recommendations for funding from Rhode Island’s allocation of federal fiscal recovery funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act. This information will be made available to the public along with any detailed documents submitted that describe the proposal. It is encouraged that such documents identify clear goals and objectives and quantifiable metrics.

**This is not a formal request for funds, and submission of recommendations does not guarantee a response, public hearing, or appropriation from the General Assembly.**

Name of Lead Agency: Family Service of Rhode Island

Additional agencies making recommendation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person / Title: Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO Phone: 401-639-4759

Address: PO Box 6688, Providence, RI 02940

Email Address (if available) mhmcduff@familyserviceri.org

Brief Project Description (attachments should contain details)  
Statewide Go Team Model

Total request: \$ 1,500,000

One-time or Recurring Expense? One-time

ARPA Eligibility Category (check all that apply) – See link for further information  
<https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/arpa/commdocs/Treasury%20-%20Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf>

- Respond to the public health emergency and its economic impacts X
- Premium pay to eligible workers \_\_\_\_\_
- Government services/state revenue replacement \_\_\_\_\_
- Water/sewer/broadband infrastructure \_\_\_\_\_

**RI's AWARD WINNING "GO TEAM"**

*With a greater equity and justice awakening across our country, many communities are looking for ways to re-imagine policing. By creating a new, statewide "Go Team" model, Rhode Island will lead the country in delivering a comprehensive, compassionate system for responding to crises in communities.*

**One time Start-up of a Statewide Go Team Model:** FSRI respectfully requests \$1.5 million for the one-time start-up of a statewide Go Team model in FY23. FSRI will: (1) Implement a new community-informed model in Providence; 2) Implement full Go Team models in Pawtucket, Central Falls and East Providence; (3) Launch a new Go Team model in Woonsocket; and (4) Launch a new Go Team model in a city or town identified by FSRI in partnership with municipal leaders (currently in discussions with North Providence and Warwick).

Our statewide Go Team model will include:

- a) Behavioral Health Intervention;
- b) Community Liaison "Ride Alongs" day and night; and
- c) 24/7 "on-scene response" to traumatic events (school violence, domestic violence, sexual assaults, child abuse, homicides, suicides, overdoses, human trafficking, homeless families, and any situation where children and families are in distress) to mitigate trauma exposure. We will provide crisis intervention – "psychological first aid," access to basic needs (housing, food, etc.), connection with community resources, and immediate access to clinical treatment.





## PROPOSED START-UP ACTIVITIES:

1. Bridge the gap between the police and the community; draw from Yale University's Child Development/Community Policing Program.<sup>1</sup>
2. Provide periodic trainings to officers on issues such as racial disproportionality and disparity within the child welfare system, short and long term effects of trauma—including race-based traumatic stress, etc.
3. Embed trauma-informed, multi-lingual community liaisons within police departments to participate in command staff meetings, roll calls, and ride alongs after hours, on weekends/holidays, 365 days/year – modeling compassionate crisis response.
4. Respond to a wide range of behavioral health/social service crises in our communities with cultural and linguistic translation; emergency clinical assessments; consultation; trauma treatment; and safety plans; this includes ongoing support to families reeling from drug overdoses;
5. Connect victims with basic needs assistance (e.g., shelter, transportation, food, housing, baby care items, clothing, funeral expenses, etc.) and COVID-19 risk reduction supplies (gloves, masks, cleaning supplies, etc.);
6. Conduct follow-up, post-incident and, as appropriate, connect victims to FSRI's evidence-based trauma treatments, wraparound services;
7. Support advocacy and assistance to help victims access the legal system – such as orders of protection, wayward petitions. Additionally, our team will access the Victims Outreach Integrated Community Environment (VOICE) Portal, as appropriate.
8. Support ongoing data capture and measurement, quality improvement and regional/national reporting on innovations and impact from our program delivery.

## STATEWIDE GO TEAM PROPOSED OUTCOMES:

(1) **For RI residents**, the Go Team will (a) diminish the immediate and longer-term effects of emotional, behavioral, physical and racial trauma (e.g. chronic physical health conditions; substance use - smoking, excessive alcohol use, and taking drugs; mental health conditions - depression, anxiety, or PTSD; and other risky behaviors - self-injury and risky sexual encounters.)<sup>2</sup>; (b) assist victims with navigating RI justice systems; (c) increase financial support from the Crime Victim Compensation Program; (d) connect victims with basic needs support, counseling, and other community resources; and (e) improve interactions with and perceptions of law enforcement.

<sup>1</sup> <https://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/communitypartnerships/cvtc/cdcp/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.samhsa.gov/trauma-violence>



(2) **For officers**, the Go Team will (a) model compassionate community response to crisis;(b) increase officer trauma awareness, sensitivity and empathy; (c) provide trained trauma professionals to assist during crises - addressing behavioral health and other concerns that allow law enforcement to focus on their role; (d) provide training and consultation around compassionate, trauma informed crisis responses; (e) improve officer mental health and morale.

(3) **For our state**, the Go Team will serve as an innovative approach for re-imagined community policing grounded in an equity and justice framework.

**NEED:** When responding to calls, officers bear the responsibility of dealing with perpetrators while simultaneously protecting the vulnerable (such as children). Many officers do not have capacity to respond to these very differing needs at the same time. Further, many may not be able to perceive significant racial, cultural, or gender expression influences inherent in a situation and/or may not have the needed linguistic skills to understand and appropriately respond to a dynamic interaction.

**CAPACITY:** FSRI's Providence Go Team has effectively partnered with law enforcement for 15+ years to help children and families exposed to trauma. We propose to build on this capacity for this one-time start-up of a statewide model.

FSRI's Providence Go Team program has won multiple awards including: 2018 Mutual of America's Community Partnership Award; 2013 Invitation to Providence Police Chief Col. Hugh T. Clements, Jr. to present the program to the National Association of Attorneys General; 2012 Rhode Island Attorney General Justice Award for Domestic Violence Victim Services; 2010 MetLife Community - Police Partnership Award; 2008 Providence Community Partner Mayoral Award.

FSRI's 130 year track record and team of 300 behavioral health/social service professionals ensures excellence in the delivery of a comprehensive care model. For more information about our work, visit: [www.familyserviceri.org](http://www.familyserviceri.org)



**SUSTAINABILITY:** FSRI seeks this one-time, ARPA start-up funding to launch a statewide Go Team - specifically, funds will be used to hire and train community liaisons, purchase equipment, provide training to police officers, engage community members, set-up data collection systems, and fully implement during FY23. FSRI will achieve sustainability for the statewide Go Team through inclusion in municipal budgets and pursuit federal funding opportunities, including Restored federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding; and federal Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and other funding. Other potential funding sources include Medicaid; health insurance plans; State Department of Children Youth and Family Services (DCYF) funding; Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) funding; regional grant sources; and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

**QUESTIONS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Please feel free to contact Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO of Family Service of RI with any questions or for additional information. She can be reached at 401-639-4759 or [mhmcduff@familyserviceri.org](mailto:mhmcduff@familyserviceri.org).

Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr.  
Chief of Police



**Department of Public Safety, Police Department**  
*"Building Pride in Providence"*

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Ryan W. Pearson  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Chairman Pearson and Chairman Abney,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Family Service of Rhode Island's (FSRI) request for ARPA funding **to operate and expand FSRI's GO Team police partnership program**. FSRI's partnership with the Providence Police Department is long established, highly successful, and represents an effective implementation of evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for Rhode Islanders in crisis.

For 18 years, FSRI and the Providence Police Department have partnered to provide 24/7/365 joint response for victims of crime, with a special focus on children exposed to traumatic events. Through this innovative partnership, now replicated in several Rhode Island communities, a bilingual police liaison rides along on patrol with Providence police officers, responding on-scene to provide crisis response and stabilization to decrease the impact of trauma and keep victims supported and engaged throughout the investigative and court process.

Our partnership serves hundreds of victims of crime each and every year. This partnership helps our officers do their jobs while feeling confident victims are being well taken care of during and immediately following their victimization. We can always count on the GO Team to show up for victims, for the officers, and for the Providence community.

The GO Team has been recognized as a best practice locally, regionally, and nationally; has won several awards and special designations over the years; and has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from victims served. Additional investment through ARPA funding will ensure this effective partnership's continuation and by allowing an expansion of current direct services to underserved communities. It is paramount to our community that these funds are allocated as proposed.

We look forward to continuing and expanding our impactful work with FSRI for the benefit of Providence and all of its citizens. Thank you for your consideration of this ARPA funding request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hugh T. Clements, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hugh T. Clements, Jr.  
Colonel  
Chief of Police



DONALD R. GREBIEN  
MAYOR



February 17, 2022

The Honorable Ryan W. Pearson  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Investment

Chairman Pearson and Chairman Abney,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support in my capacity as Mayor and on behalf the City of Pawtucket for Family Service of Rhode Island's (FSRI) request for ARPA funding to operate and expand FSRI's GO Team police partnership program in our community.

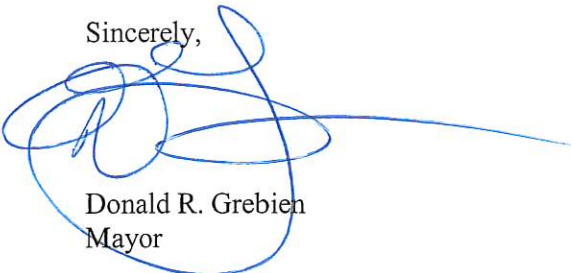
Over the past year and a half, FSRI's Police GO Team has begun fully integrating into the Pawtucket Police Department as an expansion effort following the program's significant success in the City of Providence. The program provides on-scene crisis response, referrals for supportive services and basic needs assistance, trauma counseling, mental health assessment, follow-up, and ongoing assistance navigating the criminal justice process to vulnerable victims of crime across Pawtucket. The joint response model is effective in reducing the risk of re-victimization and the after-effects of trauma exposure, particularly among young people.

FSRI and the Pawtucket Police Department have only begun their work together in our city and we look forward to seeing the full impacts of this program with the support of ARPA funding from the State. We were excited to bring more resources from this impactful program to Pawtucket and we also support its expansion to other communities across the State.

I fully support FSRI's Go Team ARPA funding request and urge General Assembly to allocate funding toward this impactful program. Full implementation of this innovative model is crucial to all victims of crime and their families across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support and please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

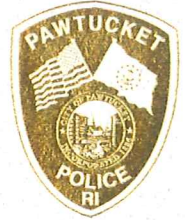


Donald R. Grebien  
Mayor





# PAWTUCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT



DONALD R. GREBIEN  
MAYOR

TINA GONCALVES  
CHIEF OF POLICE

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Ryan W. Pearson  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Investment

Chairman Pearson and Chairman Abney,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter in support of Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI) for their ARPA funding request to operate and expand FSRI's GO Team police partnership program.

True to its mission, FSRI works to advance equity, hope and opportunity in the communities it serves through an expansive and long-standing continuum of direct services and statewide community partnerships. FSRI's Police GO Teams, specifically, have fully integrated into several Rhode Island police departments to provide a variety of victim-focused services, including on-scene 24/7 crisis response, referrals for supportive services and basic needs assistance, trauma counseling, mental health assessment, follow-up, and ongoing assistance navigating the criminal justice process. The joint response model works well to reduce the risk of re-victimization and the after effects of trauma exposure, particularly among young people, and supports community/police relations.

We have only begun our work together in Pawtucket, with full GO Team implementation delayed by cuts to historical funding sources over the past year, such as Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, and challenges in fully implementing any new program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the process, the Pawtucket Police Department has remained fully committed to this partnership.

I encourage the General Assembly to allocate funding toward this impactful program to continue to support this innovative model and provide critically needed supports to victims of crime and their families in Pawtucket and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Goncalves  
Chief of Police/Acting Public Safety Director

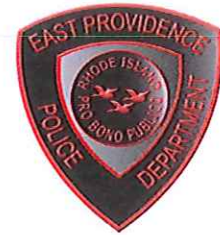
TG/las



# City of East Providence

## DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

750 WATERMAN AVENUE  
EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02914-1714  
TELEPHONE (401) 435-7600



**Colonel Christopher Francesconi**  
Chief of Police

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Ryan W. Pearson  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Investment

Chairman Pearson and Chairman Abney,

I am pleased to provide this letter in support for Family Service of Rhode Island's (FSRI) request for ARPA funding to operate and expand FSRI's GO Team police partnership programs. This funding will assist the shared goal of FSRI's partnership with East Providence Police Department – bringing compassion and services to victims of crime.

For over a decade, FSRI and the East Providence Police have partnered to provide around the clock services to victims of domestic violence and other related crimes. This partnership has allowed FSRI staff to be fully integrated into our police department and deliver a trauma-focused, evidence-based continuum of victim services - including crime scene crisis intervention, therapy, advocacy, grief work, victims' crime compensation, psycho-education, resilience building, safe housing access, health care, safety planning, and collaboration. Our partnership has served hundreds of East Providence residents, enabling victims to better cope with the trauma they have experienced, while allowing the police to focus on investigating the crime.

FSRI police partnership programs, being recognized as a best practice and winning several awards over the years, is immensely beneficial to the victims served. I fully support FSRI's Go Team ARPA funding request and urge General Assembly to allocate funding toward this impactful program. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Colonel Christopher Francesconi  
Chief of Police



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS  
MAYOR MARIA RIVERA

580 BROAD STREET  
CENTRAL FALLS, RI 02863

OFFICE: (401) 727-7400  
EMAIL: MAYORSOFFICE@CENTRALFALLSRI.US

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Ryan W. Pearson  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Investment

Chairman Pearson and Chairman Abney,

The City of Central Falls is pleased to provide this letter of support for Family Service of Rhode Island's (FSRI) request for ARPA funding to operate and expand FSRI's GO Team police partnership program. This funding would support benefit the most vulnerable citizens within our Central Falls community - children and families experiencing trauma and victimization, and enable other communities the opportunities to implement these impactful partnerships.

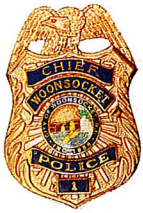
The Central Falls Police Department (CFPD) has reported a significantly positive experience in working with FSRI's co-locating clinicians, who respond with officers to crime scenes involving individuals in mental health crisis and victims and bystanders at risk of trauma. The GO Team provides a consistent and ongoing response avenue throughout the investigative and trial processes. The GO Team is designed to reduce both the immediate and longer term negative impacts of trauma exposure on young people and their families. The GO Team also supports positive community/police relations which ultimately fosters a safer Central Falls community for all.

Since 2019, when the partnership between FSRI and the CFPD was fully implemented, the GO Team has served approximately 400 Central Falls citizens of all ages. With additional ARPA funds, the GO Team will be able expand much needed services in our community while also being able to expand the GO Team to cities in need across Rhode Island. I very much look forward to sustaining and expanding this innovative partnership as we move forward towards a more equitable and compassionate system of policing in our state.

I am in enthusiastic support of FSRI's ARPA funding request for GO Team partnership. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Maria Rivera  
Mayor



# Woonsocket Police Department

242 Clinton Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895-3276  
Telephone (401) 766-1212 • Fax (401) 765-4922 • Emergencies 911



*Thomas F. Oates III*  
*Chief of Police*

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Ryan W. Pearson  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Finance Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Investment

Dear Chairman Pearson and Chairman Abney,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support on behalf the Woonsocket Police Department for Family Service of Rhode Island's (FSRI) request for ARPA funding **to operate and expand FSRI's GO Team police partnership program**. The demonstrated success that the GO Team has brought to Providence, East Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls, as well as the statewide response through the State Police partnership, has proven the importance of expanding this critical program to our citizens in Woonsocket.

For more than 15 years, FSRI has partnered with police departments across Rhode Island to provide 24/7/365 joint response for victims of crime, with a special focus on children exposed to traumatic events. Through this innovative partnership, an FSRI police liaison rides along on patrol with police officers, responding on-scene to provide crisis response and stabilization to decrease the impact of trauma and keep victims supported and engaged throughout the investigative and court process. The impact of these wellness supports cannot be overstated.

Expanding the GO Team through funding proposed in this ARPA request will significantly support our Department's goals and core values. The Woonsocket Police Department strives to embody the philosophy of community policing through progressive community involvement and partnership-based problem-solving strategies; a partnership with FSRI will help fulfill this philosophy by providing compassionate, critical care and strengthening community/police relationships.

I strongly support FSRI's ARPA funding request for the GO Team, and look forward to bringing this partnership to Woonsocket.

Sincerely

*Chief Thomas F Oates III*

Thomas F. Oates III  
Chief of Police