



## **Livingston County Hardship Questionnaire**

*The American Rescue Plan's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) requires recipients of federal funding to demonstrate economic harm due to the pandemic. As an applicant for this federal funding assistance, the organization is required to complete this form.*

**Organization Name:** Livingston Family Center, Inc.

**Primary Contact Name & Title:** Angela Parth, Executive Director

*Please respond to all 5 of the following questions including as much detail as required:*

- 1. Describe the impact the COVID-19 public health emergency has had on the organization's programs/activities (e.g., increase/decrease in demand for services, program modifications due to social distancing, new programming to serve those impacted, limited operations, etc.)\***

Livingston Family Center (LFC) is the non-profit parent agency to The Connection Youth Services (TCYS) which provides emergency shelter, crisis intervention, prevention services, and mental health counseling to youth ages 11-22 and their families who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. During the pandemic LFC did not pause services, in fact, the agency worked hard to keep the emergency shelter open and crisis intervention services functioning and staffed. Throughout the past three years, due to COVID-19, LFC has experienced staff retention and recruitment issues, an increase in the number of youth and families seeking services with complex mental health and financial needs, a decrease in fundraiser revenue, and significant, expensive policy and procedure changes.

- 2. Describe the impact the COVID-19 public health emergency has had on the organization's finances (e.g., increased or new expenses, reduced/cancelled fundraising, loss of earnings, decline in revenue, etc.)**

During the pandemic, LFC was able to apply for and receive some specific funds for personal protective equipment, COVID testing, cleaning supplies, and essential worker pay. However, these funding sources were time-limited and did not fully cover the

additional, unexpected cost of the pandemic (i.e. virtual meeting software and additional sick time pay for staff). Although mandates pertaining to PPE and testing have lifted, the cost of maintaining our programs has increased, depleting the agency's general operating fund.

LFC hosts fundraisers throughout the year to secure general operating funds; however, since the pandemic, fundraiser revenue has decreased almost 55%. LFC receives state and federal grants to operate The Connection Youth Services—these grants do not allow for capital expenditures. The agency depends on fundraising to fill budget gaps and maintain our shelter and Drop-In Center.

**3. Describe any other impact the COVID-19 public health emergency has had on the organization (e.g., staffing changes, volunteer impacts, periods of closure, mitigation efforts to contain the spread of COVID, etc.) \***

While the economy and unemployment rates in Livingston County have improved significantly in the past year, decreasing to 3.0%, our homeless population is predicted to grow due to foreclosures, evictions, the end of pandemic relief programs, and long-term job loss. National, state, and local assistance programs such as the moratorium on evictions, increases in unemployment benefits, and stimulus checks kept families afloat during the crisis. But as these assistance programs end, the families who were vulnerable at the onset of the pandemic will continue to struggle to afford stable housing and meet other basic needs.

After the 2007-2009 global financial crisis, LFC's requests for runaway and homeless services increased 62%. LFC predicts an even greater increase in 2022-2024. The pandemic has revealed considerable shortcomings in our health and education systems, and has exposed just how much these shortcomings affect our most vulnerable households, increasing the barriers to economic stability. The United Way's 2023 ALICE Report states that 47,078 (24%) of households in Livingston County are considered below the ALICE (Asset-Limited-Income-Constrained Employed) or poverty threshold. 24% of Livingston County households cannot afford such basic needs as housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology. These families not only struggle to pay for housing; they are forced to choose among paying utility bills, buying food, and accessing behavioral and physical healthcare.

Without TCYS' Basic Center Program, Livingston County's youth are far more susceptible to dangerous street life, which includes sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, substance use, and illegal behavior. TCYS is a necessary service that serves youth who fall between the social system cracks and are often invisible to our community. Last project year, TCYS provided prevention and intervention services to the most vulnerable youth in our community; of whom:

- 42% reported inappropriate sexual experiences, including prostitution and exploitation;
- 68% reported experiencing domestic violence;
- 21% had at least one deceased parent due to substance use or other unnatural cause;

- 15% were previously in a foster care home;
- 49% reported severe emotional and mental health symptoms;
- 26% reported a significant substance abuse/use issue

**4. Has the organization received other federal COVID-19 funding assistance such as, but not limited to, Federal CARES Act funding; Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans; or Community Development Block Grant –Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds? \***

**a. Yes, describe amount(s) and use(s):**

Federal Department of Health and Human Services COVID Grant: \$20,000 (9/2020)

- PPE
- COVID Testing
- New mattress covers for shelter
- Cleaning supplies
- Air purifier for shelter
- Computer cameras/microphones
- PPE for youth and families with financial need

Livingston County United Way \$2,100 (6/2020)

- Zoom business membership

Paycheck Protection Program \$23,200 (12/2020)

- Hourly wage for supervised visitation staff from March, 2020-July 2020

Ann Arbor Spark Small Business Grant \$10,000 (9/2020)

- Rent for outpatient building space and supervised visitation building space

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Direct Care Worker Wage Reimbursement \$8,357 (12/2021)

- Direct Care staff \$2/hour bonus for 2020/2021

**b. No**

**5. Is your organization a tax-exempt organization per Internal Revenue Service guidelines (<https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>)?**

Yes, Livingston Family Center is a 501(c)3 agency. EIN #38-3308066