

You must attach a brief description of the principle purpose of your request. Summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your organization, why you are requesting funding, what outcome you hope to achieve.

Since July 1, 2016 the Family Support Center of South Sound has provided comprehensive services to more than 900 parents and children who needed support in their most critical time of need. This includes homeless families with children who are sleeping in their vehicle or tent tonight, survivors of domestic violence who fled from a dangerous situation, foster children who deserve supervised visits with their parents, families who received a three day pay or vacate notice, and new parents that need breastfeeding support. Utilizing a “one-stop-shop” model, families with children and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are provided access to multiple on-site services which promote safety, health and wellbeing. Funding from the Nisqually Indian Tribe will ensure concrete supports are available to families and survivors during their most critical times of need.

The Family Support Center of South Sound is a nonprofit 501c3 multi-service agency located in downtown Olympia, Washington, founded in 1992 to provide families with coordinated supportive services in one centralized location with the mission, “*Working Together to Strengthen All Families*”. The Family Support Center seeks to build strong, healthy, self-sufficient families through collaborative programs and services, with the goal to reduce the impacts of family and child poverty, homelessness, and family violence in the South Sound community. In order to best support all families with children and survivors, the Family Support Center offers six core programs that will be supported by the Nisqually Indian Tribe:

Homeless Family Services- the Family Support Center is the County’s designated Coordinated Entry point for ALL homeless families with children, providing comprehensive individualized case management, rapid re-housing, housing search and placement, and supportive services for homeless families. More than 700 parents and children are served by this program annually.

Pear Blossom Place: A Family Support Community- is Thurston County’s largest 24 hour emergency homeless family shelter, providing 36 parents and children with safety and shelter every night. More than 13,140 shelter bed nights are provided annually, in addition to 7 permanent supportive affordable apartments on-site for families with children. On-site case management and supportive services are available for all families.

Parent & Child Education- provides formal and informal parent education classes, family engagement activities, breastfeeding support, early learning opportunities, and on-site childcare for workshops/support groups for more than 500 families annually. This program is built around the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and builds upon the assets and strengths of families.

Family Resource Services Navigator Program- is the most critical and vital program that provides all families with children the supports and resources needed. This program provides over 1,000 families annually with clothing, food, coordinated entry services, shelter placement, hygiene supplies, holiday assistance, transportation, mainstream benefits assistance, employment support, financial education, and resource navigation. This program works alongside families to achieve their goals, and advocates on behalf of the needs of families and children.

Thurston County Family Justice Center Program- is Washington State’s second Family Justice Center, and provides best practice collaborative and co-located community based and

criminal justice services to more than 400 domestic violence and sexual assault survivors annually. This program leverages existing resources and partnerships from multiple jurisdictions and public/private organizations on-site in order to increase the safety of survivors and their children. More than 10 Memorandum of Understandings are in place for this program, including one with the Nisqually Tribe in order to collaboratively and succinctly meet the needs of survivors and their children.

Supervised Visitation for Foster Children- provides the transportation and supervision of visits between foster children and their noncustodial parents and siblings. More than 100 foster children each year are provided safe visits with their families.

For families living in Thurston County and beyond, the Family Support Center of South Sound is the centralized agency to meet the vast array of needs quickly, comprehensively, and thoughtfully. It is important to have the services available to respond to the crisis's experienced by families in order to reduce the trauma and shorten the length of instability. The 2014 Thurston Thrives Data Snapshot states, "Income is a determinant of health, meaning it influences how healthy you are and how long you live. Living in poverty and experiencing economic hardship is a threat to the health and well-being of children" (p.14). Thurston County has the third highest rates of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the State of Washington, which affects long term health outcomes for generations; the more ACEs a person experiences, the higher risk of health issues later in life including alcohol and drug abuse, depression, intimate partner violence, suicide, and homelessness. Since the recession in 2008, the number of Thurston County children who are low income or living in poverty has increased by 63% (Thurston Thrives Data Snapshot 2013); low income children are at greater risk of child abuse and neglect. Families seeking services from the Family Support Center are primarily at or below 30% Area Median Income, thus are low-extremely low income. Offering the multitude of services in one location at the Family Support Center provides families with immediate access to the support and services that they need to reduce the negative impacts of adverse childhood experiences and increase the protective factors known to reduce child abuse and neglect and increase the overall resiliency of the family. When services are available when a family needs it most, the family will be more successful and self-sufficient long term.

The Family Support Center has been a vital asset to the South Sound community for more than 24 years, and annually has received support for its various programs from the Nisqually Indian Tribe. In 2016 the Family Support Center is requesting \$50,000 in order to ensure all programs and services remain available to families and survivors. With support from the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Family Support Center will be able to achieve the goals of providing 1,000 families with children concrete supports in times of need, 100 parents and children with family engagement activities, 100 homeless families with emergency shelter, and 400 survivors of domestic violence with comprehensive services to increase their safety and stability. The Family Support Center's mission is achieved through collaboration and "Working Together". We simply could not meet the needs of families in the community without the Nisqually Indian Tribe's continued support.