

Blaine County Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application

General Information

Organization: Men's Second Chance Living (MSCL House)
Budget Contact Person: Sonya Wilander
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Organization Profile

Organization Mission:

The mission of MSCL House is to help men living with addiction succeed in their recovery and achieve sustained sobriety by providing them with safe, affordable sober housing and support services while serving their needs and treating them with respect, compassion, and a belief in the value of each individual.

Operational Description

Description of the organization operations and service(s) provided to Blaine County.

Men's Second Chance Living (MSCL House) is two sober homes for adult men (18+) in Hailey, Idaho. When MSCL House opened its first sober living house in 2018, it addressed a pressing need in Blaine County, Idaho to serve and support men in recovery from substance abuse disorder. In October 2022, the organization realized a long-term need of opening a second sober house that was at capacity within eight weeks of welcoming the first resident. MSCL House serves up to 32 men each year and operates with a waitlist. We offer safe and affordable sober housing to men who recently completed inpatient programs or were recently released from jail or prison for alcohol-and drug-related offenses. We receive a modest rent from each resident that goes toward our operational budget and have provided 10,263 bed nights to more than 51 men since 2018, with 3,036 bed nights in 2022.

The residents of MSCL House receive more than substance-free, affordable housing to create stability in their lives; they also have access to many proven resources that help them develop as individuals and community members. MSCL House offers support programs and covers financial costs for many of these programs, to foster a successful recovery for all our residents. These programs include –

- Substance abuse and mental health counseling.
- Funding for higher education for residents pursuing trade certification or college degrees, to better themselves and create a more prosperous, stable future in the Wood River Valley.

- Financial literacy classes, along with a Matched Savings Program, to help residents achieve greater financial stability.
- Nutrition education.
- Recreational and health activities.

We believe that successful long-term recovery involves personal growth – mental, physical, occupational, spiritual, and educational –along with abstinence from alcohol and other substances.

The residents of Blaine County are our biggest stakeholders. MSCL House offers the Wood River Valley’s only sober homes for men. By supporting these men in their recovery, MSCL House also positively impacts their families, friends, employers, and the community. Most MSCL House residents have been through the criminal justice system at some point. MSCL House helps reduce criminal recidivism by addressing the substance abuse that leads to drug-and alcohol-related crime.

Organizational Structure

Include a current organizational chart that highlights any new FTEs that were added the last FY and highlights in a different color any new FTEs being requested in the upcoming FY.

MEN'S SECOND CHANCE LIVING



MSCL House is actively seeking to hire a full-time house manager to oversee daily operations at both houses. The salary we can offer, however, makes it difficult to fill this position given the current housing scarcity and inflated housing prices in the Wood River Valley. We are thoughtfully addressing these obstacles by applying for funding to secure housing for our employees, as well as transitional housing for residents when they graduate from the program, but this is a long-term goal. Our operating and program budgets rely heavily on individual donations and foundation grants.

Support from the county will assist in keeping our program running and to help ensure we can retain the best staff for the job.

FY23 Fiscal Year Review

FY23 Performance Metrics

(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 performance metrics - Note – going forward these should be reported on year-over-year as well as a history of this data)

- Metric 1
We require residents to sign in and sign out to verify their whereabouts, we follow staffing requirements, and we observe fire safety standards – all of these comply with standards from both BPA Health, Inc., and GEO Reentry Services, two organizations that provide funding for Drug Court and Idaho Department of Corrections clients, as well as clients who successfully exit drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities that qualify for assistance.
- Metric 2
Help all residents set achievable goals and participate in at least two wraparound programs to work toward achieving those goals.
- Metric 3
Require random drug testing, using BPA Health Inc. and GEO standards as guidelines.

FY23 Fiscal Year Highlights

(Provide a bulleted list of three to five highlights from FY23– should tie directly to budget requests and approvals from current FY and how the budget approvals help(ed) your organization achieve your metrics)

- Highlight 1
Staff reviewed sign-in/sign-out sheets to confirm men were safe and maintained recovery; MSCL House provided 24-hour availability of staff for residents, with Executive Director Sonya Wilander acting as house manager as we search for a qualified, full-time house manager; fire extinguishers and smoke alarms updated; houses maintained according to BPA and GEO audit standards.
- Highlight 2
Fostered a secure, welcoming home environment for residents, allowing them to make progress in their recovery from substance abuse disorder by setting and working towards goals and offering proven programs in continuing education, job skills, nutrition, financial literacy, matched savings, behavioral health services, and health and wellness activities to facilitate re-entry into the community and reach goals.
- Highlight 3
Required random drug testing as part of the sober living program to assure residents were on track with their recovery. If we saw a resident struggling or encountered a positive test, we doubled our support through our other programs and adjusted goals.

FY23 Other Highlights

(Provide any other highlights and updates from FY23)

- Highlight 1
Opened second sober living home in central Hailey, allowing us to serve up to 16 additional men in recovery each year and address high demand for our programs. Reached capacity within eight weeks of opening.
- Highlight 2
Hosted events throughout the year to address substance use and increase awareness (e.g., held health talks through St. Luke's, sponsored events during National Recovery Month, partnered with the Wood River Chamber and the City of Hailey, volunteering in all their events, and maintained a presence on social media and local news outlets). Increased fundraising activities and public talks.
- Highlight 3
MSCL House board and staff attended the graduation of a resident – a first for the organization. The man graduated from the College of Southern Idaho, earning an associate degree in applied sciences. He moved out of the house, opened his own business, found housing, and saved enough money for rental down payments.

FY24 Fiscal Year Budget Request Highlights

Requested Resources and Associated Costs

(Identify any significant budget requests and applicable information to support the requests. Explain how the requests will support increased performance of the above identified performance metrics.)

- People; Facilities; Equipment; Programming Costs; Other Requested Resources
 - Housing is the most important pillar of the mission of MSCL House: without housing we do not have a program. We request funds to support housing for residents in fiscal year 2024.
 - MSCL requests \$15,000 total: \$5,000 to support housing needs in the first sober living house and \$10,000 to support the new second sober living house. With cost-of-living expenses skyrocketing and housing at such a premium, we are proud to be able to house and support as many as 32 men annually in the Wood River Valley. MSCL House will use Blaine County funds for operating costs, day-to-day home management, supervision, and service coordination for our programs.

FY24 Fiscal Year Anticipated Highlights

FY24 Anticipated Projects, Performance and Highlights

(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 anticipated highlights based upon budget requests or anticipated projects.)

- Anticipate full occupancy in both houses, offering as many as 32 men annually recovering from substance abuse disorder stable, structured, affordable housing.
- Anticipated Highlight 2
Continue to integrate and reintegrate our residents into the community, so they can reestablish themselves as contributing members, having assisted with job training, continuing education, and health and welfare needs. Currently, we have three residents attending trade programs that will improve income and quality of life for the men and the greater community. A fourth resident is preparing to start courses this fall.
- Anticipated Highlight 3
Complete a 3 to 5-year strategic plan, involving community stakeholders, cohorts, board members, and residents.