

Completeness Checklist

Applicants must complete the chart below and attach as PAGE 1 of the submission.

<u>Application Forms and Attachments</u>	<u>Page #</u>
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<u>Project Applicant:</u> Hope Above Fear	
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1. Applicant Information

Organization Name: Hope Above Fear	Authorized Organization Representative Name/Title: Stephanie Shepard - Executive Director
Address: 31 E. Lee Street	Telephone: 480-251-5157
City, State/Zip: Pensacola, FL 32501	Organization Website: https://hopeabovefear.org/
Contact Person Name/Title: Stephanie Shepard - Executive Director	Unique Entity ID (SAM #):
Contract Person E-mail: stephanie@hopeabovefear.org	Federal Employer ID #: 88-4378059

2. Project Information

Project Name: Youth Prevention and Recovery Center	
Project Address (if different from organization address):	
This is a/an: ☐ New Project ☒ Expanded Project	
Total Funding Requested for this Project: <u>\$236,423.16</u>	
Number of Persons to be Served: 1,400	
Project Type (check as many as applicable below):	
☐ Medication Assisted Treatment	☒ Education Program
☒ Prevention	☐ Recovery
☐ Treatment (other than medication-assisted)	
☒ Overdose Reversal Medication Distribution	☐ Criminal Justice Training, Prevention, and Treatment
☐ Other: Early Intervention	

Target Population (check as many as applicable below):	
☐ Chronically Homeless ☐ Single Individuals ☐ Victims of Domestic Violence ☒ LGBTQI+ Individuals/Families/Youth ☒ Other: Adolescents aged 12 - 17.	☒ Families ☒ Unaccompanied Youth (ages 18-24) ☐ Veterans ☐ Individuals with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness
Target Service Location (check as many as applicable below):	
☐ City of Pensacola ☐ Unincorporated Escambia County ☐ Town of Century ☒ All of Escambia County Is this project using a mobile-based treatment model? ☐ Yes ☒ No	

3. Certification

10. Certification

To the best of my knowledge, I certify that the information in this application is true and correct and that the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant. I will comply with the program rules and regulations if assistance is approved. I also certify that I am aware that providing false information on the application can subject the individual signing such application to criminal sanctions. I further certify that I am authorized to submit this application and have followed all policies and procedures of my agency regarding grant application submissions.

Authorized Organization Representative:

Signature: 

Typed Name:

Stephanie Shepard

Title: Executive Director

Date: 09/07/2026

4. Project Description

Scope of the Project

Hope Above Fear (HAF) seeks continued Escambia County Opioid Abatement funding to sustain and expand a continuum of youth substance use prevention and early intervention services. Building upon the infrastructure and programming established during the previous funding cycle, the proposed project moves from program development into sustained implementation, increased capacity, expanded geographic access, and deeper integration with schools and community partners.

In September 2025, HAF established Hope House through a three-year lease with Northwest Florida Community Health Clinic, creating a consistent location for youth prevention programming, early intervention, family engagement, community service, and other community-based activities. Hope House will remain HAF's primary programming location in Pensacola. During the proposed funding period, HAF will expand access to north Escambia County through a partnership with Community Health Northwest Florida, which will provide programming space in Century. This will allow services to be offered closer to youth and families who may experience geographic or transportation barriers.

A primary component is RESET ~ Redefine Your Future, HAF's structured eight-week early intervention program for high school students experiencing substance-related disciplinary or justice-system involvement. Originally piloted as *Better Without It*, RESET has progressed from pilot implementation to an established service. A two-year agreement with Escambia County Public Schools provides a formal referral pathway for eligible students. Pace Center for Girls will begin referring eligible youth through its Reach program, and HAF is working toward a formal partnership with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for court-ordered RESET referrals. HAF currently accepts DJJ referrals for youth on probation who need community service opportunities.

Prevention occurs alongside early intervention through Choose Your Story (CYS), youth leadership, school and community education, outreach, overdose prevention, and **community involvement**. These activities create multiple points of entry and continued **engagement**. Youth may first encounter HAF through a presentation, community event, or CYS gathering and later become involved in ongoing programming. Likewise, youth referred to RESET are encouraged to remain connected through CYS, youth leadership, community service, and other positive **opportunities**.

The goal is to reach youth before substance use progresses to addiction, overdose, or life-altering consequences by strengthening protective factors, recognizing emerging concerns, engaging families, and connecting young people to support before crisis.

Expansion of Current Services

The proposed project expands HAF's existing prevention and early intervention services rather than creating a new project. During the previous funding cycle, Opioid Abatement funding supported the establishment of Hope House, pilot implementation of RESET, and expansion of HAF's youth prevention infrastructure.

RESET has progressed from a limited pilot to an established early intervention service with capacity for up to 16 eight-week cohorts annually and six youth per cohort, creating annual capacity for up to 96 youth. Referral access will expand through HAF's formal agreement with Escambia County Public Schools, new referrals through Pace Center for Girls' Reach program, and continued development of a formal pathway for court-ordered RESET referrals through DJJ.

Geographic access will expand through the Century programming space provided by Community Health Northwest Florida, adding a north Escambia County access point to HAF's existing Hope House and school/community-based delivery model. Staffing capacity will also increase through dedicated case management, peer support, prevention coordination, and temporary, as-needed Peer Mentor hours, strengthening program delivery, participant follow-up, referral navigation, outreach, and continued engagement.

Number and Type of Clients to Be Served

During the previous 12 months, HAF directly impacted approximately 1,400 Escambia County residents through youth programming, education, outreach, overdose prevention, and community awareness. HAF participated in 33 community outreach activities, provided Narcan to 221 community members, delivered 14 in-person presentations reaching 704 individuals, and hosted three community initiatives reaching more than 350 community members.

During the same period, 144 local teens participated in HAF's youth leadership, prevention, and early intervention services. Youth served range from those benefiting from prevention before substance use begins to those experimenting with substances or experiencing early substance-related consequences. The proposed project will increase access through expanded staffing, referral pathways, geographic reach, and RESET capacity while maintaining HAF's ability to directly impact approximately 1,400 Escambia County residents annually.

Services to Be Provided

Prevention: Choose Your Story (CYS)

CYS provides free, substance-free experiences that connect teens with healthy interests, positive risk-taking, supportive adults and peers, and opportunities they may not otherwise experience. During the previous 12 months, HAF provided 26 gatherings, creating 374 participation opportunities among 104 unique teens. Sixty-five were new participants and 61 attended more than once. Grant funds will support gathering costs, food, wellness bags, and participant supplies.

Early Intervention: RESET ~ Redefine Your Future

RESET combines substance use education with self-reflection, coping and decision-making skills, family engagement, positive adult and near-peer relationships, and individualized creative projects. Parents or guardians participate at the beginning and conclusion of the program. HAF will have capacity for up to 16 cohorts annually with six participants per cohort, serving up to 96 youth.

Outreach and Education: Community Awareness and EMPOWER

HAF extends prevention into schools and the community through presentations, outreach events, overdose education, Narcan distribution, and community awareness initiatives. EMPOWER provides age-appropriate substance use and overdose prevention education designed to increase awareness of substance-related risks, strengthen decision-making, and ensure youth, educators, and community members understand how to recognize and respond to an overdose emergency.

Youth Empowerment and Community Engagement

HAF's Youth Advisory Council provides high school students opportunities to shape prevention messaging and programming but will be supported through other funding and is not charged to this grant. HAF also provides monthly Community Service Days, including opportunities for youth referred by DJJ and students seeking required service hours to develop connection, responsibility, and purpose.

Costs of Proposed Activities

HAF requests **\$236,423.16** in Escambia County Opioid Abatement funding. Personnel and fringe represent approximately 79% of the request and support a full-time Program Director and Case Management position, 75% FTE Peer Support Staff position, 50% FTE Prevention Coordinator, and temporary, as-needed Peer Mentors.

Occupancy represents approximately 5% of the budget; marketing and educational expenses approximately 2%; and direct youth services approximately 8%. Less than 1% each is allocated to service-delivery travel and computer and phone expenses. Administrative costs represent approximately 5% of the total request. These investments provide the staffing, programming, facility support, educational resources, and infrastructure necessary to sustain and expand HAF's prevention and early intervention continuum.

Evidence-Based and Innovative Approach

HAF's approach combines prevention and indicated early intervention to reach youth at different levels of risk. RESET builds upon the prevention-science framework originally implemented through *Better Without It* and incorporates substance use education, skill development, family participation, accountability, positive relationships, and continued connection to prosocial activities.

Rather than treating a substance-related disciplinary incident solely as behavior requiring punishment, RESET uses it as an opportunity for early identification and intervention. Participants are encouraged to remain connected through CYS, youth leadership, community service, and other opportunities that strengthen protective factors and relationships with positive peers and trusted adults.

Staff capacity will also be strengthened through participation in the CADCA National Leadership Forum, with training incorporated into HAF's programming and shared across the organization and with other youth-serving community partners.

Coordination with Housing, Workforce Development, and Healthcare Providers

HAF recognizes that substance use risk can intersect with housing instability, behavioral and physical health, grief, family circumstances, education, employment, and other barriers. HAF serves as a point of connection rather than duplicating specialized community services.

HAF has coordinated with Family Promise, Heavenly Blessings, and Lutheran Services Florida's Currie House regarding housing needs and will begin the process of joining the EscaRosa Homeless Continuum of Care during the current grant cycle.

HAF also maintains relationships with Lutheran Services Florida, Lakeview Center, Baptist Behavioral Health, Valerie's House, Community Health Northwest Florida, and the Northwest Florida SafePath Network. Community Health Northwest Florida will also provide HAF with programming space in Century. When youth or families require behavioral health, substance use treatment, healthcare, grief support, housing, workforce, or other services beyond HAF's scope, staff identify an appropriate provider, facilitate connections, and follow up when appropriate.

HAF's referral network includes an established RESET pathway through Escambia County Public Schools, upcoming referrals through Pace Center for Girls' Reach program, and DJJ referrals for youth on probation needing community service opportunities while HAF works toward a formal pathway for court-ordered RESET referrals.

Conclusion

Hope Above Fear's programming is built around a simple principle: **youth should not have to reach a crisis before a community responds**. Through prevention, early intervention, education, family engagement, positive connection, and coordinated referrals, HAF creates opportunities to reach Escambia County youth before experimentation progresses into more harmful substance use, addiction, or overdose.

Continued Opioid Abatement funding will sustain and expand the people, programs, and infrastructure necessary for this youth-centered continuum, increasing access through RESET, Choose Your Story, education, community engagement, supportive referrals, and expanded programming throughout Escambia County.

5. Quality of Service Questionnaire

Describe how the project aligns with Escambia County's Opioid Abatement Strategic Summary (Appendix 1).

Hope Above Fear's proposed project directly aligns with Escambia County's Prevention funding strategy, particularly the County's identified priorities of Primary Prevention and Community Prevention. The County's Implementation Plan defines Primary Prevention as programs and strategies that prevent drug use, including youth and family programs that promote healthy behaviors and relationships, reduce risk factors, and provide adult education and public awareness. These priorities are central to Hope Above Fear's prevention model.

Through Choose Your Story, HAF provides substance-free experiences that strengthen protective factors by creating opportunities for positive peer relationships, trusted adult connections, healthy activities, and continued community engagement. EMPOWER, school and community presentations, outreach activities, overdose education, Narcan distribution, and community awareness initiatives extend prevention beyond enrolled participants to youth, parents, educators, and other Escambia County residents.

The project addresses the County's priority to prevent misuse of opioids through early identification and intervention. RESET ~ Redefine Your Future provides structured early intervention for high school students who are experimenting with substances or experiencing substance-related disciplinary or justice-system consequences. Rather than waiting for substance use to progress to a substance use disorder, RESET engages youth and families at an earlier point and connects participants to continued prevention activities and additional services when needed. RESET also supports the County's Criminal Justice/Community Corrections strategy by accepting appropriate referrals involving justice-involved youth and providing a community-based intervention designed to address substance use concerns while connecting young people and their families to support.

Together, these activities create a continuum from primary prevention to early intervention and connection to care. The project advances Escambia County's opioid abatement strategy by investing upstream: reducing risk factors, strengthening protective factors, educating the community, responding to emerging substance use, and connecting youth to appropriate resources before substance use progresses to addiction, overdose, or deeper involvement with the criminal justice system.

Explain how your agency is actively participating in the Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and existing Behavioral Health systems in Escambia County, and how this project will integrate with those systems.

Hope Above Fear's primary mission and client population focus on youth substance use prevention and early intervention rather than housing services. HAF is not currently a formal member of the EscaRosa Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC); however, the organization will begin the membership process during the current grant cycle, with formal participation expected prior to the start of the proposed funding period.

While housing and homelessness are not part of HAF's primary service delivery, staff receive calls several times each month from young adults and families seeking assistance with housing, basic needs, behavioral health services, and other resources. HAF follows an established resource-connection process in which staff identify the need, contact appropriate providers to determine current availability and ability to assist, and connect the individual or family with a reliable resource rather than simply providing a list of agencies. HAF has previously coordinated with Family Promise, Heavenly Blessings, and Lutheran Services Florida's Currie House to address housing needs outside the organization's direct scope.

HAF is already actively engaged in Escambia County's broader substance use prevention and behavioral health system. Through the Northwest Florida SafePath Network, HAF takes a leadership role in managing the Northwest Florida SafePath Youth Coalition, providing a mechanism for youth voice, cross-sector collaboration, and coordinated

community youth prevention efforts. HAF also maintains working relationships with Lutheran Services Florida, Lakeview Center, Baptist Behavioral Health, and Valerie's House, allowing youth and families to be connected with behavioral health, substance use treatment, crisis, grief, and other specialized services when appropriate.

These community relationships are reinforced by the professional expertise represented on HAF's Board of Directors. Board members include leadership and frontline professionals from Lakeview Center's Medication-Assisted Treatment program, Baptist Behavioral Health, Escambia County EMS CORE, Baptist Hospital emergency department patient navigation, the Psychiatry Residency Program at HCA Florida West Hospital, Escambia County Public Schools counseling services, and student intervention services for justice-involved youth. This multidisciplinary representation provides HAF with ongoing knowledge of local systems, resources, and service gaps while creating opportunities for collaboration across behavioral health, substance use treatment, emergency response, and prevention.

Through these established partnerships and HAF's planned participation in the CoC, the proposed project will strengthen coordination across systems and ensure that youth and families whose needs extend beyond HAF's prevention and early intervention services can be connected to appropriate housing, behavioral health, substance use treatment, and other community support.

Describe your procedure for assessing participants' needs and making client referrals to other service providers. Describe how you ensure that participants are connected to the services they request.

Hope Above Fear approaches assessment and referral through connection, active listening, and relationship-building. Because HAF often encounters youth before they enter formal behavioral health, substance use treatment, housing, or crisis systems, staff focus first on creating an environment in which young people and their families feel comfortable discussing concerns and asking for help.

For youth entering RESET, the assessment process begins during a phone intake. Staff talk privately with the parent or guardian to better understand the family's concerns, current needs, relevant history, and any additional challenges that may affect the young person. Information shared by the parent or guardian helps staff recognize areas that may require additional attention while respecting the youth's privacy and autonomy. Rather than confronting a young person with information disclosed privately by a caregiver, staff use that understanding to thoughtfully guide conversations and create natural opportunities for the youth to identify concerns, ask questions, or disclose needs in their own way. This approach reflects HAF's philosophy of meeting young people where they are with compassion, dignity, and respect.

Needs may also emerge organically through RESET sessions, Choose Your Story activities, family engagement, school and community interactions, or direct requests for assistance. When a need extends beyond HAF's prevention and early intervention scope, staff identify an appropriate community resource based on the specific circumstances rather than relying solely on a general referral list.

When a parent, guardian, or participant requests additional support, HAF's role extends beyond providing a telephone number. Staff first identify a provider that appears capable of meeting the specific need and contact the provider to confirm availability and/or eligibility. Depending on the service and family's preference, staff may make a direct email introduction, help establish the initial connection, or provide the family with step-by-step guidance about whom to contact, what to request, and what to expect during the initial call or intake process. Staff follow up when appropriate to determine whether the connection was successful and assist in identifying another option when a referral does not result in access to services.

HAF has learned through this process that a referral alone does not necessarily equal access. Counseling has consistently demonstrated this challenge. Families have reported attempting to follow through with counseling referrals only to encounter lengthy waitlists among providers accepting their insurance. In response to this barrier, HAF has developed a partnership with a local mental health foundation that has offered to fund private counseling sessions with providers able to accept HAF-referred clients more quickly. This creates an alternative pathway when traditional insurance-based

options would otherwise leave a young person waiting for needed behavioral health support.

Through this process, HAF serves as an early point of identification, intervention, and connection. The goal is not simply to make a referral, but to reduce the barriers between identifying a need and actually accessing help. HAF monitors referrals through staff documentation and follow-up with participants and families when appropriate, allowing the organization to determine whether requested services were accessed, identify barriers when connections are unsuccessful, and assist families in pursuing an alternative resource upon request.

Describe how the project will provide connections to permanent supportive solutions, include the extent to which this project will connect client to mainstream services (i.e. food stamps, SSI/SSDI, Medicare/Medicaid, physical health care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, recovery support groups, public housing, childcare providers, etc.), and community-based supports (i.e. volunteer opportunities, faith-based organizations, civic groups, etc.) to ensure long term stability.

Hope Above Fear recognizes that substance use risk can be influenced by needs extending beyond prevention and early intervention, including housing instability, food insecurity, behavioral and physical health needs, grief, and family stress. When these needs are identified, HAF connects youth and families with appropriate community providers rather than duplicating services already available.

Depending on individual needs, participants may be connected to physical and mental healthcare, behavioral health services, recovery support for family members, housing and emergency shelter, food assistance, public benefits, grief support, and other basic-needs resources. Existing relationships with organizations including Lutheran Services Florida, Lakeview Center, Baptist Behavioral Health, Valerie's House, Family Promise, and Heavenly Blessings strengthen these referral pathways. HAF's planned participation in the EscaRosa Homeless Continuum of Care will further expand access to housing and supportive-service resources.

HAF also promotes long-term stability by connecting youth to positive community-based supports. Choose Your Story provides opportunities for healthy activities, positive peer relationships, and connection with trusted adults, while the Youth Advisory Council gives high school students opportunities for leadership, youth voice, advocacy, and meaningful involvement in community prevention efforts. Youth completing RESET are encouraged to remain connected through these programs and other HAF opportunities, extending positive support beyond the eight-week intervention.

HAF also provides designated monthly Community Service Days at Hope House, creating structured opportunities for youth to contribute to their community while building responsibility, connection, and purpose. These opportunities are available to youth referred by the Department of Juvenile Justice who need to complete required community service hours, as well as students seeking service hours for school or other requirements.

By combining prevention and early intervention with connections to mainstream services, youth leadership, community service, and other community-based supports, HAF helps young people and families address immediate needs while strengthening the relationships, resources, and protective factors that support long-term stability.

Explain how your agency engages persons with lived experience (i.e. previously or currently homeless, previously or currently experiencing MH/SUD, etc.) and historically marginalized groups (i.e. black, indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ+ populations, etc.) in the design and evaluation of programs and services. Include the number of persons engaged and their role.

Lived experience is embedded throughout Hope Above Fear's leadership, staffing, youth engagement, and program development. HAF was founded on lived family experience with substance use, addiction, overdose loss, and the challenges families encounter when navigating prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery systems. This perspective continues to influence the organization's emphasis on reducing stigma, intervening earlier, engaging families, and creating accessible pathways to support.

Three members of HAF's regular staff bring personal or family lived experience related to substance use, addiction, recovery, family disruption, or overdose loss. Although lived experience is not a formal employment requirement, HAF has found that it is important to the organization's ability to build trust and connect authentically with youth and families. Staff members' experiences help them recognize barriers that may not be apparent to individuals without direct exposure to these challenges and inform the design, communication, and delivery of programs.

These three staff members bring distinct but complementary perspectives. One staff member experienced being placed in state care during elementary school because of her parents' opioid addiction and was subsequently raised by her grandmother. Another grew up in a financially stable household affected by parental alcoholism and later experienced addiction to stimulants and opioids during her teenage and early adult years. HAF's Program Director has lost two family members to opioid addiction and brings a deep, personal understanding of grief, family impact, stigma, and the need for earlier and more effective support.

These experiences inform program implementation and evaluation without replacing professional boundaries or evidence-based practice. Staff use their perspectives to help identify barriers to seeking help, recognize language or approaches that may unintentionally create stigma, and ensure that programs remain grounded in the realities experienced by individuals and families affected by substance use. Their lived experience also helps HAF build credibility and trust with participants who may be hesitant to engage with prevention, behavioral health, or recovery-related services.

Youth voice is equally important to program design and evaluation. Through HAF's Youth Advisory Council (YAC), 10 - 12 high school students serve in an ongoing advisory role rather than participating solely as program recipients. YAC members identify issues affecting local teens, provide feedback on prevention messaging and programming, develop youth-led initiatives, and help HAF evaluate whether activities and communication strategies are relevant and engaging to their peers. Feedback from quarterly participant surveys in Choose Your Story and RESET provides another mechanism for youth to influence future programming.

HAF also recognizes that historically marginalized populations may experience additional barriers to prevention, behavioral healthcare, treatment, and other supportive services. Based on demographic data collected through HAF's youth programs, participants are approximately 60% female and 40% male, with 60% identifying as White, 30% as Black, and 10% as another race or ethnicity. HAF does not require youth to disclose or formally track sexual orientation or gender identity as part of program participation. However, through voluntary self-identification, we know that approximately 40% of our Youth Advisory Council has consisted of Black and/or LGBTQ+ youth. This representation is particularly meaningful because YAC members have a direct role in shaping prevention messaging, identifying issues affecting their peers, providing feedback on programming, and developing youth-led initiatives.

At the governance level, HAF's Board of Directors includes nine individuals who bring diverse professional, cultural, and lived perspectives to organizational oversight and program development. Board members provide expertise spanning education, behavioral health and substance use services, healthcare, emergency response, and direct work with youth and families.

Together, these perspectives create multiple levels of input, from youth receiving services, young people serving in leadership roles, individuals and families with lived experience, staff, and community professionals. Hope Above Fear views lived experience not simply as a characteristic of the population being served, but as an important source of expertise that helps shape how programs are designed, delivered, evaluated, and improved

Explain your agency's experience providing services to individuals and families who have substance use or co-occurring disorders, including federal, state, and/or local government grant experience and the capacity of the organization to administer the project and oversee all compliance requirements.

Hope Above Fear has extensive experience serving youth and families impacted by substance use, addiction, overdose, and related behavioral health challenges, with a primary organizational focus on prevention and early intervention. HAF works with youth across the continuum of risk, from adolescents who have not initiated substance use, to those impacted

by substance abuse within their families, to youth experimenting with substances or experiencing their first substance-related disciplinary or justice-system consequences.

Through RESET ~ Redefine Your Future, HAF provides structured early intervention to high school students referred because of substance-related concerns. The eight-week program incorporates substance use education, coping and decision-making skills, self-reflection, family engagement, positive adult and near-peer relationships, and referrals to additional services when needs exceed HAF's scope. Parents and guardians are engaged as part of the intervention, recognizing that substance use and co-occurring behavioral health concerns frequently affect the entire family system. HAF maintains a formal two-year agreement with Escambia County Public Schools for RESET referrals, will begin receiving referrals through Pace Center for Girls' Reach program, and currently accepts appropriate referrals involving justice-involved youth while continuing to strengthen its relationship with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

HAF's broader prevention infrastructure includes Choose Your Story, youth leadership opportunities, school and community education, overdose prevention, Narcan distribution, and community outreach. During the previous 12 months, more than 140 local teens participated in HAF's prevention, youth leadership, and early intervention services. HAF also conducted 33 community outreach activities, 14 in-person educational presentations, and three community-wide awareness events, contributing to approximately 1,400 direct community engagements. During outreach activities alone, HAF provided Narcan to 221 community members.

HAF is an approved Overdose Prevention Narcan distributor through the Florida Department of Children and Families, allowing the organization to provide overdose education and no-cost naloxone throughout the community. When participants present needs beyond HAF's prevention and early intervention scope, such as substance use treatment, mental or behavioral healthcare, physical healthcare, grief support, housing, or other supportive services, staff connect youth and families with appropriate community providers rather than attempting to duplicate specialized clinical services.

Hope Above Fear has demonstrated experience administering state and local public funding, including Escambia County Opioid Abatement funding and funding through the Escambia Children's Trust, in addition to other competitive public and private grant awards. These investments have supported HAF's progression from primarily community-based prevention and awareness activities to a staffed organization operating a dedicated facility, delivering structured early intervention programming, maintaining formal school-system partnerships, and providing ongoing prevention services throughout Escambia County.

HAF maintains the organizational infrastructure necessary to administer the proposed project and oversee grant compliance. The Program Director is responsible for overall program and grant oversight, including implementation, staff supervision, partner coordination, program documentation, data collection, required reporting, and monitoring grant-funded activities. Administrative funds may also support allowable grant administration activities performed outside the Program Director's grant-funded position and regular work hours, when necessary, including grant reporting, fiscal administration, compliance, recordkeeping, and other administrative functions directly related to the award. Any additional administrative compensation will be based on actual time worked, separately documented, and charged only to the administrative portion of the grant to prevent duplication with Program Director personnel costs. Fiscal responsibilities include tracking expenditures by funding source, maintaining supporting documentation, monitoring allowable expenses against the approved budget, and coordinating financial reporting and accounting functions. Program staff maintain participant and service-delivery records necessary to measure implementation and report grant-funded activities.

HAF's Board of Directors provides additional fiscal and organizational oversight, including review of organizational finances, budgets, program implementation, and grant-funded activities. This combination of staff-level management, financial controls, documentation, data tracking, and Board oversight provides HAF with the capacity to responsibly administer public funding and meet programmatic, fiscal, reporting, and compliance requirements.

HAF's experience has also reinforced the importance of recognizing the limits of its role. The organization does not attempt to function as a clinical treatment provider. Instead, HAF fills a critical position earlier in the continuum by providing prevention and early intervention, including RESET's non-clinical therapeutic setting, where youth can explore

substance-related concerns, develop healthier coping and decision-making skills, build supportive relationships, and engage their families without requiring a clinical treatment environment. When needs extend beyond HAF's scope, staff help connect youth and families to qualified behavioral health, healthcare, and other appropriate community providers.

Describe how your agency has worked to remove traditional barriers (i.e. no income, no insurance, no transportation, etc.) to services for individuals and families who have substance use or co-occurring disorders.

Hope Above Fear works to reduce financial, transportation, insurance, scheduling, and stigma-related barriers that can prevent youth and families from accessing prevention and early intervention services. All HAF youth programs are provided at no cost to participants, and insurance is never required. This allows families to engage with services regardless of income, insurance status, or ability to pay.

HAF also brings services directly into the places where youth and families already are. Prevention education is provided in schools and community settings throughout Escambia County, reducing the need for families to independently locate or travel to prevention services. RESET is offered after school to make participation more accessible for students, while Choose Your Story provides teens with free, substance-free opportunities offered at different locations throughout Escambia County each month.

Cost barriers to participation extend beyond program fees. HAF provides program materials and supplies at no cost, offers food during many youth activities, and leverages community partnerships, donated services, and negotiated discounts to provide experiences that may otherwise be financially inaccessible to participating families. Through Choose Your Story, teens can participate in activities such as sports, arts, outdoor recreation, and other healthy experiences without the family's financial circumstances determining whether they can participate.

Transportation remains a recognized barrier for some families. HAF works individually with families to identify transportation challenges and, when possible, helps identify or coordinate solutions that allow youth to participate. HAF staff do not transport program participants in personal or organization-owned vehicles, and families remain responsible for arranging transportation to and from all programming. The location of Hope House provides a consistent, centrally located site for RESET, youth programming, family engagement, and connection to resources. Geographic distance can create an additional barrier for families in north Escambia County who would otherwise need to travel to Pensacola to participate in programming at Hope House. Through a new partnership with Community Health Northwest Florida, HAF will have access to meeting space in Century, allowing programming to be brought closer to youth and families in the north end of the county without the expense of establishing an additional facility.

HAF also recognizes that stigma, fear of judgment, and uncertainty about where to seek help can be significant barriers, particularly when a young person is beginning to experiment with substances. Programs are designed to engage youth and families without shame or labeling. A student does not need a substance use disorder diagnosis, insurance coverage, or the ability to pay before receiving early intervention through RESET. Similarly, families can approach HAF for information, resources, Narcan, and assistance connecting to additional services without cost.

When needs exceed HAF's scope, staff help families identify appropriate community providers and work to connect them with available behavioral health, healthcare, substance use treatment, grief support, housing, and other supportive resources. By providing free services, meeting youth in schools and community settings, addressing practical participation barriers, and creating a nonjudgmental point of entry, HAF works to ensure that a family's financial circumstances or lack of insurance does not determine whether a young person has access to prevention, early intervention, and connection to help.

Describe how your agency evaluates program success.

Hope Above Fear evaluates program success through a combination of participation data, engagement and retention, program completion, participant feedback, and measurable program-specific outcomes. Data is reviewed not only to demonstrate the number of individuals reached, but also to determine whether programs are engaging participants, meeting identified needs, and creating opportunities for continued connection.

Across programs, HAF tracks the number of activities provided, total participation, unique participants, new and returning participants, presentations delivered, community outreach activities, Narcan distributed, and individuals reached. Over the previous 12 months, these measures documented approximately 1,400 direct community engagements, including more than 140 teens participating in youth prevention, leadership, and early intervention services.

For Choose Your Story, success is measured through both reach and continued engagement. HAF tracks unique participants, first-time participants, total opportunities for participation, and the number of youth who return for additional gatherings. During the previous 12 months, 26 gatherings created 374 opportunities for participation among 104 unique teens. Of those participants, 65 were new to the program and 61 attended more than once. Repeat participation is an important indicator because the program is designed not simply to provide a one-time activity, but to create sustained opportunities for positive peer relationships, trusted adult connections, and healthy community engagement.

For RESET, HAF tracks referrals, enrollment, attendance, program completion, parent or guardian participation, and initial and final student self-report measures. Staff also document referrals to additional services when needs are identified during the eight-week program. As RESET expands through HAF's agreement with Escambia County Public Schools, program data will allow HAF to evaluate participation and completion across cohorts and identify areas where curriculum, engagement strategies, or referral processes may need adjustment.

HAF also incorporates participants' voices into the evaluation. Youth feedback helps staff assess whether programming is relevant, engaging, and responsive to the needs of local teens. The Youth Advisory Council provides an additional avenue for young people to identify emerging concerns, evaluate prevention messaging, and recommend changes to youth-focused programs and activities.

Program and outreach data are reviewed by staff throughout the year and used to guide program planning, resource allocation, and improvements. HAF also reports required performance and financial information to funders and uses those reporting requirements as an additional level of accountability.

For HAF, success is measured by more than the number of people reached. Success means reaching young people earlier, keeping them engaged, strengthening opportunities for positive connections, identifying concerns before they become crises, and helping youth and families access additional support when needed. HAF will continue to use quantitative data and participant feedback to evaluate program effectiveness, identify areas for improvement, and ensure programs remain responsive to the needs of the youth, families, and community members we serve.

Describe how the agency will continue to provide quality services in the community in the case of reduced or loss of funding.

Hope Above Fear recognizes that long-term sustainability cannot depend on a single grant or funding source. The organization continues to diversify revenue through competitive grants, community fundraising, individual and corporate support, partnerships, in-kind contributions, and opportunities to share program costs with organizations and systems that benefit from HAF's services.

HAF is actively pursuing additional funding to support future program years. The organization has applied for funding through IMPACT 100 Pensacola Bay Area and the 2027–2028 United Way of West Florida Community Investment Grant. Both opportunities are currently pending and are not included as committed revenue in the proposed project budget. HAF is also continuing to strengthen community-based fundraising through its second annual Unmask the Fear Gala, sponsorships, individual contributions, and other fundraising efforts. Together, these efforts reflect HAF's ongoing strategy to diversify revenue, strengthen long-term sustainability, and reduce reliance on any single funding source.

HAF also continues to strengthen institutional partnerships that may provide opportunities for long-term program sustainability. Currently, prevention and early intervention services are provided to Escambia County Public Schools at no cost to the district. If future funding limitations threaten HAF's ability to maintain the current level of service, the organization would work with the district to explore opportunities for shared financial responsibility, contracted services, or other sustainable funding arrangements. HAF is also building relationships with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice as RESET becomes an available early intervention option for appropriate justice-involved youth. As these relationships develop, HAF will explore opportunities for partner investment in services that directly benefit the populations they serve.

Community investment remains another important component of sustainability. HAF conducts an annual fundraising event and receives support from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, and community partners. The organization also routinely leverages donated services, in-kind contributions, negotiated discounts, and community partnerships to reduce direct program expenses. This diversified community support has not only allowed HAF to provide more youth programming than would be possible through grant funding alone, but has also helped the organization successfully sustain the monthly overhead expenses of Hope House throughout its first year of operation.

In the event of a significant reduction or loss of funding, HAF would prioritize core prevention and early intervention services, pursue alternative funding, increase community fundraising efforts, leverage institutional partnerships, and adjust the frequency or scale of activities before eliminating essential services. Program decisions would be guided by participant needs, utilization data, available resources, and the organization's commitment to maintaining service quality.

HAF's sustainability strategy is therefore not dependent upon replacing one grant with another. It is built around diversifying revenue, strengthening partnerships, leveraging community support, controlling program costs, and developing shared investment in services that have demonstrated value to Escambia County youth and families.

6. Budget Timeline (ability to complete proposed activities in one year.)

Timelines of Critical Tasks to Be Accomplished for Each Proposed Activity

Hope Above Fear (HAF) currently operates the programs and services included within this funding request. Unlike the previous funding cycle, which supported the development and launch of expanded services, the proposed grant will sustain and strengthen established prevention and early intervention programming throughout the one-year funding period. Because staffing, Hope House, referral partnerships, and core programming are already in place, HAF is prepared to begin grant-supported activities immediately upon the start of the funding period.

Throughout the 12-month grant period, HAF will provide Choose Your Story prevention gatherings, RESET early intervention cohorts, school and community education through EMPOWER and other presentations, community outreach, overdose prevention education, Narcan distribution, Community Service Days, and referrals to appropriate community services. Hope House will remain HAF's primary programming location in Pensacola, while HAF will expand geographic

access through programming offered in Century using meeting space provided through its partnership with Community Health Northwest Florida.

HAF will continue coordination with Escambia County Public Schools through its established RESET referral pathway, begin receiving eligible referrals through Pace Center for Girls' Reach program, and continue strengthening referral pathways with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and other appropriate community partners.

HAF anticipates providing up to 16 RESET cohorts annually, with capacity for up to six students per cohort, while continuing Choose Your Story programming based on demonstrated participation and community opportunities. Temporary, as-needed Peer Mentors will provide up to 308 hours of support during the grant period. Up to 256 hours are allocated for RESET program delivery, with up to 16 additional hours for training and program planning and up to 36 hours to support designated Community Service Days or community outreach activities. Peer Mentors will work under the direction of HAF program staff and provide positive near-peer support, participant engagement, and assistance with program activities. Youth Advisory Council activities will continue as part of HAF's broader prevention continuum but will be supported through other funding sources and are not charged to this grant.

Program data will be collected throughout implementation, including RESET referral source, enrollment, attendance, completion, parent or guardian participation, and initial and final student self-report measures; Choose Your Story participation, including unique, new, and returning participants and repeat engagement; presentations and outreach activities; Narcan distribution; referrals to community services; and overall individuals reached. HAF will review program data throughout the grant period to monitor implementation, identify trends, and make appropriate adjustments to service delivery.

Grant-funded equipment, program supplies, and marketing and educational materials will be purchased or developed as needed throughout the funding period. Marketing and educational expenses will include RESET trademark and copyright expenses, program brochures and pamphlets, and educational and outreach materials used during school presentations, community events, prevention activities, and other grant-supported outreach. Grant-funded equipment will support program administration, participant documentation and data tracking, program delivery, presentations, outreach, and grant reporting. Dedicated Hope House phone service will be maintained throughout the 12-month grant period to support participant and family communication, intakes, program coordination, referrals, and communication with schools and community partners.

Toward the end of the grant period, the Program Director and one additional program staff member will attend the CADCA National Leadership Forum, January 31 through February 3, 2028, to receive training in substance use disorders, opioid and emerging drug trends, evidence-based prevention strategies, youth substance use prevention, overdose prevention, and community-based prevention approaches. Information and resources obtained through the training will be incorporated into program planning and service delivery as appropriate and shared with HAF staff and other youth-serving community partners.

Monthly Spending Plans and Proposed Drawdown Schedule

HAF will submit monthly invoices for reimbursement of eligible expenditures incurred during the previous month in accordance with Escambia County's required invoicing schedule. Recurring monthly expenditures will include personnel and fringe benefits, the grant-allocated portion of Hope House facility costs, dedicated program phone service, and applicable administrative expenses. Temporary, as-needed Peer Mentor wages and associated fringe will be incurred during months in which Peer Mentors support RESET, Community Service Days, outreach, training, or program planning and will be reimbursed based on documented hours worked.

Program expenses will vary according to the timing and level of service delivery. These expenses may include Choose Your Story gathering costs, food and participant supplies; RESET food, program, and graduation supplies; and other approved youth service expenses. Costs will be submitted for reimbursement during the reporting period in which they are incurred. Marketing and educational expenses will also occur throughout the grant period and will include program brochures and pamphlets, educational and outreach materials used for school and community-based prevention activities, and RESET trademark and copyright expenses. These costs will be submitted for reimbursement as materials are purchased or developed and trademark and copyright expenses are incurred.

Mileage expenses will be incurred throughout the grant period as staff travel to schools, youth programming, community presentations and outreach activities, partner meetings, referral coordination activities, and other grant-supported services throughout Escambia County. Travel may also include programming and partnership activities in north Escambia County through HAF's partnership with Community Health Northwest Florida in Century. Mileage will be reimbursed at the applicable reimbursement rate and supported by appropriate documentation.

Grant-funded computer equipment will be purchased as needed during the grant period to support participant documentation, data tracking, program administration, presentations, outreach, and grant reporting. Staff training and travel expenses associated with the CADCA National Leadership Forum will be incurred according to registration and travel schedules and submitted for reimbursement during the applicable reporting period.

All expenditures will be tracked by approved budget category and supported by appropriate documentation. HAF will review expenditures monthly against the approved grant budget to monitor spending, identify variances, prevent duplication across funding sources, and ensure grant funds are used for allowable activities within the one-year funding period.

Reporting Schedule for Outcomes Achieved

Monthly Reports: HAF will submit the required Escambia County Opioid Abatement report each month. Reports will document grant-supported services and outcomes, including RESET enrollment, attendance and completion; Choose Your Story participation and engagement; educational presentations and community outreach; Narcan distribution; referrals to other service providers; individuals served; and other required performance measures. Applicable expenditure information will also be reported and reconciled with program activity.

Bimonthly Reports: Every two months, HAF will provide an additional report to the **Opioid Abatement Board** summarizing program implementation, individuals served, progress toward established outcomes, significant activities, program successes or challenges, and relevant fiscal information.

Ongoing Evaluation: Participant and program data will be reviewed throughout the grant year. RESET evaluation will include initial and final student self-report measures, attendance and completion data, parent or guardian participation, and referral activity. Choose Your Story evaluation will include unique participation, new and returning participants, repeat engagement, and participant feedback. Outreach and education efforts will be evaluated through activities completed, individuals reached, and Narcan distributed. Program and fiscal data will be reviewed regularly to identify trends and inform adjustments to service delivery.

Annual Closeout: At the conclusion of the one-year funding period, HAF will compile cumulative program and fiscal data to evaluate annual performance, reconcile grant expenditures, document outcomes achieved, and complete all required final reporting and closeout requirements.

7. Budget Narrative

Justification of Personnel and Fringe Benefits — \$185,724.91

Personnel funding is requested to maintain the staffing capacity necessary to provide consistent youth substance use prevention, early intervention, case management, peer support, outreach, and referral services throughout Escambia County. The proposed personnel budget supports four regular staff positions and temporary, part-time RESET Peer Mentors directly responsible for program implementation, participant engagement, service coordination, community outreach, partnership development, and grant-funded activities.

A *Case Management* position (\$45,333.33 at 100% FTE) will support youth and families through participant intake, ongoing communication, resource navigation, referral coordination, follow-up, and connection to appropriate community-based services. The position will also support youth participating in HAF programming and help coordinate services with schools, juvenile justice, behavioral health, healthcare, and other community partners. With fringe calculated at 10% (\$4,533.33), the total requested for this position is \$49,866.66. A *Peer Support Staff* position (\$34,387.50 at 75% FTE) will provide direct peer-based support to youth participating in HAF programs, assist with program facilitation and mentoring, and support evening, weekend, and community-based programming. The position will help strengthen participant engagement and provide positive connections for youth across prevention and early intervention activities. With fringe calculated at 10% (\$3,438.75), the total requested for this position is \$37,826.25. The *Program Director* (\$57,500 at 100% FTE) will provide overall program oversight, ensure compliance with grant and program requirements, supervise staff, coordinate community partnerships, and support implementation of school and community-based prevention and early intervention services. The Program Director will also oversee program data collection, reporting, referral systems, and relationships with partner agencies. The proposed salary represents a market adjustment from the current \$50,000 salary to better align compensation with the scope and responsibilities of the position. With fringe calculated at 10% (\$5,750), the total requested for this position is \$63,250. A *Prevention Coordinator* (\$23,920 at 50% FTE) will coordinate and facilitate youth prevention programming, including Choose Your Story activities, school and community education, weekend outreach, and other prevention-focused activities. With fringe calculated at 10% (\$2,392), the total requested for this position is \$26,312. *Peer Mentors* (\$7,700, temporary/as needed) will provide positive near-peer support across HAF's youth prevention and early intervention activities, with the majority of hours dedicated to RESET. Peer Mentors will be paid \$25 per hour for up to 308 hours annually. Up to 256 hours are allocated for RESET based on two hours per class, eight classes per cohort, and a maximum of 16 cohorts annually. An additional 16 hours are available for training and program planning, allowing HAF to engage and prepare different Peer Mentors throughout the year based on program and participant needs. Up to 36 hours, or approximately three hours per month, may be used to support HAF's designated Community Service Days or community outreach activities. Peer Mentors will work under the direction of HAF program staff and assist with participant engagement, positive peer connection, and program activities. Fringe is calculated at 10% (\$770), resulting in a total request of \$8,470. All positions will support programming delivered throughout Escambia County, including opportunities to extend services into north Escambia County.

Fringe benefits are calculated at 10% of salary and wages for all grant-funded personnel, for a total of \$16,884.08. Fringe supports applicable employer-paid payroll taxes and employment-related costs, including FICA, unemployment-related costs, workers' compensation, and other eligible employer costs. Together, these positions provide the staffing infrastructure necessary to maintain consistent program delivery, support youth and families, coordinate referrals, expand access throughout Escambia County, and strengthen partnerships with Escambia County Public Schools, Pace Center for Girls, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Community Health Northwest Florida, and other community providers.

Justification of Computers, Phones, and Other Equipment for Program Staff — \$1,820

Funding of \$1,820 is requested for one laptop and related equipment and 12 months of dedicated program phone service to support grant-funded prevention and early intervention activities.

Laptop and Related Equipment: \$860: Funding is requested for a laptop, privacy screen, protective carrying sleeve, and USB-C multiport adapter. The equipment will be assigned to program staff and used for RESET program administration, participant documentation and data tracking, grant reporting, development of educational materials, school and community presentations, outreach activities, and coordination with referral and community partners. The privacy screen supports confidentiality when staff are working with participant or program information in shared or community settings. The protective sleeve helps safeguard grant-funded equipment during transportation between Hope House, schools, presentations, and other locations. The multiport adapter allows staff to connect the laptop to projectors, displays, and other audiovisual equipment when delivering school and community-based prevention presentations. The equipment will remain the property of Hope Above Fear and will be maintained and used to support organizational prevention and early intervention services throughout and beyond the grant period.

Program Phone Service: \$960: Funding is requested for a dedicated Hope House phone line at \$80 per month for 12 months. The phone line is used exclusively by HAF staff during regular business hours to conduct participant and parent/guardian intakes, coordinate RESET and other youth programming, communicate with families, manage referrals, coordinate with schools and community partners, and respond to program-related inquiries. The dedicated line provides a consistent point of contact for youth, families, referral partners, and community providers accessing HAF's prevention and early intervention services.

Justification of Occupancy — \$11,000

Funding of \$11,000 is requested to support a portion of the dedicated facility space necessary to deliver grant-funded youth prevention and early intervention programming. The facility consists of 1,120 total square feet at an annual rental cost of \$27,000, or \$2,250 per month, in accordance with the rental rate established in HAF's current lease agreement effective September 1, 2026. To ensure that only program-related facility expenses are charged to the grant, Hope Above Fear uses a square-footage allocation methodology. Approximately 823.56 square feet, or 73.53% of the facility, is dedicated to direct program use, resulting in an allocable annual program facility cost of \$19,853.10. Rather than requesting the full allocable amount, Hope Above Fear is requesting \$11,000 in opioid abatement funding to support only a portion of the program-related facility expense. Hope Above Fear will absorb the remaining \$8,853.10 in allocable program facility costs, as well as costs associated with non-program office and storage space, through non-opioid-abatement organizational funds and other eligible funding sources. This allocation ensures that opioid abatement funds are used only for the portion of the facility supporting eligible prevention and early intervention activities and prevents duplication of facility costs across funding sources.

Justification of Service Delivery Vehicles and Associated Costs — \$1,500

A \$1,500 funding request is requested to support mileage reimbursement for staff traveling throughout Escambia County to deliver grant-related prevention and early intervention services. Travel includes youth programming, school and community presentations, outreach and resource events, partner meetings, referral coordination, and other community-based prevention activities. HAF documented approximately \$1,006 in mileage expenses during the previous 12 months. The proposed increase reflects continued community-based service delivery, increased staff capacity, and the expansion of programming into north Escambia County through HAF's partnership with Community Health Northwest Florida in Century. Because HAF's services are delivered throughout the community, staff travel is necessary to bring

prevention education, early intervention, youth programming, resources, and outreach directly to Escambia County youth and families. Mileage will be reimbursed only for eligible grant-related travel at the applicable reimbursement rate and supported by mileage documentation.

Justification of Marketing & Educational — \$5,250

Funding of \$5,250 is requested to support printed program materials, educational resources, prevention messaging, and the consistent delivery of HAF's youth substance use prevention and early intervention efforts throughout Escambia County.

RESET Trademark and Copyright Fees: \$1,450: Funding is requested for legal and filing expenses associated with the RESET program name and original program materials. HAF has developed RESET specifically to provide structured early intervention for youth experiencing substance-related concerns or consequences. Protecting the program's original materials will help preserve the integrity and consistency of the curriculum as RESET expands across Escambia County, ensuring participating youth, families, schools, and referral partners receive a clearly defined and consistently implemented program.

Program Pamphlets and Brochures: \$800: Funds will support the printing of informational materials for RESET and other grant-supported prevention and early intervention services. Materials will be distributed to students, parents and guardians, schools, referral partners, and community organizations to increase awareness of available services and provide clear information regarding program access and participation.

Outreach and Educational Materials: \$3,000: Funds will support educational resources, prevention messaging materials, and small participant and community engagement items used to increase interaction with prevention messaging and resources during school presentations, community outreach activities, resource fairs, and other public education efforts. Over the past 12 months, HAF participated in 33 community outreach events and delivered 14 in-person presentations to schools, churches, businesses, and other community organizations across Escambia County. These materials help create opportunities for staff to engage youth, families, educators, and community members in conversations about substance use and overdose prevention while providing accurate information, prevention resources, and connections to available services. Together, these investments will support consistent program delivery, increase awareness of available prevention and early intervention services, and strengthen HAF's ability to reach and engage Escambia County residents with substance use and overdose prevention information.

Justification of Youth Services: Prevention/Early Intervention — \$19,870

Funding of \$19,870 is requested to support direct youth prevention and early intervention services, including Choose Your Story gatherings, participant food and supplies, RESET participant food and program supplies, and professional development for staff responsible for implementing substance use prevention and early intervention programming. Youth Advisory Council activities complement HAF's prevention continuum but are supported through other funding sources and are not charged to this grant.

- ***Choose Your Story Gatherings — \$7,500***

Funding of \$7,500 is requested to continue Hope Above Fear's *Choose Your Story (CYS)* prevention gatherings, which provide teens with opportunities to build connections, explore healthy interests, and discover positive alternatives to substance use. Over the previous 12 months, Hope Above Fear hosted 26 teen gatherings, creating 374 opportunities for participation and reaching 104 unique teens. Of those participants, 39 had engaged with the program prior to the current

12-month reporting period, while 65 were new participants. Additionally, 61 teens attended more than one gathering, demonstrating continued engagement beyond a single event. The actual cost of providing these gatherings without in-kind support or discounts was \$8,385. Through negotiated discounts, donated services, and other forms of leveraged community support, Hope Above Fear reduced its direct costs to \$7,063. Based on demonstrated utilization and anticipated modest cost increases during the grant period, \$7,500 is requested. HAF will continue seeking community partnerships, donated services, and reduced rates whenever possible to maximize grant funding and expand opportunities available to youth.

- ***Choose Your Story Food — \$850***

Funding of \$850 is requested to provide food at select Choose Your Story gatherings. During the previous 12 months, food was provided at 11 of 26 gatherings, representing 175 opportunities for teens to receive a meal or snack and serving 56 unique participants. Actual food expenditures totaled \$749.24. The requested increase to \$850 allows for modest increases in food costs and program participation while continuing to leverage donated and discounted food whenever available. Providing food helps reduce barriers to participation, particularly for gatherings occurring during traditional meal hours or lasting several hours.

- ***Choose Your Story Participant Supplies — \$1,220***

Funding of \$1,220 is requested for participant wellness bags and program engagement incentives. Every teen attending Choose Your Story for the first time receives a wellness bag containing items such as a notebook, pen, bracelet, keychain, and fidget item. During the previous 12 months, 65 new participants attended a CYS gathering. Based on continued program growth, funding is requested for up to 80 wellness bags at \$12 each (\$960). Teens who demonstrate continued engagement by attending at least three CYS gatherings are also eligible to receive a Choose Your Story program shirt. During the previous 12 months, 13 participants attended at least three gatherings. Funding is requested for up to 20 shirts at \$13 each (\$260). Together, these participant supplies total \$1,220.

- ***RESET Participant Food — \$950***

Funding of \$950 is requested to provide food for youth participating in the eight-week RESET early intervention program. During pilot implementation, food expenses averaged approximately \$9.63 per participant for the full eight-week program. Hope Above Fear anticipates operating up to 16 RESET groups annually, with a maximum of six participants per group, providing capacity to serve up to 96 youth annually. At the demonstrated average cost of \$9.63 per participant, projected annual food costs are approximately \$924.48. The \$950 request provides for anticipated maximum participation while allowing for modest fluctuations in food costs.

- ***RESET Program Supplies — \$3,700***

Funding of \$3,700 is requested for supplies necessary to implement RESET groups throughout the grant period. During pilot implementation, direct program supplies averaged approximately \$28.94 per participant for the eight-week program. These materials include required program forms, welcome bracelets provided during orientation, journals, and individualized supplies for each participant's creative project. An additional \$9.60 per participant is budgeted for graduation and program completion supplies. This results in an estimated total supply cost of \$38.54 per participant. Based on a maximum annual capacity of 96 participants across 16 RESET groups, projected program and graduation supply costs total \$3,699.84, rounded to a budget request of \$3,700. All RESET materials are provided at no cost to

participating youth and families, ensuring that financial circumstances do not create a barrier to full participation in or completion of the eight-week program.

- ***Staff Training and Professional Development — \$5,650***

Travel and professional development funding of \$5,650 is requested for the Program Director and one additional program staff member to attend the CADCA National Leadership Forum, January 31 through February 3, 2028, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. The CADCA National Leadership Forum is a four-day national training conference for substance use prevention professionals that provides education on current substance use trends, evidence-based prevention strategies, emerging research, community-level prevention approaches, and strategies for strengthening local responses to substance misuse. Forum programming also includes SAMHSA Prevention Day and brings together prevention professionals, researchers, federal agencies, behavioral health professionals, and community leaders working to reduce substance use and its consequences. Participation directly supports HAF's opioid prevention and early intervention work by strengthening staff knowledge of substance use disorders, opioid and other emerging drug trends, evidence-based prevention practices, risk and protective factors, youth substance use prevention, overdose prevention, and effective community-based strategies for reducing substance misuse. Training will also provide staff with current research and practical tools that can be incorporated into RESET, Choose Your Story, school and community education, outreach efforts, and HAF's broader prevention strategy. Investing in continuing education is particularly important as HAF expands its role in early intervention. Staff must remain informed about evolving substance use trends and current prevention science to ensure that information provided to youth and families is accurate, relevant, and grounded in evidence rather than fear-based or outdated prevention approaches. Following the conference, information and resources obtained by the two attendees will be incorporated into HAF's program planning and service delivery and shared with HAF staff and youth-serving community partners, extending the benefit of the training beyond the individuals attending. The projected \$5,650 cost includes conference registration for two attendees, round-trip economy airfare, four nights of lodging, meals and incidentals based on applicable federal per diem rates, and necessary ground transportation. Because the 2028 conference and travel rates have not yet been published, the request is based on currently available CADCA and travel costs with a reasonable allowance for increases prior to the conference.

Collectively, the **\$19,870** Youth Services investment supports HAF's continuum of prevention and early intervention by providing teens with positive opportunities for connection before substance use occurs, delivering structured intervention when substance-related concerns emerge, and ensuring staff responsible for these services remain informed by current substance use research and evidence-based prevention practices.

Justification of Administrative Costs — \$11,258.25

Funding of \$11,258.25 is requested for administrative costs necessary to support the management and implementation of grant-funded activities. This amount represents 5% of direct grant costs and will support general administrative functions associated with grant oversight, fiscal management, accounting, compliance, recordkeeping, reporting, and other organizational infrastructure necessary to successfully administer the funded programs. Limiting administrative expenses to 5% of direct costs ensures that the substantial majority of grant funding is directed toward personnel, direct youth prevention and early intervention services, program operations, and community-based activities.

Timeframes and Methods for Obligating Funds

Hope Above Fear is prepared to obligate and expend grant funds immediately upon award. Because the programs, staffing structure, facility, and community partnerships supported by this application are already established, HAF will not require a startup period and can continue grant-supported prevention and early intervention services without interruption. All expenditures will be incurred within the approved one-year grant period.

Quarter 1: Personnel and fringe expenses, the grant-allocated portion of Hope House rent, and direct program costs will begin immediately. HAF will continue RESET cohorts, Choose Your Story gatherings, school and community education, outreach, overdose prevention activities, and referrals to community services. Initial purchases of approved program supplies, educational and outreach materials, and grant-funded equipment will be made based on program needs. RESET Peer Mentor wages will be incurred as temporary, part-time employees are scheduled to support active cohorts.

Quarter 2: Personnel, facility, and direct program expenses will continue as services are delivered. HAF will continue RESET cohorts, Choose Your Story gatherings, presentations, outreach, Narcan distribution, and other grant-supported activities. Program supplies, participant food, mileage, educational materials, and Peer Mentor wages will be incurred according to actual utilization. Staff will review program participation, outcomes, and expenditures to ensure implementation and spending remain aligned with annual goals and the approved budget.

Quarter 3: Grant-supported prevention and early intervention activities will continue, including personnel, facility expenses, RESET implementation, Choose Your Story programming, educational presentations, community outreach, and overdose prevention efforts. Spending patterns and program utilization will continue to be reviewed, with supplies and other variable expenses purchased based on demonstrated need rather than obligated in advance.

Quarter 4: HAF will complete remaining scheduled RESET cohorts, Choose Your Story gatherings, presentations, outreach activities, and other grant-supported services within the funding period. The Program Director and one additional program staff member will attend the CADCA National Leadership Forum. Registration, travel, lodging, meals and incidentals, and ground transportation will be incurred according to the applicable travel schedule. HAF will complete final expenditure reconciliation and ensure that all allowable grant expenses are incurred within the funding period.

HAF will submit reimbursement requests monthly based on actual eligible expenditures incurred and supported by appropriate documentation. The Program Director will monitor expenditures against the approved budget each month, and financial activity will be reviewed regularly to identify variances and ensure costs remain allowable and appropriately allocated. Required monthly Opioid Abatement reports and bimonthly reports to the Opioid Abatement Board will provide additional programmatic and fiscal accountability throughout the grant period. This structure will allow HAF to fully obligate grant funds within the one-year award period while maintaining consistent service delivery and appropriate financial oversight.

Additional Services Outside of This Grant

Hope Above Fear provides additional youth, family, and community services that complement the prevention and early intervention activities included in this application but are supported through organizational funds, other eligible funding sources, sponsorships, donations, and community partnerships.

HAF's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) provides Escambia County high school students with opportunities to develop leadership skills, identify issues affecting their peers, inform prevention messaging, and participate in youth-led community initiatives. YAC strengthens the youth voice incorporated throughout HAF's prevention efforts; however, YAC activities will be supported through non-Opioid Abatement funding sources and will not be charged to this grant.

HAF also organizes community-wide prevention and awareness initiatives. During the previous 12 months, these included Strength in Awareness, Fentanyl Awareness Day, and International Overdose Awareness Day, which collectively reached over 350 community members. These events provide opportunities for substance use and overdose prevention education, Narcan access, connection to community resources, stigma reduction, and support for individuals and families impacted

by substance abuse and overdose.

Fentanyl Awareness Day and International Overdose Awareness Day also provide a dedicated opportunity for families to honor loved ones lost to overdose while connecting the broader community with prevention, treatment, behavioral health, recovery, and supportive resources. These community initiatives extend prevention education beyond HAF's direct youth programming and create opportunities for collaboration among local organizations and service providers.

HAF additionally provides community resource connection, family support, and opportunities for youth engagement that extend beyond activities specifically charged to this grant. When appropriate, HAF leverages community partnerships, donated services, sponsorships, in-kind contributions, organizational revenue, and other eligible funding to sustain these efforts.

By maintaining services outside the scope of the Opioid Abatement budget, HAF is able to surround its grant-funded prevention and early intervention activities with a broader network of youth leadership, community education, awareness, and connection to resources while ensuring that expenses are appropriately allocated and not duplicated across funding sources.

8. Proposed Budget

1. PERSONNEL:

- A. Case Management: \$45,333.33
- B. Peer Specialist: \$34,387.50
- C. Program Director: \$57,500
- D. Prevention Coordinator: \$23,920
- E. Peer Mentors, temporary/as needed: \$7,700
- F. Fringe Benefits: FICA, Unemployment Tax, Workers Comp Insurance, 10% of payroll: \$16,884.08

PERSONNEL AND FRINGE TOTAL: \$185,724.91

2. OCCUPANCY

- A. Facility Rent: Portion of annual facility expense allocated to grant-supported program space: \$11,000

OCCUPANCY TOTAL: \$11,000

3. MARKETING AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Program Brochures and Pamphlets: \$800
- B. RESET Trademark and Copyright: \$1,450
- C. Outreach and Educational Materials: \$3,000

MARKETING AND EDUCATIONAL TOTAL: \$5,250

4. YOUTH SERVICES: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

- A. *Prevention: Choose Your Story (\$9,570)*
 - a. Teen Gatherings: \$7,500
 - b. Program/Participant Supplies: \$1,220
 - c. Food and Snacks: \$850

B. Early Intervention: RESET - up to 96 participants (\$4,650)

- a. Program/Participant Supplies: \$3,700**
- b. Food and Snacks: \$950**

C. Staff Training and Professional Development (\$5,650)

- a. CADCA National Leadership Forum, Program Director plus one program staff member: \$5,650**

YOUTH SERVICES TOTAL: \$19,870

5. SERVICE DELIVERY VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

- A. Escambia County Staff Mileage Reimbursement: \$1,500**

SERVICE DELIVERY VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS TOTAL: \$1,500

6. COMPUTERS, PHONES, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR PROGRAM STAFF

- 1. Laptop and Related Equipment: \$860**
- 2. Dedicated Program Phone Service: \$960 (\$80/month × 12 months)**

EQUIPMENT, PHONE, AND RELATED COSTS TOTAL: \$1,820

7. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Administrative Costs: 5% of direct grant costs: \$11,258.25**

ADMINISTRATION TOTAL: \$11,258.25

TOTAL GRANT REQUEST: \$236,423.16

Budget Template

Notice of Funding Availability

Complete ONLY BLUE fields. Do not edit grey fields.

Year 1 (Dates will be based on award date)		
Eligible Costs	Quantity AND Description (max 400 characters)	Annual Assistance Requested
Case Management	1 @ 100% FTE (\$45,333.33) + fringe at 10% (\$4,533.33)	\$49,866.66
Peer Support Staff	1 @ at 75% FTE (\$34,387.50) + fringe at 10% (\$3,438.75)	\$37,826.25
Nursing Staff		
Peer Specialist Certifications		
Mobile Service Delivery Vehicles and Associated Costs (i.e. mileage, maintenance, etc.)	Salaried staff mileage and travel reimbursement for programming within Escambia County	\$1,500
Computers, Phones, and other equipment for program staff	Laptop, privacy screen, protective carrying sleeve, and multiport adapter	\$1,820
Program Related Supplies (i.e. harm reduction materials, PPE, medications)		
Marketing and Educational Materials	Program brochures, RESET trademark/copyright, educational materials	\$5,250
Other Expenses	Youth Services - Prevention, Early Intervention, and Staff Training	\$19,870
Other Expenses	1 - Program Director at 100% FTE (\$57,500) + fringe at 10% (\$5,750) 1 - Prevention Coordinator at 50% FTE (\$23,920) + fringe at 10% (\$2,392) Peer Mentors, temporary, as needed, \$25/hour, up to 308 hours annually (\$7,700) + fringe at 10% (\$770)	\$98,032
Other Expenses	Occupancy	\$11,000
Subtotal Requested		\$225,164.91
Admin Requested (MAX 5%) (i.e. accounting costs, contract management costs, facility costs)		\$11,258.25

Total Amount Requested

\$ 236,423.16

9. Project Outcomes

1. Reduced Number of Fatal Overdoses

Baseline Data (Source): As of September 8, 2026, Escambia County Biospatial data identified 557 year-to-date suspected overdose incidents and 17 fatalities. Twelve suspected overdose incidents involved youth ages 10–19. (Source: Escambia County EMS Biospatial data, September 8, 2026.)

Desired Outcome: Contribute to Escambia County's efforts to reduce fatal overdoses by reaching youth earlier through substance use prevention, early intervention, overdose education, and connection to appropriate behavioral health and substance use services.

Project Component(s): HAF addresses overdose risk upstream by providing prevention before substance use begins and structured early intervention when substance use or related consequences first emerge. Choose Your Story strengthens protective factors by creating opportunities for connection, positive peer relationships, healthy activities, and trusted adult support. RESET provides an eight-week early intervention for youth experiencing substance-related disciplinary or other consequences, with the goal of interrupting progression to more harmful patterns of substance use.

HAF also provides overdose education and Narcan access through community outreach and educational activities. During the previous 12 months, HAF provided Narcan to 221 community members through 33 outreach activities. Progress will be monitored through youth participation, RESET enrollment and completion, prevention activities, referrals to additional services, overdose education provided, and Narcan distribution.

2. Reduced Number of EMS Overdose Responses

Baseline Data (Source): As of September 8, 2026, Escambia County Biospatial data identified 557 year-to-date suspected overdose incidents, including 12 involving youth ages 10–19. While this data reflects suspected overdose incidents rather than confirmed Emergency Department visits, it demonstrates the continued local need for prevention, early intervention, overdose education, and connection to appropriate services before substance use results in an emergency medical event. (Source: Escambia County EMS Biospatial data, September 8, 2026.)

Desired Outcome: Contribute to Escambia County's efforts to reduce non-fatal overdose Emergency Department visits by reaching youth earlier through substance use prevention, early intervention, overdose education, and connection to appropriate behavioral health and substance use treatment services.

Project Component(s): HAF's role in this performance measure is primarily preventative and early intervention focused. RESET engages youth when substance use concerns or related consequences first emerge, providing structured education, skill development, family engagement, and connection to additional services before substance use progresses to more harmful patterns. Choose Your Story strengthens protective factors through positive peer relationships, trusted adult connections, healthy activities, and substance-free opportunities. EMPOWER presentations and community outreach increase knowledge of substance use and overdose risks, overdose recognition and response, and available community resources. HAF will also provide overdose education and Narcan access throughout Escambia County and connect youth and families to behavioral health, substance use treatment, and healthcare services when needs exceed HAF's scope. Progress will be reported monthly through RESET referrals, enrollment and completion; prevention program participation; educational presentations and individuals reached; overdose education activities; Narcan distribution; and referrals and connections to additional behavioral health or substance use services. These measures will demonstrate HAF's contribution to the County's broader goal of reducing non-fatal overdose Emergency Department visits.

3. Increase in Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Reduce Opioid Overdoses

Baseline Data (Source): HAF's experience serving youth and families demonstrates that adolescents experiencing emerging substance use frequently require services beyond the scope of a prevention and early intervention organization. HAF does not provide clinical substance use disorder treatment and therefore relies on behavioral health, healthcare, and other community providers when a participant requires a higher level of care

Desired Outcome: Increase the identification and connection of youth and families who require behavioral health or substance use treatment beyond HAF's prevention and early intervention scope. During the grant period, HAF will provide referral and navigation assistance to 100% of participants for whom a behavioral health, substance use treatment, or other higher-level service need is identified and accepted by the participant or family.

Project Component(s), Achievement and Monitoring: RESET provides an important opportunity to identify concerns early. Through participant and parent engagement, staff can identify behavioral health, substance use, family, healthcare, and other needs requiring additional support. HAF will connect participants and families to appropriate community providers rather than attempting to duplicate clinical treatment services. HAF will document the number and type of treatment or behavioral health needs identified, referrals initiated, providers contacted, navigation assistance provided, follow-up attempts, and successful connections when that information is available. These measures will be reported monthly and used to demonstrate increased connection to substance use disorder treatment and related behavioral health services.

4. Increase in Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs

Baseline Data (Source): HAF's experience serving Escambia County youth has identified a significant gap in age-appropriate substance use disorder treatment options for adolescents. Youth and families seeking additional support may also encounter barriers related to insurance, cost, transportation, provider availability, eligibility requirements, and uncertainty about where to seek assistance. As a result, HAF's role is to intervene earlier through non-clinical prevention and early intervention while helping youth and families access appropriate behavioral health, healthcare, and other supportive services when needs extend beyond HAF's scope. (Source: HAF program and referral records.)

Desired Outcome: Increase access to appropriate behavioral health and substance use treatment programs by reducing financial, insurance, geographic, informational, and service-navigation barriers for youth and families. HAF will provide individualized referral and navigation assistance to 100% of participants requesting or accepting assistance with accessing services beyond HAF's scope.

Project Component(s): HAF provides a low-barrier point of entry because youth prevention and early intervention services are provided without requiring insurance or the ability to pay. When additional needs are identified, staff assist participants and families in identifying appropriate providers and making referrals to behavioral health, healthcare, substance use treatment, grief support, housing, and other supportive services. HAF will report monthly the number of participants and families requesting additional services, number and type of referrals made, providers contacted to confirm eligibility or availability, direct introductions or navigation assistance provided, identified barriers to access, and successful service connections when known. When an initial referral is unsuccessful, HAF will assist the participant or family in identifying an alternative resource when requested.

5. Increase Access to Substance Use Prevention Programs

Baseline Data: During the previous 12 months, HAF provided 26 Choose Your Story gatherings, creating 374 opportunities for participation among 104 unique teens. Sixty-five were new participants and 61 attended more than one gathering. Across HAF's youth prevention, leadership, and early intervention activities, 144 local teens were served. HAF also delivered 14 in-person educational presentations reaching 704 individuals. *(Source: Hope Above Fear internal program data.)*

Desired Outcome: Increase access to free substance use prevention and early intervention programming for Escambia County youth by expanding geographic availability, referral pathways, staffing capacity, and opportunities for continued engagement. HAF will maintain capacity for up to 16 RESET cohorts and 96 youth annually, continue Choose Your Story prevention gatherings, provide school and community prevention education, and expand programming access into north Escambia County through the Century location provided by Community Health Northwest Florida.

Project Component(s), Achievement and Monitoring: Choose Your Story will continue providing free substance-free activities designed to strengthen connection, belonging, healthy interests, and other protective factors. RESET will provide structured early intervention for youth experiencing substance-related concerns or consequences, with expanded access through Escambia County Public Schools, Pace Center for Girls' Reach program, and other appropriate referral pathways. School and community education through EMPOWER and other presentations will extend prevention beyond youth enrolled in ongoing programs. Programming offered in Century will create an additional geographic access point for youth and families in north Escambia County. HAF will report monthly the number of prevention and early intervention activities delivered; total and unique participants; new and returning Choose Your Story participants; repeat engagement; RESET referrals, enrollment, attendance, and completion; presentations delivered; individuals reached; referral source; and geographic location of service delivery. These measures will document the increase in availability and access to substance use prevention programming during the grant period.

6. Increase in Substance Use Disorder Training, Treatment, and Prevention in the Criminal Justice Departments

Baseline Data: HAF currently accepts referrals from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice for youth on probation who need structured community service opportunities and is working toward a formal partnership to receive court-ordered referrals to RESET. HAF also maintains a formal two-year agreement with Escambia County Public Schools for RESET referrals, and Pace Center for Girls will begin referring eligible youth through its Reach program. *(Source: HAF program records and partnership agreements.)*

Desired Outcome: Increase access to structured substance use prevention and early intervention services for justice-involved youth by strengthening coordination with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and other community partners serving youth experiencing substance-related or justice-system consequences. HAF will maintain RESET capacity for up to 16 cohorts annually and up to 96 youth, while expanding pathways through which eligible justice-involved youth can access prevention, early intervention, community service, and continued positive supports.

Project Component(s): RESET provides an eight-week early intervention option for eligible youth experiencing substance-related concerns or consequences. The program incorporates substance use education, self-reflection, coping and decision-making skills, family engagement, positive adult and near-peer support, and connection to additional behavioral health or substance use services when needed. HAF's designated monthly Community Service Days provide an additional structured point of engagement for youth referred by DJJ who need to complete required community service hours. These activities provide opportunities for responsibility, positive adult and peer connection, community involvement, and continued exposure to HAF's prevention and support resources. HAF will track and report monthly the number of justice-involved youth referred; referral source; participation in RESET, Community Service Days, or other applicable prevention activities; RESET enrollment, attendance, and completion; parent or guardian participation; initial

and final student self-report measures; additional service referrals; and continued engagement with HAF programming when applicable. HAF will also document progress toward formalizing and strengthening referral pathways with DJJ.

7. OTHER: Increased Protective Factors and Continued Youth Engagement

Baseline Data: During the previous 12 months, Choose Your Story reached 104 unique teens through 374 opportunities for participation. Of those participants, 65 were new to the program and 61 attended more than one gathering. (*Source: Hope Above Fear internal program data.*)

Desired Outcome: Increase and sustain youth connection to positive peers, trusted adults, healthy activities, and ongoing prevention opportunities, with continued participation serving as an indicator of youth engagement and connection.

Project Component(s): Choose Your Story is intentionally designed as more than a series of isolated recreational activities. Gatherings provide repeated opportunities for teens to develop relationships, discover healthy interests, experience positive alternatives to substance use, and remain connected to HAF and other supportive opportunities. HAF will monitor unique participants, new participants, returning participants, frequency of participation, and participant feedback. Youth completing RESET will also be encouraged to remain connected through Choose Your Story and other appropriate HAF opportunities, allowing structured early intervention to become a pathway to continued positive engagement rather than ending when the eight-week program concludes.

10. Required Attachments

Letter of Support & MOU's

- ☒ Lakeview MAT
- ☒ Escambia County Public School Assistant Superintendent
- ☒ ECPS Alternative Education Director
- ☒ Valerie's House
- ☒ Pace Center for Girls
- ☒ Lease demonstrating program services in Escambia County

Financial Documents

- ☒ Annual Operating Budget
- ☒ Proof of 501(c)3 status
- ☒ Current W-9
- ☒ 2024 and 2025 Tax returns or form 990
- ☒ 2024 and 2025 financial statements



1221 W. Lakeview Ave.
Pensacola, FL 32504
LifeViewGroup.org

Date: 09/08/2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of Hope Above Fear's application for continued Escambia County Opioid Abatement funding. I serve on Hope Above Fear's Board, but I also write from my perspective as a community partner and behavioral health professional who has witnessed the organization's growth and impact firsthand. I serve on Hope Above Fear's Board, but I also write from my perspective as a community partner and behavioral health professional who has witnessed the organization's growth and impact firsthand.

Over the past several years, I have watched Hope Above Fear continue to grow its reach while remaining focused on meeting youth and families with compassion, connection, and practical support. I have personally collaborated with the organization to connect families with resources at Lakeview Center and have also referred families to Hope Above Fear for prevention, education, and support.

Much of what was being developed when I wrote in support of Hope Above Fear last year is now operational. Hope House has become a consistent location for youth programming and support, and the early intervention program originally piloted as Better Without It has grown into RESET ~ Redefine Your Future, with an established referral partnership with Escambia County Public Schools.

From a behavioral health and substance use treatment perspective, reaching young people before substance use progresses to addiction or more serious consequences is critical. Hope Above Fear fills an important role by providing prevention and early intervention while recognizing when a young person or family needs a higher level of behavioral health or substance use treatment and connecting them with appropriate community resources.

I continue to believe strongly in Hope Above Fear's mission and in the role it plays within our community's broader continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery support. I am pleased to support its application for continued Opioid Abatement funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sweneda D. McDonald".

Sweneda D. McDonald LMHC
MAT Director
850-384-7643



ESCAMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

KEITH LEONARD, SUPERINTENDENT
<https://www.escambiaschools.org>

Department of Alternative Education
J. E. Hall Educational Center
30 E. Texar Drive, Room 143
Pensacola, Florida 32503 Phone: (850) 430-7437

Kerri L. Coots, Director

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Escambia County School District, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Hope Above Fear's application for continued Escambia County Opioid Abatement funding.

Over the past year, our partnership with Hope Above Fear has grown considerably, particularly through the development and implementation of RESET ~ Redefine Your Future. RESET provides an eight-week early intervention opportunity for high school students experiencing substance-related disciplinary consequences and engages both students and their families in the process.

Following the program's pilot implementation, Escambia County Public Schools entered into a two-year agreement with Hope Above Fear that allows eligible students from our high schools to be referred to RESET. This provides our schools with an additional option for addressing substance-related concerns while helping students develop knowledge, coping and decision-making skills, accountability, and positive connections.

An important part of Hope Above Fear's approach is that support does not have to end when RESET is completed. Students can remain connected through Choose Your Story, youth leadership, monthly community service opportunities, and other positive activities at Hope House.

We recognize that early intervention can provide an important opportunity to reach a young person before substance use results in more serious academic, legal, health, or personal consequences. We value Hope Above Fear's willingness to collaborate with our district and respond to the evolving needs of our students and families.

I am pleased to support Hope Above Fear's continued efforts to provide prevention and early intervention services for Escambia County youth.

Sincerely,

Kerri L. Coots
Director of Alternative Education
Escambia County School District

Affirmative action/equal opportunity employer



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY
75 NORTH PACE BOULEVARD
PENSACOLA, FL 32505
PH (850)432-6121 FX (850)469-6379
<http://escambiaschools.org>
KEITH LEONARD, SUPERINTENDENT

September 3, 2026

Stephanie Shepard
Executive Director
Hope Above Fear
31 E. Lee Street
Pensacola, FL 32501

Dear Ms. Shepard:

Please accept this letter on behalf of Escambia County Public Schools in support of Hope Above Fear's application for continued funding through Escambia County's Opioid Abatement program for its Youth Prevention & Early Intervention Continuum.

Over the past year, Hope Above Fear has strengthened its partnership with Escambia County Public Schools and expanded opportunities to address youth substance use through prevention, education, and early intervention. What began as a developing initiative has grown into an established continuum of services for students throughout our district.

Of particular significance is **RESET ~ Redefine Your Future**, Hope Above Fear's eight-week early intervention program for high school students facing substance-related disciplinary concerns. Following a successful pilot, Escambia County Public Schools entered into a two-year agreement with Hope Above Fear, establishing a formal referral pathway for eligible students.

Hope Above Fear also supports our students through prevention education, Choose Your Story activities, youth leadership initiatives, and other opportunities that strengthen protective factors and foster positive connections. These efforts complement the district's work by providing additional support to students and families, both proactively and when substance-related concerns arise.

Escambia County Public Schools values its continued partnership with Hope Above Fear. We strongly support its application for continued Opioid Abatement funding and its commitment to reaching young people early, engaging families, and helping Escambia County students make healthy, informed choices.

Sincerely,

Denny Wilson
Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum and Instruction
Escambia County Public Schools

Affirmative action/equal opportunity employer



September 3, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Valerie's House Northwest Florida, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Hope Above Fear's 2026 Escambia County Opioid Abatement grant application.

Valerie's House Northwest Florida and Hope Above Fear share a commitment to helping young people and families navigate difficult experiences with connection, compassion, and access to meaningful support. Through our continued partnership, we have seen Hope Above Fear create welcoming, judgment-free opportunities for youth through prevention education, early intervention, youth leadership, community service, and its Choose Your Story programming.

Grief, trauma, family instability, and substance misuse are often deeply connected. Hope Above Fear understands the importance of addressing the whole person and connecting youth and families with specialized community resources when additional support is needed. When grief is part of a family's experience, their team recognizes when a referral to Valerie's House may be helpful. This collaborative approach allows each organization to contribute its expertise while creating a stronger and more responsive network of care.

Hope Above Fear also provides young people with positive outlets, trusted relationships, and opportunities to feel heard, valued, and connected. These protective factors are especially important for youth facing grief, family challenges, or other circumstances that may increase their vulnerability to substance misuse.

We value Hope Above Fear's commitment to collaboration and its continued investment in the well-being of Escambia County youth and families. Valerie's House Northwest Florida is proud to support this application and Hope Above Fear's efforts to expand prevention and early-intervention opportunities throughout our community.

Sincerely,

Jenni Elzweig
Acting Executive Director
Valerie's House Northwest Florida



September 8, 2026

Escambia County Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board
Escambia County Administration Office
221 Palafox Place, 4th Floor
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Members of the Advisory Board:

Pace Center for Girls is pleased to support Hope Above Fear's application for continued Escambia County Opioid Abatement funding. Hope Above Fear provides an important continuum of youth substance use prevention and early intervention services designed to reach young people early and help prevent substance use from progressing to more serious consequences.

As collaboration between our organizations continues to grow, we are exploring opportunities for Pace Center for Girls, including our Reach program, to serve as an additional referral pathway for eligible youth who may benefit from Hope Above Fear's RESET: Redefine Your Future early intervention program. RESET provides youth with a supportive, non-clinical setting focused on education, self-reflection, healthy coping and decision-making skills, family engagement, and positive connections.

Strong partnerships among youth-serving organizations are essential to ensuring young people and families can access the right support at the right time. Pace Center for Girls supports Hope Above Fear's continued efforts to expand prevention and early intervention opportunities for youth throughout Escambia County, and we look forward to strengthening our collaboration in support of the young people and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Kristin Koenigsfest
Executive Director
Pace Center for Girls, Escambia Santa Rosa

SUBLEASE AGREEMENT (Triple Net Lease)

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

THIS SUBLEASE AGREEMENT (this "Sublease") is made and entered into effective the first day of September 01, 2025, by and between Escambia Community Clinics, Inc. dba Community Health Northwest Florida ("Sub lessor") and Hope Above Fear ("Sub lessee").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Greater Union Baptist Church as Landlord, and Sub lessor, as Tenant, have entered into that certain Florida Commercial Lease dated April 1, 2022 (the "Prime Lease") whereby Sub lessor has leased from Landlord certain real property and improvements located at 1380 North Palafox, Pensacola, Florida (the "Leased Premises");

WHEREAS, Sub lessor desires to sublease a portion of the Leased Premises to Sub lessee, and Sub lessee desires to sublease a portion of the Leased Premises from Sub lessor;

Sub lessor, for and in consideration of the payment of the rent herein reserved and the performance of all other covenants herein contained, does hereby lease unto the Sub lessee the real and/or personal property described below.

1. DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES: The premises subleased hereby consist of the non-shaded portion of the real property located at 31 E. Lee Street Pensacola, Florida. 32501 as depicted in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

2. TERM OF SUBLEASE: The primary term of this Sublease shall be for a period of one (1) year and Nine (9) months years commencing on September 01, 2025 and terminating on May 31, 2027.

3. RENTAL: During the primary term of this Sublease, Sub lessee shall pay Sub lessor monthly base rental payments of One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500) payable in advance and rental shall increase to \$ 2250.00 and actual calculated utilities taxes and insurance rate in year two and three. Beginning September 1, 2026. In addition, Sub lessee shall pay to Sub lessor monthly in advance of Five hundred dollars (\$500) for shared electricity and trash/garbage pickup

A. OPTIONS TO RENEW: The Sub lessee is hereby granted One (1) option(s) to extend the term of this lease for a period of three (3) years. (Extended term) upon the same covenants and conditions as the primary term except that the rental for each month of the extended term shall increase Three (3%) percent annually on May 31, 2027 of each year during the extended term. If the Sub lessee desires to continue this lease for the extended term, the Sub lessee must give written notice to that effect to the Sub lessor on or before 120 days prior to the expiration of the primary term, this time period to be considered of the essence. If Sub lessee gives timely written notice as provided in the preceding sentence, then within ten (10) days after such written notice from Sub lessee, Sub lessor shall exercise its renewal option under the Prime Lease to extend the term of the Prime Lease for three (3) years.

5. PURPOSE: The leased premises shall be used for the sole and exclusive purpose of general office use and for no other business or use whatsoever unless the written consent of Sub lessor is first had and obtained.
6. SHARED SPACE: Sub lessor and the Sub lessee will share the parking lot, side parking and restrooms. Sub lessor will need access to the main communication IT closet in the main building.
7. ASSIGNMENT: Sub lessee shall not assign or transfer this Sublease, or any interest herein, or sublet the subleased premises in whole or in part without the prior written consent of Sub lessor, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any such assignment or subletting without such consent shall be void and shall, at the option of Sub lessor, terminate this Sublease. Neither this Sublease nor the sublease hold estate of Sub lessee nor any interest of Sub lessee hereunder in the subleased premises or any buildings or improvements thereon shall be subject to involuntary assignment, transfer or sale, or to assignment, transfer or sale by operation of law in any manner whatsoever, and any such attempted involuntary assignment, transfer or sale shall be void and of no effect and shall, at the option of Sub lessor, terminate this Sublease.
8. REAL ESTATE TAXES: During the primary or any extended term of this Sublease, the Sub lessor shall be responsible for the prompt reimbursement to Sub lessor of all real property taxes levied and paid on the subleased premises, excluding any public improvement assessment. Sub lessor shall provide Sub lessee with written notification and verification of said taxes levied and paid. Sub lessee's obligation for all real estate taxes shall be adjusted on a prorated basis for any fractional lease year. Sub lessor and Sub lessee acknowledge that the subleased premises constitute only a portion of the premises leased by Sub lessor under the Prime Lease and that under the Prime Lease the Landlord is obligated to pay real estate taxes and Sub lessor (as Tenant under the Prime Lease) is obligated to repay such real estate taxes to Landlord as additional rent in monthly installments. Under this Section, Sub lessee shall be obligated to reimburse to Sub lessor one-half of such monthly payments on or before the first day of each month.
9. UTILITIES: The Sub lessee shall, during the term of this Sublease, pay to Sub lessor its portion of the charges for water, gas, electricity, garbage, sewerage, and other utility services.

lessee to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless Sub lessor, its agents, employees, guests, or invitees with respect to their own actions or negligence, nor shall such indemnity apply to any property that is not part of the subleased premises. The provisions of this paragraph shall be an addition to any other obligations and liabilities of Sub lessee which Sub lessee may have to Sub lessor at law or in equity and shall survive the transactions contemplated herein and shall survive the termination of this Sublease.

31. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT: Notwithstanding anything contained in this Sublease to the contrary, Sub lessor represents that it is currently making good faith efforts to bring the common areas into compliance with the requirements of Title III of the ADA. Sub lessee represents and covenants that it shall conduct its occupancy and use of the subleased premises in accordance with the ADA (including, but not limited to, modifying its policies, practices and procedures, and providing auxiliary aids and services to disabled persons). If this Sublease provides that Sub lessee is to complete certain alterations and improvements to the subleased premises in conjunction with the Sub lessee taking occupancy of the subleased premises, Sub lessee agrees that all such work shall comply with the ADA. Furthermore, Sub lessee covenants and agrees that any and all future alterations or improvements made by Sub lessee to the subleased premises shall comply with the ADA.

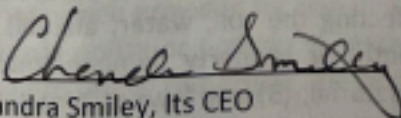
32. ANNUAL ESTIMATED FIRE AND EXTENDED COVERAGE INSURANCE EXPENSE: Sub lessor shall present Sub lessee estimated annual pass through fire and extended coverage insurance expenses at such time as such expense changes. Such annual expense will be divided into twelve (12) monthly payments to be paid each month as additional rent added to the base rental payment, plus applicable sales tax. Lessor to provide to Lessee, in writing, a reconciled statement of the annual estimated property insurance expense.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have set their hands on the dates below written,

Executed by Sub lessor on 8/26/2025, 2025.

SUBLESSOR:

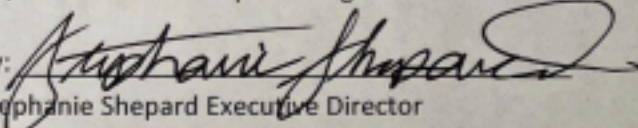
ESCAMBIA COMMUNITY CLINICS, INC. a
Florida not-for-profit corporation
dba Community Health Northwest Florida

By: 
Chandra Smiley, Its CEO

Executed by Sub lessee on 8/29/25, 2025

SUBLESSEE:

Hope Above Fear Nonprofit origination.

By: 
Stephanie Shepard Executive Director

2026 Annual Business Expenditures		
Beginning Cash Balance as of 1/1/2025		
Cash on Hand (2025)	\$29,735.57	
REVENUE	Projected Amount	
Escambia Children's Trust Grant	\$23,163	
United Way	\$5,000	
Fred Lewis Way	\$2,500	
Escambia County Opaid Abatement	\$235,286	
Florida Department of Health	\$2,500	
Pensacola Optimal Club	\$800	
Government Grants/Contracts	\$5,000	
Corporate/Foundation Grants	\$5,000	
Donations	\$8,000	
Fundraising	\$15,000	
In-Kind	\$4,000	
Total Annual Revenue	\$365,949	
EXPENSES	Projected Amount	
General Expenses	\$18,150	
1. Contract & Professional Fees	\$8,850	
2. Insurance	\$4,500	
3. Volunteer/Staff Training	\$800	
4. Other Administrative Fees	\$3,000	
5. Non-Discretionary Spending	\$1,000	
Office Expenses	\$31,000	
1. Occupancy	\$16,800	
2. Internet	\$1,900	
3. Software & Apps	\$1,500	
4. Supplies	\$1,000	
5. Marketing & Advertisement	\$6,200	
6. Equipment & Furnishing	\$3,600	
Fundraising	\$13,000	
1. Fees	\$8,000	
2. Supplies	\$5,000	
Payroll	\$192,163	
1. Wages	\$156,339	
2. Taxes & Benefits	\$30,274	
3. Stipend	\$5,490	
Total General Expenses	254,253	
Program Expenses	\$9,000	
1. Staff/Volunteer Training	\$800	
2. Rent	\$7,200	
3. Program Advertising	\$500	
4. Youth Support	\$500	
Choose Your Story	\$15,300	
1. Food & Beverages	\$1,300	
2. Tickets at Event	\$8,000	
3. Supplies (incentives)	\$6,000	
Youth Advisory	\$2,000	
1. Food	\$1,000	
2. Supplies	\$500	
3. Incentives	\$500	
Diversion	\$8,500	
1. Supplies	\$3,000	
2. Food & Beverages	\$2,400	
3. Guest Speakers	\$1,500	
Education Programming	\$11,000	
1. Supplies	\$1,000	
2. Curriculum (video)	\$10,000	
Community Outreach	\$7,100	
1. NFAD	\$500	
2. KOAD	\$2,500	
3. Fred Lewis Way	\$2,500	
4. Vendor Fees	\$600	
5. Outreach Supplies	\$1,000	
Total Program Service Fees	\$61,300	
Total Business Expenditures	\$365,553	
Net Surplus/Deficient	\$396	
2026 Annual Operating Budget Summary		
Beginning Cash Balance (as of January 1, 2025)		
+ Cash on Hand (from 2025)	\$29,735.57	
Projected 2026 Revenue	\$365,949	
Projected 2026 Expenses	\$365,553	
Projected Operating Surplus	\$396	
Projected 2026 Ending Cash Balance	\$30,131.57	



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

HOPE ABOVE FEAR
C/O STEPHANIE SHEPARD
47 N STILLMAN ST
PENSACOLA, FL 32505

Date:
02/13/2023
Employer ID number:
88-4378059
Person to contact:
Name: Customer Service
ID number: 31954
Telephone: (877) 829-5500
Accounting period ending:
December 31
Public charity status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:
Yes
Effective date of exemption:
January 1, 2023
Contribution deductibility:
Yes
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
26053441005543

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 947 (Rev. 2-2020)
Catalog Number 35152P



Consumer's Certificate of Exemption

Issued Pursuant to Chapter 212, Florida Statutes

DR-14
R. 01/18

85-8019193934C-4	07/28/2023	07/31/2028	501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION
Certificate Number	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Exemption Category

This certifies that

HOPE ABOVE FEAR INC
47 N STILLMAN ST
PENSACOLA FL 32505-7843

is exempt from the payment of Florida sales and use tax on real property rented, transient rental property rented, tangible personal property purchased or rented, or services purchased.



Important Information for Exempt Organizations

DR-14
R. 01/18

1. You must provide all vendors and suppliers with an exemption certificate before making tax-exempt purchases. See Rule 12A-1.038, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).
2. Your *Consumer's Certificate of Exemption* is to be used solely by your organization for your organization's customary nonprofit activities.
3. Purchases made by an individual on behalf of the organization are taxable, even if the individual will be reimbursed by the organization.
4. This exemption applies only to purchases your organization makes. The sale or lease to others of tangible personal property, sleeping accommodations, or other real property is taxable. Your organization must register, and collect and remit sales and use tax on such taxable transactions. Note: Churches are exempt from this requirement except when they are the lessor of real property (Rule 12A-1.070, F.A.C.).
5. It is a criminal offense to fraudulently present this certificate to evade the payment of sales tax. Under no circumstances should this certificate be used for the personal benefit of any individual. Violators will be liable for payment of the sales tax plus a penalty of 200% of the tax, and may be subject to conviction of a third-degree felony. Any violation will require the revocation of this certificate.
6. If you have questions about your exemption certificate, please call Taxpayer Services at 850-488-6800. The mailing address is PO Box 6480, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6480.

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

► Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.

Print or type.
See Specific Instructions on page 3.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank. Hope Above Fear	
2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above Hope Above Fear	
3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes. ☐ Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC ☒ C Corporation ☐ S Corporation ☐ Partnership ☐ Trust/estate ☐ Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ► _____ Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. ☐ Other (see instructions) ► _____	4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____ (Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)
5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. 47 N. Stillman St.	Requester's name and address (optional)
6 City, state, and ZIP code Pensacola, FL 32505	
7 List account number(s) here (optional)	

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number									
Or									
Employer identification number									
8	8		4	3	7	8	0	5	9

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here

Signature of
U.S. person ►

Date ►

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See *What is backup withholding*, later.

Form 990-N

Electronic Notice (e-Postcard)

OMB No. 1545-2085

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

for Tax-Exempt Organization not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ

2024

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2024 Calendar year, or tax year beginning 2024-01-01 and ending 2024-12-31

B Check if available

☐ Terminated for Business

☒ Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less

C Name of Organization: HOPE ABOVE FEAR

47 N Stillman St, Pensacola,

FL, US, 32505

D Employee Identification

Number 88-4378059

E Website:

Hope Above Fear

F Name of Principal Officer: Stephanie Shepard

47 N Stillman St, Pensacola,

FL, US, 32505

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice: We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws.

The organization is not required to provide information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. The rules governing the confidentiality of the Form 990-N is covered in code section 6104.

The time needed to complete and file this form and related schedules will vary depending on the individual circumstances. The estimated average times is 15 minutes.

Note: This image is provided for your records only. Do Not mail this page to the IRS. The IRS will not accept this filing via paper. You must file your Form 990-N (e-Postcard) electronically.

Forms 990 / 990-EZ Return Summary

For calendar year 2025, or tax year beginning

, and ending

88-4378059**Hope Above Fear, Inc.****Net Asset / Fund Balance at Beginning of Year****29,954****Revenue**

Contributions	<u>56,703</u>
Program service revenue	
Investment income	<u>9</u>
Capital gain / loss	
Fundraising / Gaming:	
Gross revenue	<u>17,857</u>
Direct expenses	
Net income	<u>17,857</u>
Other income	

Total revenue**74,569****Expenses**

Program services	
Management and general	
Fundraising	

Total expenses**73,673****Excess / (deficit)****896****Changes****-223****Net Asset / Fund Balance at End of Year****30,627****Reconciliation of Revenue**

Total revenue per financial statements	
Less:	
Unrealized gains	
Donated services	
Recoveries	
Other	
Plus:	
Investment expenses	
Other	
Total revenue per return	

Reconciliation of Expenses

Total expenses per financial statements	
Less:	
Donated services	
Prior year adjustments	
Losses	
Other	
Plus:	
Investment expenses	
Other	
Total expenses per return	

Balance Sheet

	Beginning	Ending	Differences
Assets	<u>29,954</u>	<u>30,627</u>	
Liabilities			
Net assets	<u>29,954</u>	<u>30,627</u>	<u>673</u>

Miscellaneous Information

Amended return	
Return / extended due date	<u>11/15/26</u>
Failure to file penalty	

Form **990-EZ**Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**Short Form**
Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

Do not enter social security numbers on this form, as it may be made public.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2025**Open to Public
Inspection****A For the 2025 calendar year, or tax year beginning** , **and ending****B** Check if applicable:

- ☐ Address change
☐ Name change
☐ Initial return
☐ Final return/terminated
☐ Amended return
☐ Application pending

C Name of organization**Hope Above Fear, Inc.**

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)

31 E. Lee Street

Room/suite

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code

Pensacola**FL****32501****D** Employer identification number**88-4378059****E** Telephone number**850-516-8744****F** Group Exemption

Number

G Accounting Method: ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual Other (specify):**I** Website: **hopeabovefear.org****H** Check ☐ if the organization is **not** required to attach Schedule B (Form 990).**J** Tax-exempt status (check only one) — ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) () (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527**K** Form of organization: ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other:**L** Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets(Part II, column (B)) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ \$ **74,569****Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances** (see the instructions for Part I)Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I ☒

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	56,703
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	
	3	Membership dues and assessments	3	
	4	Investment income	4	9
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	5b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	5c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	
	6	Gaming and fundraising events:		
	a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b	17,857	
c	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c		
d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d	17,857	
7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a		
b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c		
8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8		
9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8	9	74,569	
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	
	11	Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	21,917
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	1,058
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	8,776
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	46
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	41,876
17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	73,673	
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	896
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	29,954
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	-223
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	21	30,627

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Form **990-EZ** (2025)

Part II Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II

☒

	(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	29,954	22	29,733
23 Land and buildings	0	23	
24 Other assets (describe in Schedule O)	0	24	894
25 Total assets	29,954	25	30,627
26 Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)	0	26	0
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	29,954	27	30,627

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III

☒

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose?

See Schedule O

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.

Expenses

(Required for section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations; optional for others.)

28 See Schedule O		
(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	☐	28a 23,365
29 See Schedule O		
(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	☐	29a 2,794
30 See Schedule O		
(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	☐	30a 4,169
31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O)		
(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	☐	31a
32 Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)		32 30,328

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated — see the instructions for Part IV)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV

☐

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
Stephanie Shepard Executive Director	40.00	16,268	0	0
Sweneda McDonald President	45.00	0	0	0
Rachel Trahan Treasurer	24.00	0	0	0
Sarah Skipper Secretary	40.00	0	0	0
Denny Wilson Director	30.00	0	0	0
Walter (Joey) Kerman Director	20.00	0	0	0
Bre Garrett Director	30.00	0	0	0
Lindsey Faist Director	24.00	0	0	0
Alicia Gifford Director	24.00	0	0	0
Jeffrey Whitehurst Director	18.00	0	0	0

Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V ☐

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O		X
34 Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O. See instructions		X
35a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?		X
b If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
c Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III		X
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N		X
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions 37a		
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		X
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee; or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?		X
b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II, and enter the total amount involved 38b		
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9 39a		
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities 39b		
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911: ; section 4912: ; section 4955:		
b Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I		X
c Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958		
d Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T		X
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed: None		
42a The organization's books are in care of: Rachel Trahan Telephone no. 850-516-8744 31 E Lee Street Located at: Pensacola FL ZIP + 4 32501		
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).	Yes	No
42b		X
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country:		X
42c		
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 — Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year 43		
44a Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		X
b Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ		X
c Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?		X
d If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
44d		
45a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		X
b Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ. See instructions		X
45b		

- 46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I

	Yes	No
46		X

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47–49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI

☐

- 47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II

	Yes	No
47		X

- 48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E

48		X
----	--	---

- 49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?

49a		X
-----	--	---

- b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?

49b		
-----	--	--

- 50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
None				

- f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

- 51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		

- d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000

- 52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **Note:** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A

☒ Yes	☐ No
---	-----------------------------

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	Signature of officer Stephanie Shepard		Date Executive Director	
	Officer's name and title			
Paid Preparer Use Only	Preparer's name Sandy J. Queen	Preparer's signature	Date 06/11/26	Check ☐ if self-employed
	Firm's name Brown Thornton Pacenta & Company, PA	Firm's EIN 59-3478013		PTIN P01233044
	Firm's address P.O. Box 12484 Pensacola, FL 32591	Phone no. 850-434-3146		
	May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions			

☐ Yes	☐ No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2025

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

Hope Above Fear, Inc.

Employer identification number

88-4378059

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status. (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1 ☐ A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**
- 2 ☐ A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E (Form 990).)
- 3 ☐ A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**
- 4 ☐ A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:
- 5 ☐ An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)
- 6 ☐ A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**
- 7 ☒ An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 8 ☐ A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 9 ☐ An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university:
- 10 ☐ An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions, subject to certain exceptions; and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)
- 11 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**
- 12 ☐ An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2).** See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box on lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
- a ☐ **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
- b ☐ **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
- c ☐ **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
- d ☐ **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization must generally satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
- e ☐ Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
- f Enter the number of supported organizations:
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1–10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
Total						

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule A (Form 990) 2025

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2021	(b) 2022	(c) 2023	(d) 2024	(e) 2025	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")					56,703	56,703
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3					56,703	56,703
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						56,703

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2021	(b) 2022	(c) 2023	(d) 2024	(e) 2025	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4					56,703	56,703
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources					9	9
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						56,712
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	17,857
13 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						☒

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2025 (line 6, column (f), divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2024 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%
16a 33 1/3% support test — 2025. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☐	
b 33 1/3% support test — 2024. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☐	
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test — 2025. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☐	
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test — 2024. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	☐	
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions	☐	

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II.
If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2021	(b) 2022	(c) 2023	(d) 2024	(e) 2025	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2021	(b) 2022	(c) 2023	(d) 2024	(e) 2025	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included on line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

14 **First 5 years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here** ☐

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2025 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2024 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2025 (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2024 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%

19a **33 1/3% support tests — 2025.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

b **33 1/3% support tests — 2024.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

20 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ☐

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked box 12a, Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked box 12b, Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked box 12c, Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked box 12d, Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.		
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).		
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? If "Yes," answer lines 3b and 3c below.		
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.		
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.		
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? If "Yes," and if you checked box 12a or 12b in Part I, answer lines 4b and 4c below.		
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.		
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.		
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? If "Yes," answer lines 5b and 5c below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).		
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.		
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (as defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).		
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described on line 7? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).		
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons, as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.		
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined on line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.		
c Did a disqualified person (as defined on line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.		
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? If "Yes," answer line 10b below.		
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1 ☐ Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 (*explain in Part VI*). See instructions. All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A – Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3.	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4)	8	
Section B – Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):		
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (<i>explain in detail in Part VI</i>):		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 0.015 of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by 0.035.	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	
Section C – Distributable Amount			Current Year
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, column A)	1	
2	Enter 0.85 of line 1.	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3.	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions).	6	
7	☐ Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D – Distributions		Current Year
1	Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	1
2	Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	2
3	Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	3
4	Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	4
5	Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required—provide details in Part VI)	5
6	Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 5.	6
7	Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI). See instructions.	7
8	Distributable amount for 2025 from Section C, line 6	8
9	Line 7 amount divided by line 8 amount	9

Section E – Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2025	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2025
1	Distributable amount for 2025 from Section C, line 6		
2	Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2025 (reasonable cause required—explain in Part VI). See instructions.		
3	Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2025		
a	From 2020		
b	From 2021		
c	From 2022		
d	From 2023		
e	From 2024		
f	Total of lines 3a through 3e		
g	Applied to underdistributions of prior years		
h	Applied to 2025 distributable amount		
i	Carryover from 2020 not applied (see instructions)		
j	Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from line 3f.		
4	Distributions for 2025 from Section D, line 6: \$		
a	Applied to underdistributions of prior years		
b	Applied to 2025 distributable amount		
c	Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from line 4.		
5	Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2025, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.		
6	Remaining underdistributions for 2025. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.		
7	Excess distributions carryover to 2026. Add lines 3j and 4c.		
8	Breakdown of line 7:		
a	Excess from 2021		
b	Excess from 2022		
c	Excess from 2023		
d	Excess from 2024		
e	Excess from 2025		

Schedule A (Form 990) 2025

Schedule of Contributors

Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Name of the organization

Hope Above Fear, Inc.

Employer identification number

88-4378059

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Section:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

☒ 501(c)(**3**) (enter number) organization

☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation

☐ 527 political organization

Form 990-PF

☐ 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation

☐ 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation

☐ 501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.

Note: Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

General Rule

- ☐ For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

Special Rules

- ☒ For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33¹/₃% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000; or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h; or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.

- ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I (entering "N/A" in column (b) instead of the contributor name and address), II, and III.

- ☐ For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year \$

Caution: An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990).

Name of organization

Hope Above Fear, Inc.

Employer identification number

88-4378059

Part I Contributors (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1	Escambia Children's Trust 1000 College Blvd, Bldg 26, 2nd Fl Pensacola FL 32504	\$ 21,388	Person ☒ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person ☐ Payroll ☐ Noncash ☐ (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

**SCHEDULE G
(Form 990)**

(Rev. December 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17, 18, or 19; or if the organization entered more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Hope Above Fear, Inc.

Employer identification number

88-4378059

Part I Fundraising Activities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 17.
Form 990-EZ filers are not required to complete this part.

1 Indicate whether the organization raised funds through any of the following activities. Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a ☐ Mail solicitations | e ☐ Solicitation of nongovernment grants |
| b ☐ Internet and email solicitations | f ☐ Solicitation of government grants |
| c ☐ Phone solicitations | g ☐ Special fundraising events |
| d ☐ In-person solicitations | |

2a Did the organization have a written or oral agreement with any individual (including officers, directors, trustees, or key employees listed in Form 990, Part VII) or entity in connection with professional fundraising services? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If "Yes," list the 10 highest paid individuals or entities (fundraisers) pursuant to agreements under which the fundraiser is to be compensated at least \$5,000 by the organization.

(i) Name and address of individual or entity (fundraiser)	(ii) Activity	(iii) Did fundraiser have custody or control of contributions?		(iv) Gross receipts from activity	(v) Amount paid to (or retained by) fundraiser listed in col. (i)	(vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization
		Yes	No			
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
Total						

3 List all states in which the organization is registered or licensed to solicit contributions or has been notified it is exempt from registration or licensing.

Part II Fundraising Events. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 18, or reported more than \$15,000 of fundraising event contributions and gross income on Form 990-EZ, lines 1 and 6b. List events with gross receipts greater than \$5,000.

		(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other events	(d) Total events (add col. (a) through col. (c))
		(event type)	(event type)	None (total number)	
Revenue	1 Gross receipts				
	2 Less: Contributions				
	3 Gross income (line 1 minus line 2)				
Direct Expenses	4 Cash prizes				
	5 Noncash prizes				
	6 Rent/facility costs				
	7 Food and beverages				
	8 Entertainment				
	9 Other direct expenses				
	10 Direct expense summary. Add lines 4 through 9 in column (d)				
11 Net income summary. Subtract line 10 from line 3, column (d)					

Part III Gaming. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 19, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

		(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming (add col. (a) through col. (c))
Revenue	1 Gross revenue				
Direct Expenses	2 Cash prizes				
	3 Noncash prizes				
	4 Rent/facility costs				
	5 Other direct expenses				
	6 Volunteer labor	☐ Yes % ☐ No %	☐ Yes % ☐ No %	☐ Yes % ☐ No %	
	7 Direct expense summary. Add lines 2 through 5 in column (d)				
	8 Net gaming income summary. Subtract line 7 from line 1, column (d)				

9 Enter the state(s) in which the organization conducts gaming activities:

a Is the organization licensed to conduct gaming activities in each of these states? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "No," explain:

10a Were any of the organization's gaming licenses revoked, suspended, or terminated during the tax year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," explain:

- | | | | |
|----|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11 | Does the organization conduct gaming activities with nonmembers? | ☐ Yes | ☐ No |
| 12 | Is the organization a grantor, beneficiary, or trustee of a trust; or a member of a partnership or other entity formed to administer charitable gaming? | ☐ Yes | ☐ No |

- 13** Indicate the percentage of gaming activity conducted in:

a	The organization's facility	13a	%
---	-----------------------------	-----	---

b An outside facility	13b	%
------------------------------	------------	----------

- 14 Enter the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records:

Name _____

Address

- 15a Does the organization have a contract with a third party from whom the organization receives gaming revenue? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|--|---------|
| b | If "Yes," enter the amount of gaming revenue received by the organization | \$ | | and the |
| | amount of gaming revenue retained by the third party | \$ | | |

- c** If "Yes," enter the name and address of the third party:

Name _____

Address

- 16** Gaming manager information:

Name _____

Gaming manager compensation \$

Description of services provided

☐ Director/officer ☐ Employee ☐ Independent contractor

- 17** Mandatory distributions:

- a Is the organization required under state law to make charitable distributions from the gaming proceeds to retain the state gaming license? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- b** Enter the amount of distributions required under state law to be distributed to other exempt organizations or spent in the organization's own exempt activities during the tax year \$

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part I, line 2b, columns (iii) and (v); and Part III, lines 9, 9b, 10b, 15b, 15c, 16, and 17b, as applicable. Also provide any additional information. See instructions.

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**

(Rev. December 2024)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Hope Above Fear, Inc.

Employer identification number

88-4378059

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16 - Other Expenses

Description	Amount
Fundraising	
	\$ 9,855
Expenses	
Advertising & Marketing	\$ 1,030
Advertise Program Service	\$ 298
Office Expenses	\$ 1,965
Office Supplies	\$ 652
Office Equipment	\$ 1,140
Repairs	\$ 620
Insurance	\$ 2,538
General Expenses	\$ 207
Volunteer Training & Cost	\$ 114
Volunteer Training & Cost	\$ 230
Bank Fees	\$ 1
Program Services Expense	\$ 2,322
Program Services Expense	\$ 258
Program Services Expense	\$ 2,581
Additional Youth Support	\$ 160
Choose Your Story	\$ 10,595
Community Outreach	\$ 996
Fred Levin Way	\$ 1,759
NFAD	\$ 634
Overdose Awareness Day	\$ 587
SIA	\$ 2,222
Gallery Night	\$ 242
Group Meetings	\$ 60
Outreach Supplies	\$ 501
Youth Advisory Council	\$ 309
Total	\$ 41,876

Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 20 - Other Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances

Description	Amount
Book / Tax Depreciation Difference	\$ -223

Form 990-EZ, Part II, Line 24 - Other Assets

Description	Beg. of Year	End of Year
Furniture and equipment	\$ 0	\$ 1,117
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 0	\$ 223
Total	\$ 0	\$ 894

Form 990-EZ, Part III - Primary Exempt Purpose

The mission of Hope Above Fear is to promote awareness about the dangers of substance use, extend assistance to youth and young adults affected by substance misuse, and provide support for families navigating these challenges.

Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 28 - First Accomplishment

Choose Your Story: Hope Above Fear's Choose Your Story program provides

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**

(Rev. December 2024)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number

Hope Above Fear, Inc.

88-4378059

free, substance-free gatherings and positive engagement opportunities for teens focused on prevention through connection, healthy relationships, leadership, and resilience-building. Activities included community outings, educational experiences, and wellness-centered events designed to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk behaviors among youth.

The program primarily served teens ages 13-17 in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

In 2025, Hope Above Fear hosted 23 Choose Your Story gatherings, providing 277 participation opportunities and reaching 147 unique youth. This included 52 teens engaged through a community-wide awareness event, 25 participants from Santa Rosa County, and continued involvement from 29 returning participants who attended multiple events throughout the year.

A significant accomplishment in 2025 was the continued growth and expansion of youth engagement opportunities, including increased participation from returning youth and expanded regional outreach.

Program revenue included the Escambia Children's Trust grant and other donations.

Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 29 - Second Accomplishment

Youth Advisory Council: Hope Above Fear's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) provides teens with opportunities to develop leadership skills, participate in peer advocacy, and contribute to substance use prevention and mental health awareness initiatives within their schools and community.

The program served high school students in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

In 2025, Hope Above Fear hosted 6 Youth Advisory Council meetings and engaged 16 teens in leadership development, prevention advocacy, and community impact initiatives.

A significant accomplishment during 2025 was the opening of the Hope House, creating a dedicated youth resource and programming space that supports connection, prevention activities, leadership development, and ongoing community engagement for teens and families.

Program revenue included the Escambia Children's Trust grant and other donations.

Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 30 - Third Accomplishment

EMPOWER: Hope Above Fear's EMPOWER program provides youth substance use prevention education, fentanyl awareness, mental health awareness, and early intervention education through in-school workshops, parent education sessions, and community presentations.

The program served middle and high school students, parents, educators, and

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)
(Rev. December 2024)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

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OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Hope Above Fear, Inc.

Employer identification number

88-4378059

community members throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

In 2025, Hope Above Fear facilitated 13 EMPOWER in-school workshops across 7 schools and hosted 6 parent workshops, directly educating and engaging more than 685 students, educators, parents, and community members in person.

Additionally, the organization distributed its prevention awareness video across 29 middle and high schools throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, virtually extending prevention education to more than 21,000 youth, educators, and families.

A significant accomplishment during 2025 was the successful completion and large-scale school distribution of the organization's prevention awareness video, substantially increasing the reach and accessibility of prevention education efforts across Northwest Florida.

Federal Statements**Schedule A, Part II, Line 1(e)**

Description	Amount
Grants & Donations from Other NFPs	\$ 9,220
	8,000
	21,388
Corporate & Foundation Grants	6,020
Donation Online Giving	1,928
Donations Directed By Individuals	4,305
In-Kind Donations	5,842
Total	\$ 56,703

Schedule A, Part II, Line 8(e)

Description	Amount
	\$ 9
Total	\$ 9

Schedule A, Part II, Line 12 - Current year

Description	Amount
Fundraising	\$ 17,857
Total	\$ 17,857

Hope Above Fear
Statement of Financial Position
As of Dec 31, 2024

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CHECKING (0021) - 1	29,953.61
Total for Bank Accounts	\$29,953.61
Total for Current Assets	\$29,953.61
Total for Assets	\$29,953.61
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	21,330.69
Net Revenue	8,622.92
Total for Equity	\$29,953.61
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$29,953.61

Hope Above Fear
Statement of Financial Position
As of Dec 31, 2025

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CHECKING (0021) - 1	29,735.57
Total for Bank Accounts	\$29,735.57
Total for Current Assets	\$29,735.57
Fixed Assets	
Furniture & fixtures	775.52
Improvements	341.24
Total for Fixed Assets	\$1,116.76
Total for Assets	\$30,852.33
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	29,953.61
Net Revenue	898.72
Total for Equity	\$30,852.33
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$30,852.33



WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Consumer Services

**SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING FORM**

Chapter 496, Florida Statutes
Rule 5J-7.004, Florida Administrative Code
1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) • (850) 410-3800

Remit completed form to:
charities@FDACS.gov

or

FDACS
Solicitation of Contributions
2005 Apalachee Pkwy.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-6500

Hope Above Fear

CH# CH72039

DTN 3918041

Organization Name

(Registration #)

(as listed on the preprinted
renewal application)

31 E. Lee Street Pensacola, FL 32501

Organization Physical Address

City

State

Zip

FISCAL YEAR ENDING 12/31/25

☐ Yes ☒ No Is this a proposed budget? (newly formed organizations only)

☐ Yes ☒ No Is this a consolidated financial statement for chapters, branches and affiliates?

REVENUE

1. Federated campaigns:	1. 0
2. All Fundraising events:	2. 17,552.98
3. Related Organizations:	3. 9220.33
4. Government Grants:	4. \$8,000
5. All other contributions, gifts, grants & similar amounts:	5. 33,641.04
6. In-kind contributions (non- cash contributions):	6. \$5,841.50
7. Program service revenue:	7. 0
8. Income from gaming activities:	8. 0
9. Sales of inventory revenue:	9. 0
10. Misc./Other revenue	10. \$313.50
11. Membership Dues and assessments	11. 0
12. TOTAL REVENUE	12. \$74569.35

EXPENSES

1. Program services (including payments to affiliates)	1. 27365.52
2. Management and general	2. 36450.38
3. Fundraising	3. 9854.73
4. TOTAL EXPENSES (add lines 1 through 3)	4. 73670.63

Statement of Functional Expenses for

Hope Above Fear

(Organization Name)

CH CH72039

(Renewals Only)

ITEMS	(A) Program Services	(B) Management & General	(C) Fundraising	TOTAL for A, B, C
Grants & allocations (cash _____ Non cash _____) Attach schedule				
Assistance to individuals	\$150			\$150
Benefits to or for members				
Compensation to officers, etc.		\$12,810		\$12,810
Other salaries, wages, etc.		\$7554.66		\$7554.66
Fees for service non employees	\$12,735.97	\$500	\$800	\$14,035.97
Other benefits, pensions, etc.				
Payroll taxes		\$560.07		\$560.07
Professional fundraising fees				
Investment management fees				
Accounting fees		\$1,200		\$1,200
Management				
Legal fees				
Lobbying				
Office supplies		\$670.71		\$670.71
Telephone				
Postage & shipping	\$10.05	\$46.80		\$56.85
Equipment rental		\$104.62	\$2,695	\$2799.62
Occupancy	\$3175.68	\$5,600		\$8775.68
Printing	\$46.09			\$46.09
Travel		\$10.01		\$10.01
Conferences & meetings	\$59.68	\$760.08		\$819.76
Interest				
Insurance		\$2,537.91		\$2537.91
Advertising & promotions	\$686.85	\$1030	\$399.32	\$2116.17
Information technology		\$,1784.52		\$1784.52
Royalties				
Payments to affiliates				
Depreciation, depletion & amortization				
Other (List Item)	\$9690.77 Program Service Supplies	\$1,141 Office Furnishings	\$5960.41 Fundraising Supplies	\$16792.18
Other (List Item)	\$190.11 - Venue Rental	\$140 Annual Reports		\$330.11
Other (List Item)	\$620.32 Hope House Painting			\$620.32
TOTAL EXPENSES	(A) \$27,365.52	(B) \$36,450.38	(C) \$9,854.73	TOTAL \$73,670.63

BALANCE SHEET:	(A) BEGINNING OF YEAR	(B) END OF YEAR
CASH, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS	\$29,954.61	\$30,853.33
TOTAL ASSETS	\$29,954.61	\$30,853.33
EXCESS (OR DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		\$898.72

SUPPLEMENTAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

You must submit financial statements for the parent organization and **each** chapter, branch, or affiliate listed in question 4 on the Registration Application. However, *if* all contributions received by the chapters, branches, or affiliates are remitted directly into a depository account which feeds directly into the parent organization's centralized accounting system from which all disbursements are made, the parent organization may submit one consolidated financial statement and IRS form 990 with all attachments, or form 990-EZ and Schedule O, for the parent organization and each chapter, branch, or affiliate that is required to file such forms. If submitting one consolidated financial statement, financial information for all branches should be combined into the amounts requested below. Please note: this form is required and may be reproduced to accommodate all affiliate locations. Additional pages using the same format may be attached if more space is needed.

Chapter, Branch, or Affiliate Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

Total contributions received in the name of the Chapter, Branch or Affiliate \$ _____

Total administrative costs assessed by Parent to Chapter, Branch or Affiliate \$ _____

Total payments to Chapter, Branch or Affiliate \$ _____

If a professional fundraising consultant, professional solicitor, or commercial co-venturer was utilized during any portion of this reporting period, please provide the following information for each contract entered:

☐ Professional Fundraising Consultant

☐ Professional Solicitor

☐ Commercial Co-Venturer

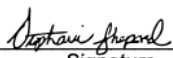
Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Amount Received following the campaign, fundraiser, promotion or event: \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE: Financial statements from organizations that receive at least \$500,000 but less than \$1 million in annual contributions must be audited or reviewed by an independent certified public accountant. Financial statements from organizations that receive \$1 million or more in annual contributions must be audited by an independent certified public accountant. If this applies to your organization, you must submit the review or audit with this document.

I am authorized to complete this financial reporting form.


Signature

Executive Director

Title

480-251-5157

Telephone Number

Stephanie Shepard

Printed Name

02/16/2026

Date

stephanie@hopeabovefear.org

Email Address



WILTON SIMPSON
COMMISSIONER

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Consumer Services

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ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING FORM**

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FDACS
Solicitation of Contributions
2005 Apalachee Pkwy.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-6500

Hope Above Fear	CH#	CH72039	DTN	
Organization Name	(Registration #)		(as listed on the preprinted renewal application)	
47 N Stillman St.	Pensacola,	FL	32505	
Organization Physical Address	City	State	Zip	
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 12/31/2024				
☐ Yes ☒ No Is this a proposed budget? (newly formed organizations only)				
☐ Yes ☒ No Is this a consolidated financial statement for chapters, branches and affiliates?				
REVENUE				
1. Federated campaigns:	1.	0		
2. All Fundraising events:	2.	11,523.01		
3. Related Organizations:	3.	0		
4. Government Grants:	4.	0		
5. All other contributions, gifts, grants & similar amounts:	5.	20156.03		
6. In-kind contributions (non- cash contributions):	6.	0		
7. Program service revenue:	7.	0		
8. Income from gaming activities:	8.	0		
9. Sales of inventory revenue:	9.	0		
10. Misc./Other revenue	10.	0		
11. Membership Dues and assessments	11.	0		
12. TOTAL REVENUE	12.	31739.86		

EXPENSES	
1. Program services (including payments to affiliates)	1. 16506.51
2. Management and general	2. 4474.88
3. Fundraising	3. 2135.55
4. TOTAL EXPENSES (add lines 1 through 3)	4. 23116.94

Statement of Functional Expenses for Hope Above Fear

(Organization Name)

CH CH72009

(Renewals Only)

ITEMS	(A) Program Services	(B) Management & General	(C) Fundraising	TOTAL for A, B, C
Grants & allocations (cash ⁰ Non cash ⁰) Attach schedule				
Assistance to individuals	0			
Benefits to or for members	0			0
Compensation to officers, etc.	0	0	0	0
Other salaries, wages, etc.	0	0	0	0
Fees for service non employees	0	\$375	\$1,452.15	\$1827.15
Other benefits, pensions, etc.	0	0	0	0
Payroll taxes	0	0	0	0
Professional fundraising fees	0	0	0	0
Investment management fees	0	0	0	0
Accounting fees	0	0	0	0
Management	0	\$87.65	0	\$87.65
Legal fees	0	0	0	0
Lobbying	0	0	0	0
Office supplies	0	\$59.28	0	\$59.28
Telephone	0	0	0	0
Postage & shipping	0	0	0	0
Equipment rental	0	0	0	0
Occupancy	0	0	0	0
Printing	\$5563.78	0	\$317.72	\$5881.50
Travel	0	0	\$132	\$132
Conferences & meetings	0	0	0	0
Interest	0	0	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	0
Advertising & promotions	0	0	\$18.68	\$18.68
Information technology	0	\$563.37	0	\$563.37
Royalties	0	0	0	0
Payments to affiliates	0	0	0	0
Depreciation, depletion & amortization	0	0	0	0
Other (List Item)	\$10,942.73	\$3,367.58	\$215	\$14,525.31
Other (List Item)		\$22		\$22
Other (List Item)				
TOTAL EXPENSES	(A) \$16,506.51	(B) \$4474.88	(C) \$2135.55	TOTAL \$23116.94

BALANCE SHEET:	(A) BEGINNING OF YEAR	(B) END OF YEAR
CASH, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS	\$21,330.69	\$29,954.61
TOTAL ASSETS	\$21,330.69	\$29,954.61
EXCESS (OR DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	0	0

SUPPLEMENTAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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Total payments to Chapter, Branch or Affiliate \$ _____

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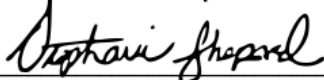
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I am authorized to complete this financial reporting form.



Signature

Executive Director

Title

480-251-5157

Telephone Number

Stephanie Shepard

Printed Name

5/9/25

Date

stephanie@hopeabovefear.org

Email Address