



City of San Marcos
HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING APPLICATION
Fiscal Year 2022

Name of Agency/Organization: Minorities for Equality in Economy, Education, Liberty, and Justice

Address: 403 E. 15th Street

City, State & Zip: Austin, TX 78701

Contact Person: Latreese Cooke Title: Executive Director, Founder

E-Mail Address: latreese.cooke@melj.org Website: www.melj.org

Phone: (512)-473-2525 Fax: _____

Program Title: Iron Sharpens Iron

Amount of Funds Requested: \$120,000

Status: (check one) Existing Program Program Expansion New Program

Briefly describe the program proposed for funding and the services it provides:

Iron Sharpens Iron uses a multi-faceted approach to address the challenges that reentry poses for nearly 40,000 individuals annually in the city of San Marcos. Iron Sharpens Iron program model assists those persons who've been incarcerated by determining what their needs are during the intake process that will enable them to be successful in the community in which they are living. We have support mechanisms in place that will enable this population and their family members to have somewhere to go to seek assistance with financial issues, substance abuse referrals as well as discussion of academic interests, employment and any legal situation that may have not been resolved. This includes sharing ideal strategies and best practices for living a crime free life. This particular project will have a large reach to multiple entities including those that have been or parole and their families. We've learned that those persons who have lived experience that are included become the best educators on social justice change as it refers to "imprisonment" and successful re-entry back into their respective communities. This project will allow us to increase awareness to corporations and municipalities to participate in inclusion of those labeled a felon-as well supportive things for the population that we are currently serving and extend more to the family members

Describe who will benefit from this program and how:

The beneficiaries of MELJ will be participants or those seeking help who fit our intake criteria. This includes an experience of incarceration, including prison or jail for high level misdemeanors. We also seek to help family members of those who have been incarcerated to mitigate the impact that their incarceration has had on their immediate community. The beneficiaries receive assistance in housing, finances, food, health, and education; thus, the focus is holistic in order for them to serve society as a whole. Public safety is enhanced with a

program like ours in place and communities are strengthened.

If requested funds are to be used as matching funds, identify source and amount of primary grants:

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Source: _____ Amount: _____

Client Information Specific to This Program:

1) Describe the direct clients for this program.

The direct clients are people who have previously been incarcerated. Our organization was designed to specifically address the needs of those that have gone to prison.

2) How is the program marketed to direct clients? How do you find these clients?

Our program will be marketed by the justice entities that are within the City, county as it has been historically; as well as word of mouth. MELJ Center is unique in that we house a radio show that is broadcast weekly on FM radio which allows us to discuss services and give a "shout out" to people who can be helped by an entity like ours thru this program.

3) Describe the indirect clients for this program, if any.

The indirect clients are the family members of those persons who have previously been incarcerated. We have a strong emphasis on supporting the children of those persons that have had justice involvement.

4a) Expected total annual unduplicated direct clients for this program: 65 plus

4b) Expected annual unduplicated direct clients who are City of San Marcos residents: 40

5) Does program participation depend upon income or any other determination of eligibility?

No: X

Yes: _____ If Yes, please attach a copy of the eligibility guidelines.
(If a sliding scale is used attach a copy of the scale used.)

Submitted By:

Signature of Executive Director

Date

Printed Name of Executive Director

Approval:

Signature of Board President

Date

Printed Name of Board President



HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING QUESTIONNAIRE FY 2022

The Board strongly requests that all answers be typed.
Responses should not exceed 75 words per question.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS.

1. What is the agency's or organization's mission?

The mission of MELJ is to provide opportunities for at-risk youth and formerly incarcerated persons, regardless of previous educational and/or criminal background; while helping them to redirect, restore and reconnect as responsible and employable members of society.

2. Regarding the program for which funding is being requested, what evidence suggests this program is needed in San Marcos or nearby?

We were contacted by the Hays County Sheriff's Department earlier in the year for consideration of programming within the jail for those persons presently in custody; so we are aware that there are families who live in the immediate City as well as outlying areas who are in need of a place that can address the unique and specific needs of a person(s) that have been faced with having been to prison and all of the things that are infringed upon them once they are back in our communities. Our organization has had several people from this area to reach out in the last few years for assistance. The reality is that there is always a need for help to this particular population and their families in any community because resources and support can be very difficult to find.

3. What specific, measurable outcomes or results do you hope to achieve with this program?

One outcome would be to help stabilize the individual who has this ill to ensure that they have adequate resources to help them stay free of re-offending.
Helping the identified individual to have the financial resource to meet their basic needs and/or the means to obtain them.

4. How will you measure results throughout the year?

We will measure the results by our intake process and the follow up that is done once the issues have been addressed and resolved. It is a part of our programming to do "well checks" on each person that has sought our support via phone, correspondence, email, etc initially for the first 90 days and then on a rotational basis based on their history.

5. Please answer the following questions if funding is requested for staff:

a. List the title of each position for which funding is requested, how many hours per week will be spent on this program vs other programs, and the activities associated with each position.

Director 25.5 Hrs.

Program Assistant 25 Hrs

Intake Specialist 15 hrs.

b. If staff funding requests can only be partially funded, how will you supplement the funding to cover the remainder needed? We will seek other funders and corporate support in the communities that we serve.

c. Staff pay may only be funded for one year. What will you do to provide for this position next year? It is standard for us to seek funders that support the work that the organization does and we will begin that process once the program is approved and underway.

6. Funding Questions:

a. What has your organization done in the past two years to raise different funding for this program? We have gained new funders who changed their normal priority to one that was more vested in social justice programs and community empowerment. We also did some small fundraisers online that helped to increase our general revenue fund.

b. What do you plan to do this year to find different funding for this program? We will go to the current funder who actually has funding opportunities within Hays County and ask them for the same level of funding we are currently requesting from the City of San Marcos.

7. What additional funding is your agency requesting for this program ?

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Pending (Y/N)

8. Describe any differences between the way you had proposed spending last year’s allocation and they way you actually spent it.

N/A

9. How many volunteers does your agency or organization have and how many hours do they spend on the program requesting funding? We normally have about 6-10 volunteers that will work on designated projects and or office assistance as needed, however we would have to build that base in the immediate area to include the local people that could help in assisting those potential participants.

10. Board of Directors Questions:

- a. How is the agency's or organization's Board of Directors selected? Our BOD were selected based on their previous board experience, knowledge of the Criminal Justice system and ability to raise money for the agency.
- b. How often does the Board meet? Our Board meets quarterly.
- c. What actions do Board members take to support the programs of the agency or organization? Our Board in the past has made financial contributions and advised on certain grants as well as taken the lead on promoting information about our work to their respective audiences.