

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: November 3, 2025

SUBJECT: Redirection of Approved Non-Profit Funding –
Open Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center

PRESENTER: Jennifer Miranda, Budget Analyst

ATTACHMENTS: Grant Fund Reallocation Request

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Henderson County's FY 2026 Budget Ordinance, as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 2, 2025, included a \$20,000 allocation to Open Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center (Open Arms). Based on the FY 2026 Non-Profit funding application, Open Arms planned to use the allocation received for transitional housing for pregnant women with specific, targeted objectives.

Open Arms' Board of Directors is requesting the Board approve the redirection of funding to instead, replace outdated computer equipment (used for client data management and sensitive medical records), counseling and testing services, and the purchase of essential items.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff is requesting the Board approve the redirection of approved non-profit funding as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move the Board approve the redirection of approved non-profit funding for Open Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center as presented.

Grant Fund Reallocation Request - FY 26

October 9, 2025

Dear Henderson County Board of Commissioners,

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of Open Arms Pregnancy Center over the years. Your commitment has made a meaningful difference in the lives of the families we serve.

As some of you may know, our former Director recently retired after more than 17 years of dedicated leadership. I officially stepped into the role as of October 1, 2025, and am honored to carry forward the mission and vision of our organization.

Upon stepping into this role, I reviewed the terms of our previous grant from Henderson County. The original intent of the funding was to support the construction of transitional housing for pregnant women who are ineligible for safe housing until after childbirth—a vision championed by my predecessor.

However, our Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to place the construction project on indefinite hold at this time. In light of all our community has gone through in the past year with Helene, wildfires, rising healthcare costs and overall inflation, the Board feels our efforts are better focused on serving the nearly 100 families in the community who come to us for help every month rather than a building project. While transitional housing could serve two pregnant women at a time, our Board believes it is more prudent to focus our efforts on meeting the broader and more urgent needs of the families already relying on us.

Over the past few years we have seen a growing increase in the number of clients seeking our services. Between 2023 and 2024 our new clients increased by 20% with our overall client visits for the year increasing by 14%. As of September of 2025 we have already seen a 24% increase in new clients coming to our center over last year with our overall client visits increasing by 7% to date. In total over the past two years, we have seen a 36% increase in overall client visits and a 40% increase in new clients.

To continue serving these families effectively, we have identified a critical need to replace our aging computer system, which we use to track client data and manage sensitive medical information, particularly for those receiving pregnancy tests and ultrasounds.

Therefore, we respectfully request that \$4,000 of the original \$20,000 grant be reallocated to fund this system upgrade. This investment will significantly enhance our capacity to manage client care efficiently and securely. The remaining \$16,000 will be used to continue to serve the increasing number of families who need our help through our day to day operations. This includes, counseling, ultrasounds, pregnancy testing, as well as the purchase of essential items, such as car seats, baby formula, diapers, prenatal vitamins and baby equipment (ie; bassinets, walkers, baby gates, etc.) —items that are in constant demand.

Thank you once again for your partnership and support. Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this request.

Warm regards,

Stacy Bishop

Executive Director

Open Arms Pregnancy Center