



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1615

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Caregiving Youth Program is the first in the U.S. to support middle & high school students who sacrifice their education, childhood, and their own mental well-being to provide care for chronically ill or disabled family members. More than ever, with the residual effects of Covid and long term Covid ailments on the rise, the number of student caregivers has significantly increased. AACY is proud of its 98% graduation rate for at-risk students. Roughly 84% of our students are minorities from financially-insecure households. They're at the greatest risk of dropping out of school. The primary purpose of this request is to protect the academic futures of a rising number of student caregivers. As we struggle through the collateral damage of the pandemic with learning loss and learning recovery we must think ahead. Another goal is to develop a semi-remote model of emotional support services for students in two additional FL counties with graduation rates lower than 85%.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	302,350
Fixed Capital Outlay	16,250
Total State Funds Requested	318,600

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	318,600	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	318,600	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



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\$250,000 - possibility of continued local charitable foundations funding of between \$50K-\$100K

The TOTAL AMOUNT OF NONRECURRING FUNDS REQUESTED IS \$318,600

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

No

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☒ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

July 1, 2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

December 31, 2023

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Connie Siskowski, Founder and President

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	ALLOCATED PRESIDENT SALARY AND EXPANSION PROJECT	85,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	LAPTOPS/CHROMEBOOKS/OFFICE PHONE/SCANNER/CELLPHONES/FUEL/TOLLS/UBER/PRINTER INK/EMERGENCY NEED EQUIPMENT ON HAND, WALKERS, CANES, OXYGEN TANKS/BP CUFFS, COMMODE/SHOWER CHAIRS/WHEELCHAIRS, ETC	44,400
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SERVICES, PR AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR CAREGIVERS, EXTERNAL PILOT EVALUATION, LIAISON WITH FL DEPT OF ED AND FL LEGISLATURE, DATA ENTRY, DATA COLLECTION	55,300
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	ALLOCATED FINANCE/ACCOUNTING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (DIGITAL AND PRINT) MEDIA	52,650
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICES (IE. ZOOM FEES; AM ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, NURSING WEBINARS, DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION OF AACY WEBINARS, TELE-CARE HEALTH GROUPS, IT DATA MGMT, MONITORING CYBER RISKS, ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEES, ETC.)	65,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	INSTALLATION OF AIR PURIFIERS, HEPA FILTERS, DESK FURNISHINGS, WHITE BOARD, CONF TABLE, LIGHTING, OFFICE PROPERTY REFURBISHING	16,250
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		318,600

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

To protect the academic futures of caregiving students now called upon to provide at home care for a larger group of affected parents, grandparents and siblings as they struggle to survive the increase in heart, lung and neurological damage to some during the pandemic. Also to develop a semi-remote model of emotional support services for students in two additional FL counties with graduation rates lower than 85% because of lack of assistance to these at-risk caregiving youth.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Tutors, mentors, at-home nursing training enhanced time with educational counselors/ guidance counselors for academic stability, psychological services and networking ability for caregivers to connect with other student caregivers so they don't feel alone, disconnected, and hopeless about their future.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

All services described will be provided directly to 6th-12th grade students and citizens of their respective counties.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

At-risk 6th-12th grade caregiving students who are called upon to deliver at-home care to their family members. If the expansion model is developed (with this Appropriations Request), approximately 1,800 students who are most at risk of dropping out of school can be rescued, monitored and their academic futures saved.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

We save students who are most at risk from becoming drops outs with no future. We save them from becoming dependent on gov't entitlements in the end. We provide them with much needed support services and resources to guide them to stay on track. The most measurable outcome is the graduation rate for caregiving student participant at 98%- far above the FL high school average.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Unknown. These funds go directly to the resources and support services for caregiving students in three FL counties. Without this help far more students will drop out of school.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number (561)391-7401

Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
CAREGIVING YOUTH

b. Municipality and County Palm Beach

c. Organization Type

☐ For Profit Entity

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name CONNIE

Last Name SISKOWSKI

e. E-mail Address CONNIE@AACY.ORG

f. Phone Number (561)391-7401

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name Rita M. Solnet

b. Firm Name Rita Solnet

c. E-mail Address rmsolnet@gmail.com

d. Phone Number (561)289-7333