



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2022

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) project is to build an Independent Living Village for youth aging out of foster care. Statistics demonstrate that youth who age out of foster care experience homelessness, unemployment, dropping out of school, incarceration, and exploitation at higher rates than their peers. Providing youth with stable housing, therapeutic supportive services, and independent living skills can help to ensure they have a brighter future and the chance they deserve to be successful. SAYS has been providing therapeutic residential services for youth with mental health diagnosis since 1989. Our mission is to shape the future of Florida's at-risk youth by providing coaching, counseling and care. This independent living project would be the continuum of care the youth need to provide them with enough supports and time to develop maturity, necessary skills and an education to become a successful member of society.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,019,300
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,019,300</b>

**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)	1,019,300	48%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,100,000	52%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>2,119,300</b>	<b>100%</b>

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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St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) established a capital campaign to raise the approximately \$900,000 currently available for this project and owns the property required for completion which SAYS is confident is worth at least \$200,000.

**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.**

No pandemic related funds were used as a source of funds for this project.

## 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)?**

No

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?**

10/01/2023

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

06/30/2024

**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.**

St. Augustine Youth Services is a private not for profit with no ownership.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	St. Augustine Youth Service currently owns the land required for the completion of this project and has raised approximately \$900,000 towards the site preparation and building construction for this project. At this time no site preparation has been completed and the site is covered by timber but architectural plans are in final phase of completion. St. Augustine youth Services is requesting funding to make up the difference between the \$900,000 has already been raised and what is required to com	1,019,300
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,019,300</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

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

Funding to expand services to young people aging out of the foster care system to prevent homelessness, human trafficking, and dependency on more intensive and expensive social support systems. The St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) is expanding its services to provide support and housing for youth aging out of foster care with the goal of providing them the opportunity to live a healthful and productively independent life. The total project will cost approximately \$2,000,000. SAYS has already secured the property and raised \$900,000 toward the project for a total value of 1,100,000. An additional \$1,019,300 is needed in state funds to complete the project.

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

Once the apartments are completed, the youth will receive housing, on-site residential staff, mental health services and life-skills training in an open, non-restrictive, supportive family-like model.

- Long-term placement: Providing youth with a stable living environment is the most important support we can offer. This provides youth with safe and consistent guidance and support and helps to ensure their long-term success.
- Independent living skills: Providing youth with the necessary skills to live independently, such as budgeting, cooking, and basic life skills, can help to ensure their success once they leave the foster care system.
- Mental health services and mentorship: Providing youth with mental health services mentors can help to provide them with support and guidance as they transition into adulthood.

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

The Independent Living Village and all associated services named above would provide services directly to some of the most at risk, under-served citizens in our state, our youth aging out of foster care.

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

Young people aging out of the foster care system that are not ready for full independence and needing additional support to be successful. Approximately 14- 20 full time residents will be served annually.

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

Children in foster care have experienced trauma. Mental illness and trauma history have a large impact on a person's ability to lead a successful and fulfilling life. Outcome: Youth living in SAYS IL Village will participate in therapeutic services to assist with their mental health treatment.

Only 58% of youth aging out of foster care in Florida have completed high school or obtain a GED. Outcome: Eligible youth living in SAYS IL Village shall attend /complete an educational program

According to Children's Rights, it was found that up to 47 percent of children who were in foster care are currently unemployed. Outcome: SAYS will provide youth living at the IL Village independent living skills and job training to improve residence with economic self sufficiency.

According to CHLSS, It is believed that one out of two kids who age out of foster care will develop a substance use dependence. Outcome: SAYS will provide substance abuse education for youth

Outcome: Reduce homeles

##### f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties



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for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

The project will build new residential facilities to address the needs of the young people aging out of the child protection system. Penalties could include repayment of funds should the project not be completed.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name   
b. Organization   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization   
b. Municipality and County

#### 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  Last Name   
e. E-mail Address   
f. Phone Number

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name   
b. Firm Name   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number