



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** High Risk Foster Care Youth Advocate Program

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Jeff Brandes

3. **Date of Submission:** 11/20/2017

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) will provide comprehensive wraparound, support and advocacy services to prevent crossover Probation youth in Pinellas County, those involved with Department of Juvenile Justice [DJJ] and Department of Children and Families [DCF], who are at high risk to reoffend from further entering the criminal justice system, specifically residential commitment. Through individually tailored, strength based programming, YAP will work with DCF and DJJ to increase positive family engagement and reunification, and cultivate youth character development, life skills, education and vocational training, community supports and resources, and resilience needed to live productively in their homes, schools and communities. Youth in foster care present unique challenges. YAP uses its expertise to work with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) case managers to assist with reunification. YAP Advocates also appear in court as support on behalf of these youth.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** Yes

a. If yes, which state agency? Department of Children and Families

b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested?

6. **Amount of Non-recurring Requested for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Amount Requested for Operations	Amount Requested for Fixed Capital Outlay	Total Amount of Requested State Funds
175,000		175,000

7. **Type, amount and percent of matching funds available for this project for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Type	Amount	Percent
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	22,750	11.5%
TOTAL	22,750	11.5 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 197,750

9. **Previous Year Funding Details:**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

- Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
- In the previous 5 fiscal years, how many years was funding provided? (Optional)
- What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?
- Complete the following Worksheet.

FY:	Input Prior FY Appropriation for this project for FY 2017-18 (If appropriated in FY 2017-18 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)		
	Column:	A	B
Funds Description:		Prior Year Recurring Funds *	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds *
Input Amounts:			

10. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

Yes

- If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year.

\$175,000

11. Program Performance:

- What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested?

The Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) wraparound advocacy services will help 15-20 high-risk foster care youth in Pinellas County, who are juvenile justice involved, avoid institutional placement and live productively in their homes, schools and communities. According to a DJJ published report, 2,262 youth were arrested in Pinellas County in FY 2014-15; 90 were dually involved. These youth have the greatest needs and present dire challenges. A 2017-18 legislative appropriation and significant DJJ investment, enabled YAP to expand its program assisting high-risk youth and families beyond Hillsborough, Orange and Seminole counties to include juvenile justice involved youth in Pinellas County. The YAP Wraparound Advocate services reduce recidivism, truancy, and negative behaviors, and increase academic engagement. This program diverts youth from criminal involvement through alternative community and home based supports.

- What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Program cycles average 4-6 months depending on need. Youth receive an average of 12 hours/week Sunday to Monday. These culturally sensitive, interactive services include individual and group hours. Services also include crucial in-home visits and pre-release detention center visits. Visiting a youth at the detention center helps establish a necessary bond. Home visits provide critical insight into family dynamics to enhance individualized interventions. YAP differs from traditional case management models. Rather than mandated treatment plans,



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

YAP uses a strength-based approach to “wrap” comprehensive, individual services “around” challenged youth. This is a community-based Wraparound Advocate approach. A culturally-competent, neighborhood-recruited Advocate cultivates trusting relationships to help youth/families establish and accomplish goals. Family based intervention supports reunification and transition from the criminal justice/institutional care while rebuilding relationships.

c. How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	1 FT Director of Pinellas County YAP provides program oversight & direct client prevention/diversion services (inc. home visits; supervised community service) to high risk young personsClick here to enter text.	7,250
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Salary and Benefits	1 FT Administrative Manager Description: Responsible for administrative office functions including mandatory reporting and record keeping, confidentiality of data/communications, etc.)	19,350
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transportation, insurance, office and craft supplies, building rental, and training	12,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salary and Benefits	1 F/T Program Coordinator– Provides direct client services including home visits, oversight of Advocates and Administrative back-up. 5 P/T Advocates - recruited from neighborhoods served provide	95,138



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

	direct client services including home visits	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transportation, insurance, office and craft supplies, building rental, training, activity fund, and supported work for estimated 15 clients	40,762
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		175,000

d. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Family relationship building and reunification; Diversion from criminal justice system involvement; Improved academic engagement, mental, emotional and physical health awareness; Enhanced individual economic and self-sufficiency through career and vocational development; Reduced recidivism, substance abuse, and truancy. Families are connected with critical resources. In line with pressing state needs, YAP can serve youth from Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands relocated to Florida from their storm ravaged communities. Community benefits include potentially saving lives, while saving taxpayers money by providing an alternative to expensive institutional care.

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

Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Children and Families involved youth in Pinellas County ages eight to 17. These foster care youth are on Probation or at-risk of institutional placement. YAP will serve 15-20 youth and families, who are disproportionately more likely to be youth of color; often living at or near the poverty level; in dysfunctional homes; peer associations may be destructive, even gang related; they often face mental and behavioral health challenges; and educational, vocational, housing, employment, healthcare, and transportation challenges loom large. YAP has a no reject-no eject policy. Its target population is youth other programs have given up on. Many youth YAP serves are multi-system involved, and foster care presents unique challenges.

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

Increased likelihood of family unification and Decreased recidivism (reoffending) among participating DJJ involved youth are this project's primary expected benefits. Outcome Measurements applicable to all youth and young adults participating in the proposed preventative and diversionary Pinellas County Youth Advocate



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Programs include: Increases in a.) Positive family communications and engagement; b.) School attendance and graduation rates/vocational certifications; c.) Employability skills and training; d.) Community engagement and cultural enrichment. Outcomes also include Decreases in a.) New arrests/adjudications or future legal system involvement; b.) School disciplinary measures and suspensions; c.) Illegal drugs and alcohol use. YAP goes beyond its contractual obligations in tracking outcomes. YAP's routine Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) process tabulates data gathered and analyzed at entry, during program engagement, and post discharge at 6 and 12 months.

g. 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 in the contract?

YAP's 2018-19 contract with DJJ clearly set forth standards and policies as related to program monitoring. It outlines a quality improvement review process that provides for contract termination if deficiencies are not addressed. Additionally, there will be no option to renew a contractual relationship for 12 months after such a termination. Financial consequences will also be assessed for contract noncompliance or nonperformance. This relates to failure to submit or implement a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) within specified time frames or to make acceptable progress in effectuating improvements contained therein. YAP has, and will, contractually agree to the imposition of financial consequences, in addition to all other remedies available to the Departments of Children and Families and Juvenile Justice by law.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Drienne Silva
- b. **Organization:** Youth Advocate programs, Inc.
- c. **Email:** dsilva@yapinc.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (912)272-7955

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Youth Advocate programs, Inc.
- b. **County:** Hillsborough
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - ☐ For Profit
 - ☒ Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - ☐ Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - ☐ Local Entity
 - ☐ University or College
 - ☐ Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Drienne Silva
- e. **E-mail Address:** dsilva@yapinc.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (912)272-7955



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

15. If there is a registered lobbyist, fill out the lobbyist information below.

a. Name: Tanya Jackson

b. Firm: PinPoint Results, LLC

c. Email: Tanya@PinPointResults.com

d. Phone Number: (850)445-0107