



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** Blind Babies Successful Transition From Preschool to School

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Dennis Baxley

3. **Date of Submission:** 11/30/2017

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Early Intervention Services as provided by 11 members of Florida Agencies Serving the Blind prepares babies/toddlers who are blind or visually impaired, ages birth-5, to use all their senses (hearing, touch, taste, smell, proprioceptive) and whatever remaining vision they may have to maximize child development stages. These babies will enter kindergarten ready to learn. Parents who are devastated at hearing their child's diagnosis, learn the parenting skills and specific supportive interactions with their child that foster age-appropriate developmental growth. Funds for services to blind babies by the 11 ASB members have been steady at \$1,014,322 out of a total budget of \$2,438,004 for several years. This request is to add \$500,000 to the ASB members.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** Yes

a. If yes, which state agency? Department of Education

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
500,000		500,000

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	879,013	63.7%
Other	0	0.0%
TOTAL	879,013	63.7 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 1,379,013

9. **Previous Year Funding Details:**

a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? Yes

b. In the previous 5 fiscal years, how many years was funding provided? (Optional) 4



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- c. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded? 2017-18
d. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
e. 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	C
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds *	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds *	Total Funds Appropriated (Column A + Column B)
Input Amounts:	2,438,004		2,438,004

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

Yes

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

Yes, \$500,000 Annually

11. Program Performance:

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

Blind Babies enter kindergarten at age 5, ready to learn. Parents get the guidance with child rearing a blind baby and support that saves marriages and helps siblings cope as well. Early Childhood intervention has shown positive outcomes up to 30 years later, including improved health, higher cognitive skills, academic achievement, higher earnings capacity, and lower rates of delinquency and crime.

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

Blind or visually impaired babies/toddlers, ages birth-5, engage in six specific content areas: 1.Cognitive and Language: use of appropriate technology (i.e. doing a puzzle on an iPad); 2.Vision: pretend writing using a video magnifier or braille to prepare them for kindergarten; 3.Compensatory Skills: to access information about the world, to communicate and to be literate; 4.Socialization: play provides a positive foundation for socialization with others throughout life; 5.Self Help: to be able to disclose information regarding their disability; 6.Fine and Gross Motor Skills: to show mastery in manipulating game components. In addition, Adjustment to Blindness Counseling is offered in group and individual session for parents.

- c. How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
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Administrative Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Administration, Supervision and Accounting	60,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salary and Benefits	Professional, Certified Staff sufficient to increase services to level considered best practices.	439,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		500,000

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

Instruction in the specific skills, focusing on developing highest level use of other senses to compensate for vision loss, that lead to the academic and social successes that are the foundation of successful employment later in life. Counseling support for parents to maintain the family and provide the blind baby with consistent learning on a daily basis.

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

438 blind babies statewide in Florida.

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

Age-appropriate early child development, readiness to learn and read, acquisition of social skills, parental skill development for maintaining blind baby's learning. Assessment through Pre- and Post-tests normed for blind babies in developmental guideposts and reading.



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- 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?**

Penalties for failure to meet deliverables (number of children served) are meted out by reducing payments. In previous years, all deliverables have been met, with some babies on a waiting list and others getting fewer than optimum hours in order to serve the most needy.

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:** Dr. Elly du Pre' Exec. Director
- b. **Organization:** Florida Agencies Serving the Blind
- c. **Email:** edupre@FAASB.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)898-2636

14. **Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Florida Agencies Serving the Blind
- b. **County:** Statewide
- 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:** Dr. Elly du Pre' Exec. Director
- e. **E-mail Address:** edupre@FAASB.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)898-2636

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

- a. **Name:** Dean Cannon
- b. **Firm:** Gray Robinson
- c. **Email:** Dean.Cannon@gray-robinson.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)577-9090