



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1042

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

2. Senate Sponsor: Dennis Baxley

3. Date of Submission: 01/17/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

Blind Babies program is provided year-round by 14 non-profit members of Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind. Services prepare blind/visually impaired babies, ages birth to 5, to use all their senses including any remaining vision, to maximize child development stages and enter kindergarten ready to learn. Parents find the support they need. Specialists who come to their homes and/or serve their children at the agencies' facilities. This request seeks a rate increase from \$3,000 to \$5,160/baby, more in line with actual costs of year-round service. Increased funding is requested from new sources in order to preserve the DBS match for Federal dollars for blind working age and seniors. About half of the babies reaching age 5 each year cannot be served in the Children's Program because fewer children are funded than babies. This request is synchronized with a separate request for the Children's Program of Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Education

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,470,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	1,470,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,470,000	35.78%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	1,759,914	42.83%
Local	879,000	21.39%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	4,108,914	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19	2,438,004	500,000	Line 50	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes



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- a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 1,470,000.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	For teams of Certified Professionals in Florida ASB member agencies. 2019 State-Wide FL Budget Line 50 to read "for blind babies, \$1,759,914 and nonrecurring \$1,470,000	1,470,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,470,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The Blind Babies Program goals are to assist blind babies to attain developmental milestones and be ready for kindergarten. Blind Babies attaining age 5 will be able to progress into the Blind Children's Program.

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

Play therapy to increase abilities across 8 primary skill areas: Cognitive, Language, Vision, Compensatory, Socialization, Self-Help and Fine and Gross Motor Skills. Certified or licensed instructors use toys that can be manipulated, that make sounds and/or light up and also use iPad games to encourage babies/toddlers to reach, grasp, learn cause and effect, use any remaining vision as well as other senses, sit up, crawl and walk, eat and dress at appropriate age level, understand the concepts of up/down/behind/in front of/under/over, across, etc. which are essential to future safe travel instruction, self-care skills, and educational success.

- c. **What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

Instruction in the family home or at the agencies' facilities by visually impaired babies/toddlers in specific skills to compensate for effects of blindness on reaching developmental milestones. Babies/toddlers will be ready for academic achievement upon entering kindergarten. Parents will be confident and capable of rearing their blind children.



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

475 blind babies in the State of Florida and their parents/primary caregivers.

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

Age-appropriate developmental gains (babies) and acquisition of social and pre-vocational skills. Assessment through Pre and Post tests normed for blind babies in the 8 primary skill areas (See b. above).

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 in the contract?

Penalties for failure to meet deliverables (hours of service and number of children served) are meted out by reducing payments. In previous years, all deliverables have been met.

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:** Elly duPre
- b. **Organization:** Florida Agencies Serving the Blind (aka FAASB)
- c. **E-mail Address:** edupre@beyondvisionloss.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:** Elly du Pre
- e. **E-mail Address:** edupre@beyondvisionloss.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)898-2636

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Dean Cannon
- b. **Firm Name:** GrayRobinson



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d. Phone Number: (850)577-9090