



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1344

1. **Title of Project:** Families for Exceptional Abilities Pilot Program

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Joe Gruters

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/21/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The project is a pilot program designed to help recruit, train, and support foster families to take placement of special needs children. The prevalence of children with disabilities continues to increase, and foster families are not trained to adequately address the needs of these children. As a result, children with disabilities experience placement disruptions, and eventually may end up in a group home or a home out of the county/state. The pilot program will work with the Department of Children and Families and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to recruit and train families with a curriculum developed through the pilot program. The program will also offer ongoing support to the families and create a mentoring program for families who take placement of children with disabilities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Agency for Persons with Disabilities

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	227,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	227,000

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)	227,000	100.0%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	227,000	100.0%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No



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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	A portion of the budget will be dedicated to paying core administrative costs for running and maintaining the program. Examples of these expenses include creating and purchasing training materials, training resources, IT equipment, and reimbursement for attendance at mandatory statewide agency meetings.	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	The salaries allocated for the Program Director, Family Specialist, and Administrative Support positions will be utilized for maintaining the daily operations of this program. Examples of these responsibilities are providing clinical supervision, foster family engagement, community engagement, participating in licensing staffings, facilitating training, and data collection. These highlight a few of the core responsibilities and functions these staff members will be responsible for conducting.	170,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	A portion of this budget will be utilized specifically to provide operational functions, such as staff mileage reimbursement for foster family home visits, travel to foster family training workshops, and resources to provided to foster families to support the placement of special needs children.	32,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		227,000

11. Program Performance:

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

Funding will be used to develop and implement a pilot program which recruit and retain foster families who will receive the placement of children with special needs. The pilot program will be used to develop a model to be utilized across the state once data is collected and evidence of efficacy is provided.

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



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Data will be gathered on the number of children with disabilities who reside in foster care. A training curriculum will be developed to train foster families to take placement of special needs children. Mentor parents will be identified and trained to assist families who take placement of special needs children.

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

Recruitment, training and support of foster families including specialized training for families taking children with special needs

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

Children with disabilities in foster care. Approximately 85 children in Circuit 12.

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

The benefit of the program will be homes to accept placement of children with disabilities in foster care, reducing the likelihood these children will be placed in group care or out of the area. Outcomes include: 1. Accurate data reflecting the number of children with disabilities in foster care and placement history/placement disruption history. 2. Development of a specialized curriculum for families receiving children with disabilities 3. Recruitment of 40 foster families for children with disabilities by conclusion of pilot program. 4. The development of a foster family mentor network to support new and existing special needs foster families. Measured by: 1. Data report out 2. Delivery of curriculum materials by end of pilot program 3. Data from foster family recruitment tracking log 4. List of approved mentor foster families

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?

Agency should recoup funds from Family Initiative if deliverables or performance measures are not met. Amount of repayment will be based on how many measures were not 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:** David Brown
- b. **Organization:** Family Initiative, Incorporated
- c. **E-mail Address:** dbrown@fi-florida.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (239)691-4517

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Family Initiative, Incorporated
- b. **County:** Sarasota
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)



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- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: David Brown

e. E-mail Address: dbrown@fi-florida.org

f. Phone Number: (239)691-4517

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name: Michael Cusick

b. Firm Name: Michael Cusick & Associates

c. E-mail Address: mike@michaelcusick.com

d. Phone Number: (850)212-0626