



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1440

1. **Title of Project:** Family-Match: Promoting Foster Care Adoption

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Anitere Flores

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/07/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Family-Match partners with state government to offer caseworkers on the front line of their child welfare programs an innovative tool to match children with families on markers of compatibility. Waiting families create free profiles and make themselves visible to caseworkers. With this powerful network in hand, caseworkers can identify families on markers of compatibility that extend beyond basic demographic information. Through our automated matching system, Family-Match generates optimal connections at the moment new candidates are identified and allows placement workers the opportunity to connect their waiting children with waiting families in the State of Florida.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Children and Families

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	504,250
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>504,250</b>

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)	504,250	80.14%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	125,000	19.86%
Other	0	0.00%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>629,250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		



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Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Wages for Director dedicated to managing the Family-Match program in Florida.	72,125
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to each region of the state, includes mileage reimbursement as set forth by the IRS, hotel accommodations for overnight travel, plane ticket reimbursement, and meals.	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Wages for FL consultant through Selfless Love Foundation- the grant making organization that funded an 18 month demonstration pilot of the Family-Match program.	50,000
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and Benefits for Family Coordinator dedicated to servicing Florida Families and shepherding families through the on boarding, match, and placement process. Family Coordinator validates eligibility of Families on Family-Matching	37,125
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to each region of the state, includes mileage reimbursement as set forth b the IRS, hotel accommodations for overnight travel, plane ticket reimbursement, and meals.	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing efforts directed toward adoptive families for the Family-Match Program and the recruitment of new families interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents. Video testimonials to promote awareness among adoptive families. Software Assurance, Enhancements, Updates, Customizations. Hosting and on going support through email and phone.	325,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>504,250</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

Family-Match is a revolutionary adoption matching program designed to promote permanency for the estimated 850 children in Florida's foster care system who have a goal of adoption but remain waiting to find their forever family. The requested funds will be utilized to support the Family-Match Program in the State of Florida. Family-Match provides a statewide repository of home study approved families and waiting children along with an evidenced based compatibility assessment, and family centric approach, to equip placement workers with an efficient way to connect Florida's waiting children with Florida's waiting families. Family-Match reduces the time to adoption placement, improves the quality of matches, and creates efficiencies for case workers.

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



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Adoption-Share, Inc. the non profit that created Family-Match, has established Memorandums of Understanding with Community Based Care Lead Agencies and Adoption Providers across the state of Florida. In partnership with these agencies and home study approved families, Adoption-Share provides ongoing use of Family-Match, an innovative data driven matching system for children available for adoption. The matching system is supported by marketing activities, site-based training, ongoing system upgrades, support, and maintenance, and family engagement activities.

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

Family-Match serves home study approved families and foster care children with a goal of adoption. The estimated 850 special needs children (age 8 and older, large sibling groups, developmentally, physically, or emotionally disabled) often linger in the foster care system waiting to be matched with their forever families. Family-Match seeks to reduce the time to adoption placement and improve the quality of those matches through the use of data driven technology.

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

Family-Match serves children in foster care who have a permanency goal of adoption and whose parental rights have been terminated. Currently, 974 of these children have been registered on Family-Match. We also serve Florida families who have completed their parenting training and have an approved home study. Currently, there are 644 of these families registered on Family-Match. the Family-Match Program being fully implemented in Florida- Adoption-Share captured 100% of all waiting children into its Family-Match Application. We project the numbers of families will increase as we continue through our communication strategy and engagement activities with families. Additionally over 293 placement workers have accounts on Family-Match bringing the total served on the application to 1,911.

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

Family-Match expects to reduce the time to adoption placement thus improving long-term outcomes for foster children and decreasing the states child welfare expenses. The methodology for measuring outcomes include tracking the number of children registered on Family-Match who achieved adoption and capturing the amount of time it took the placement worker to identify a family for a waiting child through Family-Match versus how long the child had been waiting since TPR prior to registration on Family-Match. The goal is to celebrate a minimum of 75 children being adopted next year.

**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?**

Family-Match launched in Florida in July 2018. In its first 6 months, Family-Match has celebrated 91 matches with 43 children moving into adoptive placements and 6 finalized adoptions. We fully intend to reach 75 adoptions over the next year. If we are unable to hit this goal, we feel a 10% performance hold back is reasonable.

**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



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#### 13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Elizabeth Wynter
- b. **Organization:** Selfless Love
- c. **E-mail Address:** elizabeth@selflesslovefoundation.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (954)325-4307

#### 14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Adoption-Share Inc.
- 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:** Thea Ramirez
- e. **E-mail Address:** thea@adoption-share.com
- f. **Phone Number:** (912)222-8819

#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Cynthia Henderson
- b. **Firm Name:** Cynergy Consutling
- c. **E-mail Address:** cyhenderson@me.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)559-0855