



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1505

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The early service engagement and preservation (ESEP) program is a non-judicial in-home family preservation service designed to engage families upon identification of present or impending danger and to reduce the risk of the child(ren) being removed from their home by a DCF child protective investigator. The family preservation case managers will initiate intensive safety management services and oversight, while the DCF protective investigator completes the Functional Family assessment and Risk assessment needed to conclude the investigation. The case managers are child welfare certified and trained in Wraparound and Motivational Interviewing and utilize evidence-based practices to design a plan with the family that addresses both immediate safety needs and long-term mitigation of risk factors for abuse and neglect. The program is modeled after a successful program operated by Family Support Services of North Florida (FSS), which maintains one of the lowest shelter rates in the state.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	969,551
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	969,551

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	969,551	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	969,551	100%

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

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1505

Services provided would be eligible for Federal IV-E participation through the Department of Children and Families.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

No

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	10% administrative rate for provision of staff recruitment and training, finance, payroll quality assurance and other non-direct service costs.	88,141
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	One FTE program director; One FTE Certified child welfare supervisor; six FTE case managers; one FTE peer support specialist; one FTE admin assistant. Benefits @ 29%.	725,792
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel, rent, cell phones computers, client funds and liability insurance.	155,618
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		969,551

14. Program Performance



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1505

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

Reduce the number of children who are removed from their homes into foster care in Circuit 19. Circuit 19 has experienced a 30% increase in the number of children entering foster care in the last 24 months. Nearly 70% of the shelters are from St. Lucie County, which is experiencing ongoing population growth.

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

An intensive in-home family preservation service that reduces the risk of the child(ren) being removed from their home by a DCF child protective investigator. The child welfare certified case managers are Wraparound and Motivational Interviewing trained and will design a plan with the family that addresses both immediate safety needs and long-term mitigation of risk factors for abuse and neglect.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The family and case manager will develop a plan tailored to the unique needs of the family. The plan will be sequenced according to the most critical presenting problem, and will utilize the full array of safety management services, parenting, substance abuse treatment, family therapy and peer support services available in our community. Services will be provided for up to six months.

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

St. Lucie County Children and their families who are at imminent risk of placement in foster care.

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

75% of families served will not experience abuse neglect or safety plan breakdown resulting in child removal from the parent's home during services or within 12 months of successful program completion. This measure is a percent. The denominator is an unduplicated count of all clients who successfully completed services within the reporting period. The numerator is an unduplicated count of children in the denominator who were not removed from the home within 12 months of the client successfully completing the program.

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 the contract?

Failure to meet deliverables or performance measures could result in loss of appropriated funds for the project.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1505

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

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number