



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3550

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The 4KIDS Prevention, Foster Family Recruitment and Hope 4 Healing Project is a multipronged approach to bring Hope, Homes and Healing to children and families. It is designed to 1) Keep children who are at risk of being placed in the foster system, at home through CarePortal Services 2) Recruit new foster families 3) Provide exceptional placement stability. Since 1997, 4KIDS has licensed over 1,400 foster families through our recruitment activities. These families provide safe and stable homes to children who have been removed from their families due to abuse, abandonment or neglect. To aid in their placement stability, 4KIDS provides families with support teams and research-based therapeutic services to support the child and family, including our unique EPIC parent training, resources and clinicians. And we provide our families with caring foster support specialists and an extended array of foster support events and groups, all of which ultimately lead to more stable placements.

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	1,250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,250,000

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)	1,250,000	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	1,250,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	1,250,000	315	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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



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4KIDS is relying on government funding to support its prevention, family recruitment and stability efforts. If such support was not available, 4KIDS would work to deploy private funding initiatives to hopefully garner adequate funds to continue to provide services at an optimal level. However, other funding is not guaranteed and could significantly impact our ability to recruit and provide support needed for the children and families, and to provide therapeutic services and training.

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

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

4KIDS received \$1,025,345, in funding through the CARES Act in the spring of 2020. Funds were used to help all of 4KIDS to continue all services and keep all staff employed.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	To cover the cost of staff members responsible for CarePortal services, foster parent recruitment, training and licensing, as well as the therapy program providing Hope 4 Healing. The funds will be distributed for the three projects; 1) foster parent recruitment, training and licensing, 2) CarePortal services, 3) Hope 4 Healing trauma informed therapy program for oversight and services.	1,250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0



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Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,250,000

14. Program Performance

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

The 4KIDS Prevention, Foster Family Recruitment and Hope 4 Healing Project will support prevention with CarePortal, the recruitment, licensing and support of foster families in FY 2024-2025, resulting in up to 60 new foster families and ultimately reducing the number of children in group care in circuits 11, 15, 17, 19 and 20. Additionally, this project will positively affect the stability of existing foster care placements resulting in a stability rate of 3.09 or less moves per 1,000 days in care (a 25% reduction in moves compared to the current State of Florida goal of 4.12).

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

The 4KIDS Community Engagement Team will continue to build partnerships with local churches and research new opportunities to engage the church community to recruit foster families. The team will engage, educate, and encourage potential foster families through meetings, presentations, etc. regarding the need for foster parents. The CarePortal team will train and equip church leaders and congregants to meet tangible needs and to serve families who are at risk of having their children removed. Additionally, the EPIC team will provide trauma informed mental health services which will include counseling to the children and family members as well as training to parents and caregivers to prepare them to better serve children who have experienced trauma.

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

The Prevention, Foster Family Recruitment and Hope 4 Healing Project will result in the provision of more quality foster homes for children who have suffered from abuse, abandonment, and neglect. Children will be safe and living in a healthy environment. Additionally, children and families who are a part of the foster and adoptive family unit and who are under or uninsured will receive trauma-informed therapeutic care. We will provide therapy services, therapeutic training and support groups annually to such families. This will have a positive impact on the placement stability as foster families will feel more supported and able to handle the difficulties that come with caring for children from hard places. Additionally we will work to keep children who are at risk of being placed into the foster care system at home through CarePortal services.

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

The Prevention, Foster Family Recruitment and Hope 4 Healing Project will serve children between the ages of 0-17 entering and currently in foster care in circuits 11, 15, 17, 19 and 20. An estimated 67 children will be served by up to 60 new foster families created by the project in FY 2024-2025. Children and families who are a part of the foster and adoptive family unit and who are under or uninsured will receive trauma-informed therapeutic care. We will provide therapy services, therapeutic training for parents and support groups annually to such families. And, we will help to keep children 0-17, who are at risk of being placed into the foster care system at home through CarePortal services.

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

This project will lead to the licensing of up to 60 new foster families in circuits 11, 15, 17, 19 & 20. The project will also benefit licensed foster and adoptive families who are under and uninsured by supporting them through therapeutic services, child therapy and family therapy. 4KIDS expects the placement stability rate of families receiving therapeutic care will improve as compared to the current State goal of 4.12 to no more than 3.09 moves per 1,000 days in care. 4KIDS' Extended Reach database will be used to record and measure our ability to achieve the intended outcomes. We will also serve over 800 children who are at risk of being removed from their families by providing tangible goods (i.e., cribs, beds, car seats, clothes, etc.) through CarePortal services. The financial benefit to Florida can be enormous. Research from the University of North Carolina's Jordan Institute for Families found that group placements cost 7 to 10 times the cost of placing a child with a family.

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?



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A reduction in the allocation based on the actual number of foster families recruited, licensed, or if the stability rate of 3.09 is not met.

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)
- 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