



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1117

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funding will be used to expand the work of Safe Families for Children – Florida in 7 distinct urban and rural regions across the State. This funding will be used to provide hosting for vulnerable children and to create extended family-like support for families in distress through a community of compassionate volunteers motivated by faith to keep children safe and families together. Founded in Chicago in 2003, Safe Families for Children – Florida (SFFC-FL) has been in Florida for the past 8 years in several areas, and most recently for the past 2 years, has been expanding outreach across the state. SFFC-FL is dedicated to family support, stabilization and child abuse prevention, and most importantly, to forming and improving a prevention-centric approach designed to keep families together and avoid entrance into the foster care system.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	900,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	900,000	82%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	200,000	18%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,100,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

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



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Yes

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

\$10,000. The North Florida chapter ARPA funding and it was used for operations. Safe Families for Children Alliance received funding, but it was not used for Florida operations.

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

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	Administrative supports include liability insurance, case management software, human resources support and clinical specialist supervision.	10,800
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salary and benefits for staff to expand into other counties, particularly to rural communities and supplement the areas that are already being served, support Circles of Support, continue to engage the church and to oversee intake and supervision.	700,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Background screening and fingerprinting for staff and volunteers, mileage for supervision and support, and for training expenses.	189,200
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)		900,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Expand outreach into different parts of the state, with an emphasis on those rural areas that need the most resources and need a bridge between existing resources, DCF, businesses, churches and faith-based organizations. The purpose will be to create Circles of Support that will wrap around families in crisis and avoid the trauma of family separation and negative economic impacts to the State and will help families meet problems head on. Creating Circles of Support and family host homes will reduce the trauma experienced by families and reduce the cost to the state for foster care. It is estimated that a hosting for a family is approx. \$1,000 compared to \$30,000 or more for a dependency situation.

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

Assessment and recruitment of host homes and the creation of the volunteer support networks to provide extended family like supports to families that are experiencing crisis situations and need support to gain resiliency, parenting skills, resource development ; Creation of trauma responsive and prevention centric supports that empower parents to gain psycho-social skills, education/vocational support, financial counseling and to strengthen the overall social determinants of health for the family. Volunteers will be recruited from churches that will wrap around families and provide relationships, coaching and resources that empower them to advocate for themselves and build a community of supports and strengths.

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

At-risk families will be surrounded by extended family like supports in a prevention, relationship centric way that promotes stability, resilience and self-sufficiency. These supports are designed to keep families together and prevent children from entering the state dependency system. The program is specifically designed to use a system of trained, fingerprinted and background checked volunteers who surround a family with love, resources and hope utilizing the volunteer roles of Host Family, Family Friend, Family Coaches and Resource Friends. Through the Family Coaches, families will be provided with assistance to navigate the various health and social services systems while providing help with self-advocacy.

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

Children and at-risk families throughout the state, specifically in 7 regions of the state with an emphasis on rural communities that are isolated and under-resourced. This initiative also has a target population of volunteers and churches and has the capacity to mobilize churches across the state to assist in recruiting, nurturing and retaining volunteers who will provide extended family like supports to children and families. A target will be those upstream points where families are in the most need: in homelessness, unemployment, inappropriate housing, domestic violence, substance abuse and just the lack of extended support that leads to isolation and loneliness. It is projected that approx. 1,000 families across the state will be served in some capacity, with opportunities for single moms, single dads and co-parenting families to benefit.

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

Research shows that when families have extended family supports and have connections to the community, they are less likely to be at risk for having their children removed from their family and placed in the child welfare system through foster care. The expected outcome is that families will be preserved, strengthened and will be able to address whatever crisis comes their way and be able to break any generational barriers or challenged that have been passed on. Families will be supported through a volunteer network of Host Families, Family Friends, Family Coaches and Resource Friends. Families will be brought into further community and relationships, resiliency , increase in social skills and be connected to a vast array of community resources. These outcomes will be measured family by family by using a pre and post Protective Factors survey with families. A survey of whether or not the family continues to not have involvement with the child welfare system will be completed.

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?

Require Corrective Action Plans. Delay in the approval of the next quarterly advance. Reduction of the next quarterly advance in proportion to the work/tasks not completed.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name



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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