



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2174

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Problem: Children ages 0-3 are the largest age group of maltreated children being removed from their homes, and they stay in foster care longer than other age groups. Early maltreatment is toxic to the developing brain, especially in the critical first 1,000 days of life when 80% of the brain is developed. Stable, early, nurturing relationships can repair and “hard-wire” brain pathways for lifelong mental health.

Solution: Early Childhood Court (ECC) is a problem-solving court docket designed to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children ages 0-3 through an integrated treatment of intensive child/parent therapy, frequent visitation, developmental supports, utilization of trauma-informed judges, and monthly family team meetings and court hearings.

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	320,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	320,000

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)	320,000	59%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	107,459	20%
Other	115,889	21%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	543,348	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	320,000	3240	No

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.**

Currently, County governments are also funding some of the project in Manatee and Sarasota counties. The agency continues to submit grants, fund raise, and seek additional funding sources.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2174

Yes

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

Received \$483,900 to use towards salaries in several programs between May 2020 and September 2021. (Funds were not used in Early Childhood Court program)

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	CEO and CPO positions will plan, coordinate, and provide oversight of all functions of the program, to include strategic planning and implementation of expanded programming to the community, quality assurance, data compilation and reporting.	11,758
Other Salary and Benefits	CFO, HR and accounting positions will perform accounting, financial management and human resource support for the program.	12,815
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	n/a	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	n/a	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Program Director at 50%, Case Management Supervisor at 50%, Clinical Supervisor at 50%, Case Manager at 93%, Family Support Worker at 50%, Mental Health Therapist at 60% and a Mental Health Therapist at 75%.	278,242
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies, IT support, telephones, insurance, travel (Class C, Class A/B), training, client assistance and indirect costs	17,185
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	n/a	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	n/a	0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		320,000

14. Program Performance



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2174

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

Children ages birth to five in foster care in Sarasota and DeSoto counties will achieve permanency more quickly than those not enrolled in ECC. Data between 2014-2019 shows permanency through reunification occurred approximately 8.5 months quicker than non-ECC children. Fewer children will return to care. (22 ECC; 36 non-ECC). The parent/child relationship will improve as well as child well-being. Parents rated their satisfaction with ECC as high to very high.

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

Intensive child welfare case management activities, frequent child-parent psychotherapy, frequent (3-4x/week) parent/child visitation, transportation, monthly family team meetings, monthly court appearances

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

Case management services, child-parent psychotherapy, therapeutic consultation with foster parents, teacher, other caregivers, child/foster parent transportation, supervised visitation.

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

Children ages birth to five in foster care. Approximately 25 children/families will be served in the Suncoast Region (Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto counties).

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

All children enrolled will be referred to Early Steps for developmental evaluation if developmental screens indicate a developmental delay (tracked by case manager). Children enrolled in ECC will achieve permanency (reunification, permanent guardianship, adoption) more quickly than those not enrolled in ECC. Fewer children enrolled in ECC will return to care once permanency is achieved (DCF database). Child will resolve incurred trauma and improve emotional skills. Parents will resolve underlying trauma and improve parent/child relationship. Therapist will provide pre/post scores on the parent/child relationship scale and the DECA.

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?

Performance Outcomes are clearly stated in current CBC contract with penalties for failure to meet deliverables or performance measures, up to and including, termination of the contract.

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 2023-2024

LFIR # 2174

- 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