



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1590

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Over 300,000 children in the state of Florida have a parent incarcerated; over half of these children are young children as their parents are early in their criminal career. Research states that these children are acutely at-risk for anti-social behaviors, mental illness and cognitive delays stemming from exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). As a silent population, these children are often overlooked by social service systems because no system exist for identifying them and offering services. Program will provide supplemental support services for children ages 0-5 with an incarcerated parent, including home safety visits, Ages and Stages Questionnaire Assessment and ongoing caregiver community supports program.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	37%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	50,000	4%
Local	795,000	58%
Other	15,000	1%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,360,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	500,000	315A	No

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.**

Options for additional sources of funding are limited and include efforts to win competitive local, federal and philanthropic grant funds or funds raised privately from individual donors. Most funders however do not recognize the extreme risk associated with parental incarceration, incorrectly assuming that the children are served by state social service systems.



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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.

COI received \$187,200 for a Jacksonville City Cares grant and a PPP loan. This grant allowed COI to shift our business model to provide much needed relief through home visits. On a consistent weekly basis, we provided food and social services support to address the trauma and exacerbated challenges faced by these children and families.

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	Executive Director will dedicate 15 percent time to project management and leadership, including building collaborative partnerships, supporting DCF's efforts and collaborating with local agencies	23,400
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 50% time for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to collaborative meetings with DCF, FDC and partnering agencies across the State is budgeted at \$11,600. Office rent for COI staff, social work interns and COI Corps Staff is budgeted at \$10,000. Office supplies are budgeted at \$2,500.	24,100
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The operational audit is budgeted at \$5,000. Liability and associated insurance is budgeted at \$10,000. An independent evaluation of program implementation and impacts is budgeted at \$10,500 and will be matched with research funds from Federal and State sources.	25,500
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	\$200,000 will be reserved to hire up to three FTE social work, health advocates and/or criminal justice staff to provide family support services statewide and to conduct the science-based Babies 'N Brain curriculum in 22 FDC facilities.	200,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Up to \$100,000 will be reserved to support transportation costs and program supplies including healthy family meal for children (and appropriate caregivers) to participate in child-centered bonding visits to FDC correctional institutions, designed to foster bond between child and incarcerated parent.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of 15 community/faith based organizations with an intention to expand across FL. \$97,000 will be reserved to support subcontracts to partner agencies with specialized skills including child brain development, infant mental health, child safety, information technology and advocacy to support the operationalization of the child safety programming and to support outreach to rural areas.	97,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

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

When a parent is incarcerated, infants and young children suffer from insecure attachment and bonds to their parent and this insecurity undermines children's ability to cope and to grow in a healthy manner. These broken bonds have been linked to diminished cognitive abilities and inability to establish positive relationships. Over 25% of children with incarcerated parents are under 5 years of age. COI works with the caregivers to provide safety, developmental support and trauma informed wrap-around care. The program also provides critical training on brain development and parenting within the correctional facilities to guide the incarcerated parent on how to support their child in overcoming the challenges and achieving a healthy developmental track. This training is particularly important for female incarcerated parents who are working to reunite with their children and required to learning parenting skills, especially to satisfy for court requirements.

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

Babies 'N Brains provides home visits to provide wellness check ins, child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for children 0-5 to screen developmental delays. The program is proposing to enroll a minimum of 300 children. The program also provides inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness. Over the past eight years, five infants/young children of COI clients have passed away due to untimely accidental deaths. As a result, COI staff will work to conduct home visits with 85 percent of households with children 5 years of age and under to conduct home safety checks, to provide safety equipment, assist with questions of caregivers about the child's development and provide trauma-informed wrap-around care coordination. Care coordinators will continue to provide intensive emotional support to small children who are having difficulties grappling with the absence of their incarcerated parent.

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

Inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness, child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for a minimum of 300 children (ages 0-5) to assess development delays, and trauma informed wrap-around care coordination. Babies 'N Brains will collaborate with community service providers for referrals and to assist with developmental delays. Home safety assessments and home safety materials will be delivered to 85 percent of households with children age 5 years old and under. Advocacy services will be provided to enhance public understanding of the plight of children of incarcerated parents.

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

The target population served by this project are children, ages 0-5 year of age with incarcerated parents and their caregivers. We serve currently and formerly incarcerated parents, assisting them to establish and maintain positive relationships with their children and caregivers. We anticipate serving 300 children with these funds. This equates to approximately 200 families or incarcerated individuals. Research from Cambridge University documents that children with incarcerated parents are at twice the risk of mental illness and three times the risk of antisocial behaviors. Children with incarcerated parents are exposed to higher levels of community and direct violence. Many are economically disadvantaged and often face homelessness. Further, many within the COI population struggle with developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities.



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

The expected benefits are to interrupt intergeneration incarceration by identifying and working with children with incarcerated parent early in their development. Activities will reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences by teaching brain development and child safety precautions. Family visits will create strong bond between incarcerated parent, children and caregivers to promote healthy families. Improving parenting skills will be the focus during individual sessions, support groups and learning experiences for incarcerated parents, caregivers and children. Measures include pre and post surveys, observational data using proven research tools and techniques, such as the Ages and Stages Assessment and other evidence based programs.

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?

\$1,000 financial consequence per child under proposed 300 children to receive home visit and ASQ assessment. \$500 for every percentage under 85% of households with children five years old and under who do not receive a home safety assessment and supporting supplies.

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



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c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number