



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1985

1. **Project Title** Fostering Our Future: Faith-Based Support for Children & Families in Foster Care

2. **Senate Sponsor** Debbie Mayfield

3. **Date of Request** 12/12/2023

4. Project/Program Description

Fostering Our Future (FOF) is a community-based, church-led partnership designed to increase the number of high-quality foster families while safely reducing the number of children who enter foster care. Through its 100 Churches initiative, FOF mobilizes, organizes and equips local churches to care for vulnerable foster children as a compassion ministry of the local church, helping them to recruit, train, and support the foster families within their congregation. State funding in FY 2024-2025 would expand FOF's 100 Families Initiative to scale up foster care family capacity and wrap around services in Northeast Florida (Duval/Nassau), East Central Florida (Flagler, Putnam, Volusia, Brevard), Central Florida (Orange, Osceola and Seminole), and West Central Florida (Hillsborough), as well as immediate surrounding counties where resources bleed over. Fostering Our Future will continue to fund at scale one-third of its operating costs from local communities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	69%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	336,000	31%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,086,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	750,000	315	No

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

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.** 750,000

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



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Fostering Our Future at Grace Landing, Inc., has been funded through churches, foundations, corporations, and individuals. It received \$158,287.00 in 2022 from local communities and expects to raise \$336,000 in private funding this coming year, continuing to fund at scale one-third of its operating costs from local communities.

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.

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	To maintain one executive director to provide executive agency-wide leadership, management, and program administration; Project lead ReStore HopeFL Coordinator, project lead ReStore HopeFL Coordinator.	255,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Salary for Director of Business Operations.	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Media; CMS/LXP; Public relationship coalition building; printing; online marketing; bookkeeping/ reporting/ business operations/annual compliance; travel/ 2023 Family Advocacy Conference; office rent.	103,300
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	5 operational employees; 2 case managers for 100 Families County and surrounding area; 2 case managers for 100 Families County and surrounding area; Director of Permanency/Legal Team.	310,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Train and license new caregiver settings; recruit and certify Implementers; implement faith-community-based pre service and inservice curriculum; recruit volunteers and foster parents from churches; recruit churches to register to use CarePortal software.	6,700
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)		750,000

14. Program Performance

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

In October, FOF executed two MOUs with Embrace Families covering Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties and Brevard Family Partnerships covering Brevard county. They are also working on MOUs with Community Partnership for Children, Inc. covering Flager, Putnam, and Volusia counties, and Florida Support Services covering Duval and Nassau counties. The goal is to expand foster care family capacity and leverage a shared information and measurement platform across participating agencies and organizations to ensure that families are provided holistic, real-time care coordination needed to stabilize the child.

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

Continued support for expansion of the 100 Churches foster care training initiative while scaling the 100 Families initiative in Northeast and Central Florida while expanding into to East Central and West Central Florida, as well as the immediate surrounding counties in which community resources bleed over.

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

Professionally managed volunteers provide individual caregiver support and help case managers locally source a family plan that provides basic goods and services directly to caregivers -- ex. baby-sitting; respite care; transportation; invitations to regularly scheduled (formal) and unscheduled (informal) social-networking event; training, self-growth and improvement sessions.

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 foster children and foster families. 201-400 individuals are expected to be served.

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

The 100 Churches initiative moves children to permanency faster -- whether to family members, their parents, or adoption -- and has a 90% foster parent retention rate with zero cases of substantiated child maltreatment. Through prevention and reunification, the 100 Families initiative will reduce incarceration and the need for foster care and will strengthen families and take them from crisis to thriving without increasing the fixed costs to the state. Progress is measured through longitudinal study of caregivers and their children.

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?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met would be returned to the state.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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