



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2630

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Foundation for Foster Children's EMPOWER: Advocacy Initiative program provides personalized support and invaluable resources to the 2,784 foster youth living in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties. In the past decade, the number of youths in foster care in Central Florida has grown by a staggering 49%, a trend that continues to burden state-operated programs. In addition to this growth, the number of youths entering foster care in Central Florida is increasing at a rate of 3% to 5% annually. FFC's EMPOWER program focuses on empowering youth in foster care between the ages of 14 and 24 to overcome barriers that may prevent them from graduating high school, securing employment, and finding stable housing. FFC Advocates provide life skills training and one-on-one mentoring to give at-risk youth a consistent and trusted voice as they navigate through early adulthood, avoiding substance abuse, behavioral issues, and life choices that may lead to incarceration.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	306,129
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>306,129</b>

**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)	306,129	34%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	174,988	20%
Local	235,000	26%
Other	177,500	20%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>893,617</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.



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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.

## 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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director Salary and Benefits (Salary: \$43,333.33) (Benefits: \$4,059.68)	47,393
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	EMPOWER Advocate Salary and Benefits (3) (Salary: \$40,000) Benefits: (\$7,586.28)	142,759
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel (\$0.655 x 150 miles per week x 3 Advocates) = \$15,327 (Advocates visit their youth 1x / week) Monthly Life Skills Workshops (12 workshops x \$500) = \$6,000 Mentoring activities (monthly individual/group activities with mentor) = \$24,000 Quarterly enrichment activities and events = \$8,000 Supplies (learning materials, workbooks, journals, usb's, etc.) = \$6250	59,577
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Tutoring (\$47/hour x 100 hours/month): The Foundation for Foster Children contracts with professional tutoring agencies to provide in home, one-on-one trauma-informed tutoring services.	56,400
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>306,129</b>

**14. Program Performance**

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

FFC is looking to continue on its goal of creating meaningful connections with foster youth in Central Florida through 1-on-1 mentoring, life skills coaching, educational support, and services that have proven to lead to positive outcomes for the community's most vulnerable youth. The goal of EMPOWER is to ensure that every youth can grow toward independence and success in their lives. Through FFCs EMPOWER program, 155 youth were paired with Advocates to receive weekly life skills training and mentoring in 2023 (YTD), leading to 99% of foster youth avoiding arrests (compared to the national average of 47%), 98% avoiding homelessness (compared to the national average of 70%), 90% achieving employment or post-secondary education (compared to the national average of 60%) and 91% reaching on track to graduate (compared to the national average of 50%). In 2024, FFC looks to increase its youth served to 175 foster youth in the region.

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

FFC's EMPOWER program relies heavily upon the dedication of its experienced and knowledgeable Advocates. Through the sponsorship of these critical salaries (unrestricted funds), the EMPOWER program can continue to extend its outreach throughout Orange County, Osceola County, and Seminole County. FFC's EMPOWER program provides personalized support through advocacy, with Advocates meeting with youth weekly for one-on-one mentoring. During these meetings, Advocates provide the planning, support, and coaching necessary to ensure that each young adult in the program receives the care, services, and attention they need to carry out and achieve their specific goals.

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

FFC's EMPOWER program will provide the support and invaluable resources necessary to transition foster youth (aged 14 to 24) into adulthood to become meaningful contributors to society. FFC's EMPOWER program serves foster youth with professional, trauma-informed, evidence-based care. FFC's EMPOWER program focuses on empowering youth in foster care between the ages of 14 and 24 to overcome barriers that may prevent them from graduating high school, securing employment, and finding stable housing. Additionally, FFC Advocates provide life skills training and mentoring to give at-risk youth a consistent and trusted voice as they navigate through early adulthood, avoiding substance abuse, behavioral issues, and life choices that may lead to incarceration.

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

The Foundation for Foster Children's EMPOWER: Advocacy Initiative program provides personalized support and invaluable resources to the 2,784 foster youth living in Orange County, Osceola County, and Seminole County. FFC's EMPOWER program looks to serve 175 foster youth (aged 14 to 24) in Central Florida through this project.

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

In 2023 (YTD), FFC served 607 foster youth (ages 0 to 24) through all FFC programs in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties. Last year, FFCs EMPOWER program provided 2,042 unique opportunities, including 325 transitioning to adulthood opportunities, 366 youth development opportunities, and 233 youth served through 14,758 advocacy hours in the region. In 2024, FFC's EMPOWER program looks to serve 175 foster youth.

**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?**

If the Foundation for Foster Children fails to meet the performance measures provided for in the contract, funding may be paused until corrective action is implemented to meet requirements.

**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