



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2238

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

Caring and Secure Transport has trained transportation professionals who mentor, are compassionate and bring safety to every situation. Foster children often experience traumatic events and unstable living conditions, which can result in severe mental health challenges and emotional instability. Transportation can be a significant stressor for these children, exacerbating their emotional distress. To address this issue, we propose the implementation of a specialized transportation program, staffed by trained professionals, designed exclusively for the unique needs of foster children in need of mental health services and emotional support. Caring and Secure Transport has a proven track record of working with the most difficult cases in the State of Florida bringing peace during stressful transportation challenges. Through consent of legal guardians, as well as strict following of law enforcement procedure, we can physically enforce the transport.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</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)	1,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

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

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**  No
- 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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## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2238

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries for transportation coordinators, drivers, and any support staff involved in the program. Ongoing training and development programs for transportation staff will be funded to keep them updated on best practices and safety protocols. Employee benefits, including health insurance, dental insurance, retirement contributions, and other perks, will be provided to transportation staff.	250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Some funds will be allocated to cover administrative costs associated with managing the transportation program, including office space, utilities, and administrative staff salaries. A portion of the budget may be allocated for unexpected emergencies or contingencies, such as vehicle breakdowns or unexpected medical needs of foster children during transportation.	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Transportation staff and drivers will undergo thorough background checks and screening to ensure their suitability to work with vulnerable children. Ongoing training and development programs for staff to keep them updated on best practices and safety protocols. Funds to cover auditing and compliance-related expenses to ensure the program adheres to all relevant regulations and standards.	50,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Hiring and training additional driving staff. Employee benefits, including health insurance, dental insurance, retirement contributions, and other perks, will be provided to transportation staff.	700,000



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## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2238

Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	If new vehicles are needed for the transportation program, funds may be allocated for the purchase or lease of appropriate vehicles. Communication systems (e.g., two-way radios) and tracking systems (e.g., GPS) for vehicles. Safety equipment and supplies such as child safety seats, seat belts, first aid kits, and any necessary vehicle modifications to accommodate special needs children.	250,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Foster child transportation staff must undergo training and certification to ensure they can safely transport children. Training programs, materials, and certification fees.	100,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will be dedicated to ensuring that foster children, particularly those in crisis and resistant to attending school or treatment, receive essential support and guidance to ensure these children safely and securely reach their designated destination. Our transportation staff will implement case management plans and providing mentoring. Foster children often experience disruptions in their lives due to placement changes. Reliable transportation helps maintain a sense of stability by ensuring they can continue attending their current school and maintain essential routines. The goal is to reduce traumatic experiences that foster children may face during transitions and transportation, helping them heal and thrive. By ensuring they can attend school regularly and without interruptions, these funds support their academic success and long-term prospects.

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

To fulfill the intended purpose of these funds, our drivers will offer life experience-based guidance within safe and secure vehicles, fostering an atmosphere of tranquility and support for the children. Coordinate all transportation services, including scheduling, route planning, and logistics. Hiring and training qualified and certified drivers who are capable of providing safe and secure transportation for foster children. Ensuring that transportation services are reliable and on time, so foster children can attend school, medical appointments, court hearings, and visitations without unnecessary delays. Using GPS or tracking systems to monitor the location and status of transportation vehicles during trips, providing an additional layer of security. Training transportation staff to handle crisis situations, including de-escalation techniques and communication with children who may be experiencing emotional distress.

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

The appropriation project will directly provide essential services to foster children by addressing the current budgetary shortfall in case worker funding as well as lack of healthy male influence, particularly in the area of safe transportation for children. The project ensures that foster children have reliable and secure transportation to and from school, allowing them to access education without disruption. Foster children may need to attend court hearings related to their custody and placement. The project ensures their timely and safe transportation to these legal proceedings. The project facilitates visits with their biological families by providing secure transportation to and from visitation locations. The project's emphasis on safety and security aims to protect foster children from potential harm or risks during transportation, ensuring their physical and emotional well-being.

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

There are over 24,000 adolescents in the Florida Foster care system. Caring and Secure Transport would expect to be able to serve the foster children identified by the CBC's as requiring special transportation services. Foster families and caregivers benefit indirectly from the project as it ensures that they have the means to transport foster children safely. This support can lead to increased recruitment and retention of foster caregivers. Close collaboration with child welfare agencies ensures that transportation services align with the overall goals of the foster care system and meet the specific needs of each child.

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



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## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2238

We believe that this initiative aligns with the State of Florida’s commitment to enhancing safe transportation services for all residents, especially those in vulnerable situations. By providing specialized safe transportation for foster children facing mental health and emotional challenges, we can make a significant impact on their lives and future prospects. This will be measured by the success of getting foster children safely to school and treatment who currently are not attending due to resisting transportation attempts. Additionally, we have a proven track record of safely working with children and successfully fostering a sense of respect and honor towards authority figures among them through faith development.

**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 services are not provided payment will not be made or if services are found to no be ineffective payment will not be paid.

**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**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**