



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1043

**1. Title of Project:** Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind

**2. Senate Sponsor:** Dennis Baxley

**3. Date of Submission:** 01/17/2019

**4. Project/Program Description:**

The Children's Program, provided by 14 member agencies of FAASB d/b/a Florida Agencies Serving the Blind, offers Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) instruction to children in K-12 who are blind or visually impaired. The year-round program takes place at members' facilities and at community sites during non-school days, Saturdays, and summer months. This request is synchronized with a separate LFIR for Blind Babies, also to be provided by member agencies of FAASB. Half of the babies reaching age 5 each year cannot be served in the Children's Program. Therefore, this request seeks to increase the number of children from 160 to 180 in order to provide continuity to babies reaching the entry age for the Children's Program. No increase in rate per child is requested. Increased funding is requested from new sources, in order to preserve the DBS match for Federal dollars applied to Florida's blind working age and seniors.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Education

State Agency Contacted? Yes

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,125,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,125,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,125,000	69.54%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	492,789	30.46%
Other	0	0.00%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>1,617,789</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19	500,000	500,000	50	No

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



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$625,000

#### 10. 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	4% of total state funds for Florida ASB program administration = Exec Dir and Treasurer, monitoring, supervising, accounting	45,000
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	96% of total funds for teams of Certified Professionals in ASB member agencies State-Wide: teachers of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialists, vision rehabilitation therapists, technology specialists and counselors	1,080,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,125,000</b>

#### 11. Program Performance:

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

Participants in the Children's Program attain the braille, technology and personal skills to keep pace academically and socially with their sighted peers in school. Specific blindness-related social, personal and pre-vocational skills are learned from a team of certified professionals. The nationally recognized, evidence-based Expanded Core Curriculum's nine core areas secure academic success and the "real life experience" that is essential to future employability. This curriculum goes beyond what is available in public schools. The Children's Program also addresses the inherent social isolation in public schools by bringing the children from an entire county together in one place. Parent support groups offer support, advocacy and sharing solutions to child-rearing challenges.

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

Children are provided Expanded Core Curriculum Activities/instruction in : 1. Compensatory Academic skills including braille/magnifiers, organization, listening, etc.; 2. Orientation and Mobility (safe travel skills with a white cane); 3. Social interaction skills; 4. Recreation and Leisure skills; 5. Independent Living Skills (cooking, hygiene, money and budgeting, time mgmt.); 6. Assistive Technology-screen readers or magnification for computers, etc.; 7. Career Education (experimental introduction to various careers and professions; 8. Self-



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Determination (self-advocacy, planning for adulthood); 9. Sensory Efficiency skills (touch, hearing, smell taste, etc).

**c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

Instruction of visually impaired children in specific skills to compensate for effects of blindness on academic achievement, social integration and making vocational goals; counseling of parents in rearing their blind children.

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

180 blind children in the State of Florida, and their primary caregivers/parents.

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

Academic achievement, acquisition of social and pre-vocational skills. Assessment through Pre- and Post-tests normed for blind/visually impaired children in academic, independent living, technology and other skills in the 9 Expanded Core Curriculum skills (see b. above).

**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 in the contract?**

Penalties for failure to meet deliverables (hours of service and number of children served) are meted out by reducing payments. In previous years, all deliverables have been met.

**12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

N/A

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Elly duPre
- b. **Organization:** Florida Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB)
- c. **E-mail Address:** edupre@beyondvisionloss.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)898-2636

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Florida Agencies Serving the Blind a/k/a FAASB
- b. **County:** Statewide
- c. **Organization Type:**
  - For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College
  - Other (Please specify)



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- d. **Contact Name:** Elly du Pre
- e. **E-mail Address:** edupre@beyondvisionloss.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)898-2636

#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Dean Cannon
- b. **Firm Name:** GrayRobinson
- c. **E-mail Address:** dean.cannon@gray-robinson.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)577-9090