



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1777

1. **Title of Project:** Children of Inmates - Babies 'N Brains

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Annette Taddeo

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/04/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Incarceration of parents/caregivers impacts 300,000 Florida children. 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). Since 2012, five infants of COI clients have passed away due to accidental deaths. COI provides support services for children ages 0-5 with an incarcerated parent, including home safety visits, Ages and Stages Questionnaire Assessment and caregiver community supports program. COI, Inc. is an innovative approach to interrupt negative patterns by collaborating with state and local agencies to rebuild families with wellness and age appropriate learning experiences that support children, caregivers and their incarcerated parent's improvements as a family unit. The program started in South Florida and has expanded to serve over 1,000 children ages 0-5 years.

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 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	30.04%
Federal	464,250	27.90%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	700,000	42.06%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	1,664,250	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		500,000	313A; Section 99	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No



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10. 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 allocate .15 FTE to project management and ensuring project deliverables are met. Position will also be responsible for building and maintaining collaborative partnerships with local and state agencies.	23,400
Other Salary and Benefits	Business Manager will allocate .50 FTE to oversee administrative and fiscal management of program, including invoicing, internal controls and preparation of fiscal reports.	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$11,600 will be expended for travel to administrative meetings and trainings with HHS, FDC and partnering agencies across the State. \$10,000 will be allocated to office rent to support daily program management activities. \$2,500 will be reserved for office supplies.	24,100
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	\$5,000 will be reserved for Operational Audit costs. \$20,000 will be expended to conduct an independent study of program impacts to inform best practices. (Applications for research funds will be submitted to federal and private agencies to match the research study.)	25,000
Operational Costs:		
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, as well as providing science informed Babies N Brains curriculum.	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Up to \$100,000 will be reserved to support transportation costs and program supplies 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 service network of agencies. As such, \$97,500 will be reserved to support subcontracts to partner agencies with specializations in infant and child health, infant mental health, and child brain development across rural and metropolitan area.	97,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

11. Program Performance:



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a. What is the specific purpose or goal that 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 and developmental supports. The program 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 achieve a positive developmental track.

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

Babies 'N Brains provides inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness. In the community, 300 home visits are conducted as well as child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for children 0-5 to measure appropriate maturation. Efforts will be made to help families establish a relationship with a primary care provider and enroll in healthcare, where possible. Over the past five years, five infants/young children of COI clients have passed away due to 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 and assist with questions of caregivers about the child's development.

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

Inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness. 300 home visits, child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for children 0-5 to measure appropriate maturation. Direct services to assist with developmental stages and facilitated referrals to specialist to assist with developmental delays. Home safety assessments and home safety materials to 85 percent of households with children age 5 years old and under.

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 500 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. Many are economically disadvantaged and often face homelessness. Further, many within the COI population struggle with developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities. Children with incarcerated parents are exposed to higher levels of community and direct violence.

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 intergenerational 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



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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 tools.

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?

\$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.

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.

NA

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Shellie Solomon
- b. **Organization:** Children of Inmates, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** SESolomon@childrenofinmates.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (786)781-5141

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Children of Inmates, Inc.
- 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)
- d. **Contact Name:** Shellie Solomon
- e. **E-mail Address:** SESolomon@jssinc.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (786)781-5141

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Yolanda Cash Jackson
- b. **Firm Name:** Becker & Poliakoff
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