



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2361

1. **Title of Project:** Early Childhood Court

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Joe Gruters

3. **Date of Submission:** 03/06/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Florida's Early Childhood Court (ECC) is a therapeutic approach designed to improve outcomes for maltreated children ages 0-3. Children ages 3 and under comprise 36% of the 24,181 children in out-of-home care and are the largest age group of maltreated children being removed from their homes, primarily due to the opioid epidemic. Early adversity stress impedes early brain development which creates serious issues as children grow to adults. The ECC model utilizes a trauma-informed, judge led, multidisciplinary team of clinicians, community coordinators, attorneys, parents, and others. Parents/children receive more intensive services than traditional child welfare clients, including monthly parent/team meetings and judicial hearings, intensive child/parent trauma therapy, frequent visitation, and developmental and family supports. Florida's ECC is based on the national evidence based Safe Baby Court Teams. ECC's are currently operating in 22 jurisdictions around Florida.

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

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	320,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	320,000

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)	320,000	71.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	130,700	29.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	130,700	100.0%

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

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

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



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- a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$320,000

10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	CEO/COO program oversight	11,758
Other Salary and Benefits	CFO, HR, Payroll, accts. payable/receivables	12,815
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	50% Program Director 50% Asst. Program Director 100% child welfare case manager 100% licensed mental health clinician 50% family support worker	278,242
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Operating supplies, IT support, telephones, insurance, e travel (class A & B), training, client assistance	17,185
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		320,000

11. Program Performance:

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

Goals: 1) Children enrolled in ECC will achieve permanency (reunification, adoption, permanent guardianship) at least 4 months sooner than those not enrolled in ECC. 2) 85% of children enrolled in ECC who achieved permanency via reunification will not return to care. 3) 90% of children enrolled in ECC will improve/achieve their developmental milestones by time permanency is reached.

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

1) specialized early childhood child welfare case management services; 2) intensive child/parent mental health therapy and consultation; 3) more frequent child visitation than traditional child welfare cases (3-4/week vs 1 time per week); and 4) monthly vs. quarterly family team meetings and judicial hearings.

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

1) specialized early childhood child welfare case management services; 2) intensive child/parent mental health therapy and consultation; and 3) more frequent child visitation than traditional child welfare cases (3-4/week vs 1 time per week).

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



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Children ages 0-3 and their families in out-of-home care in Sarasota and DeSoto counties.

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

Goals: 1) Children enrolled in ECC will achieve permanency (reunification, adoption, permanent guardianship) at least 4 months sooner than those not enrolled in ECC. Measured thru DCF data base. 2) 85% of children enrolled in ECC who achieved permanency via reunification will not return to care. Measured via DCF data base. 3) 90% of children enrolled in ECC will improve/achieve their developmental milestones by time permanency is reached. Measured via developmental assessments and pediatric records.

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?

A Corrective Action Plan would be completed with mandatory deadlines. If not achieved, agency would be placed on probation for a specific time period. If not achieved, contract with agency would be terminated.

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:** Kathryn Shea
- b. **Organization:** The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- c. **E-mail Address:** kathryn.shea@thefloridacenter.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (941)650-6592

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- b. **County:** Sarasota
- 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:** Kathryn Shea
- e. **E-mail Address:** kathryn.shea@thefloridacenter.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (941)650-6592

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Robert Hawkin



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2361

- b. Firm Name:** Leath Consulting
- c. E-mail Address:** hawk@leathflo.com
- d. Phone Number:** (850)509-5900