



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2480

1. **Title of Project:** Funding for Regis Little Act

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Janet Cruz

3. **Date of Submission:** 03/15/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Funding would provide guardian advocates (GAs) to young adults with developmental disabilities who were in foster care. GAs would assist the young adult with a developmental disability to manage their finances, make medical decisions, find housing, and have safe community engagement. Florida law (Fla. Stat. § 39.701(2)) already requires that a guardian advocate be appointed to children in foster care who have developmental disabilities, but GAs are not readily available to serve this population.

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

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	10,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	10,000

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)	10,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	10,000	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2017-18		750,000		Yes

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

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 10,000

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



The Florida Senate

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Fiscal Year 2019-2020

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Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Professional Guardians will be assigned to serve as guardian advocates to young adults with developmental disabilities who can no longer be under the jurisdiction of juvenile dependency court, but who still need the oversight of a guardian advocate to assist with housing, medical, and financial decisions.	10,000
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		10,000

11. Program Performance:

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

This will eliminate the waiting list for former foster care children who need the services of a public guardian. Guardian advocates would protect young adults with developmental disabilities who were removed from their parents as children but are no longer under the supervision of the Florida Department of Children and Families. Guardian advocates will make sure their wards attend medical appointments and mental health services. Guardian advocate will ensure the ward has appropriate housing and financial means to avoid homelessness or desperation that comes from unstable living arrangements that leads to criminal activity that harms the public (e.g. trespassing, shoplifting, loitering, unlawful panhandling, prostitution).

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

The guardian advocate is required by Florida Statute to file an Initial Guardianship Plan and then a Guardianship Report each year. See ss. 744.362 and 744.363, F.S. This plan and report details the ward's medical and mental health services, housing, finances, and social activities.

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

Guardian advocates would assist the ward with a developmental disability to manage their finances, make medical decisions, find appropriate housing, and have safe, positive community engagement. Guardian advocates would protect young adults with developmental disabilities who were removed from their parents as children but are no longer under the supervision of the Florida Department of Children and Families. Guardian advocates will make sure their wards attend medical appointments and mental health services. Guardian



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2480

advocate will ensure the ward has appropriate housing and financial means to avoid homelessness or desperation that comes from unstable living arrangements that leads to criminal activity that harms the public (e.g. trespassing, shoplifting, loitering, unlawful panhandling, prostitution).

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

At-risk youth, developmentally disabled, and former foster children

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

The expected benefit is to protect vulnerable adults from returning to dangerous homes from which DCF previously removed them. The guardian advocate is required by Florida Statute to file an Initial Guardianship Plan and then a Guardianship Report each year. Fla. Statute 744.362 and 744.363. If a ward is abusing substances, the guardian advocate can assist him or her with finding substance abuse treatment and remove the ward from the any environment that allows substance abuse.

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?

These cases already have judicial oversight, and the Court can determine appropriate sanctions for failing to follow Florida Statute 744.

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:** Kellye Hayashi
- b. **Organization:** Hayashi Legal PLLC
- c. **E-mail Address:** kellye@kellyehayashilegal.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)765-8719

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Aging Solutions
- b. **County:** Hillsborough
- 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:** Kellye Hayashi



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2480

e. **E-mail Address:** kellye@kellyehayashilegal.com

f. **Phone Number:** (813)765-8719

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name:** None

b. **Firm Name:** None

c. **E-mail Address:**

d. **Phone Number:**