



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2484

1. Title of Project: Early Childhood Court (State Courts System needs)

2. Senate Sponsor: Lauren Book

3. Date of Submission: 03/15/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

Early Childhood Court is a problem-solving court docket that aims to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children under age three. SB 90 seeks to provide resources to expand upon the existing specialized Early Childhood Court dockets to ensure their adherence to an evidence-based approach that includes strong judicial leadership, a multidisciplinary team, monthly court hearings, frequent child-parent contact, a continuum of evidence-based services and interventions, and a community coordinator position that works with the local judge to support Early Childhood Court activities. SB 90 also seeks to assess the potential benefits to Florida's children and families from adopting this approach, and determine whether expansion of the Early Childhood Courts concept in Florida is warranted.

*This form requests only the funds that would be necessary for the State Courts System to implement its responsibilities under the bill. Other stakeholders may require additional funds.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : State Court System

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,366,190
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	2,366,190

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)	2,366,190	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	2,366,190	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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



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9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes
- a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 2366190

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

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		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	1 Statewide Training Specialist position and 20 Community Coordinator positions (all classed as Court Operations Consultant FTE - \$98,390 each) *Lines 113-115 of CS/SB 90 require a statewide training specialist. Lines 88-93 require at least one community coordinator per circuit.	2,066,190
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel expenses for site visits and local and statewide training events *Lines 113-115 of CS/SB 90 provide that the statewide training specialist shall provide training to each multidisciplinary team.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contract with a university to hire a statewide clinical director *Lines 105-112 of CS/SB 90 require the Office of the State Courts Administrator to contract with one or more university-based center, which shall hire a clinical director. The amount estimated to be needed to hire this clinical director, \$200,000, was provided by the FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy.	200,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,366,190

11. Program Performance:

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

The goal is to improve outcomes of children under 3 years of age involved in Florida's Early Childhood Courts. The community coordinator positions funded by this legislation are pivotal to the success of the Early Childhood Court approach. The statewide training specialist position is necessary to support the implementation and sustainability of the program across all of the participating jurisdictions. The statewide clinical director is necessary to ensure fidelity to the evidence-based clinical intervention that is critical to Early Childhood Court.



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

Each community coordinator will work with the judge or magistrate presiding over an Early Childhood Court, support the activities of the court, and facilitate coordination and collaboration among the members of the Early Childhood Court team. The statewide training specialist position will support the implementation of the program across all of the participating jurisdictions by providing training opportunities (in-person training events and virtual trainings - utilize state and national experts) and technical assistance activities (conference calls, site visits, and one-on-one coaching). The statewide clinical director will provide consultation, training, and support to the Early Childhood Court infant mental health clinicians.

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

Early childhood courts link citizens to a continuum of evidence-based services and interventions they need to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children.

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

The target population consists of children under the age of three participating in Early Childhood Court. Over the next year, the project is expected to serve approximately 400 children under the age of three. The siblings and parents of these children will be served as part of this project.

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

Compared to traditional dependency courts, children in Early Childhood Court are expected to achieve more timely permanency and experience fewer instances of repeat maltreatment. The Florida State University, Florida Institute for Child Welfare will develop research methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

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?

This is not applicable.

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:** Sarah Naf Biehl
- b. **Organization:** Florida Courts
- c. **E-mail Address:** nafs@flcourts.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)922-5692

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** State Courts System
- b. **County:** Statewide
- c. **Organization Type:**



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- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (Please specify) Branch of Government

d. Contact Name: Sarah Naf Biehl

e. E-mail Address: nafs@flcourts.org

f. Phone Number: (850)922-5692

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name: Sarah Naf Biehl

b. Firm Name: Office of the State Courts Administrator

c. E-mail Address: nafs@flcourts.org

d. Phone Number: (850)922-5692