



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2631

1. Title of Project: Child Care WAGE\$ Florida

2. Senate Sponsor: Bill Montford

3. Date of Submission: 03/18/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

The Child Care WAGE\$® FLORIDA program is an evidence-based initiative that rewards early childhood teachers with salary supplements based on their education and continuity of employment with their employer. By increasing teacher retention, WAGE\$ provides children with more stable relationships and better-educated teachers. WAGE\$ addresses individual professional development efforts and low wages (average of \$10 per hour statewide) of those working in the child care/early learning field, but does not affect budgets, regular wages, or parent fees within child care programs. The program is operating in Miami-Dade and Broward counties in Florida. The Children’s Forum holds the license to operate the program in Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Office of Early Learning

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	525,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	525,000

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)	525,000	100.0%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	525,000	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

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 525000



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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	Salary and benefits for the Project Director that will coordinate and guide the establishment of a statewide infrastructure of the Child Care WAGE\$ program.	60,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for administrative staff and support for the operation of the program.	21,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Administrative operating expenses such as rent, utilities, supplies and other routine expenses.	5,250
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for Child Care WAGE\$ program staff that will provide support for the establishment and maintenance of a statewide WAGE\$ program.	367,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program operating expenses such as rent, utilities, supplies and other routine expenses.	71,250
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		525,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The goal of the WAGE\$ program is to increase the knowledge and competence of teachers serving the most vulnerable children in Florida, support continuing education to stay abreast of trends in the child development field, reduce staff turnover and increase continuity of care with twice yearly WAGE\$ salary supplements, provide a professional development pathway and reward increasing attainment of goals and increase compensation in a low-wage field.

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

Statewide infrastructure (both administrative and program support) for Early Learning Coalitions to opt into Child Care WAGE\$ using their quality dollar allocations. This appropriation would enable approximately 2,500 – 3,500 early childhood educators access to the Child Care WAGE\$® program.

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

Increase compensation in the low-wage childcare field, assist childcare centers in retaining qualified early childhood educators, supporting teacher continuing education in the child development field, increase of knowledge and competence of teachers serving vulnerable children population.



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

Low-wage early childhood educators throughout the state of Florida. The appropriation would enable approximately 2,500-3,500 educators access to the Child Care WAGE\$ program.

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

Providing opportunities for early childhood educators to continue to improve their education in the field in order to better serve vulnerable children population which will be measured by the credentials earned to improve teacher education and advancement. Assisting childcare centers in improving retention rates of early childhood educators, developing more interest in this underrepresented field in the economy and improving low wages in childcare teachers which will be measured by evaluating the turnover rate in the field, the number of average stipends for WAGE\$ participants and number of educators in the workforce. Creating job opportunities by providing an incentive for educational advancement, wage supplements and an opportunity for early childhood educators to stay in the field measured by new participants in the WAGE\$ program and new positions in childcare centers.

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?

Payments shall be delayed for any deliverables that are not satisfactorily completed until all deficiencies are corrected and accepted by the Office of Early Learning. A corrective action plan will be imposed requiring the contractor to address all performance deficiencies. Failure to comply will result in a breach of contract. Financial consequences are also imposed including withholding of payment, a request to redo the work or reduced payment.

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:** Phyllis Kalifeh
- b. **Organization:** Children's Forum, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** pkalifeh@thechildrensforum.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)487-6300 Ext. 317

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Children's Forum, Inc.
- b. **County:** Leon
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity



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University or College

Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: Phyllis Kalifeh

e. E-mail Address: pkalifeh@thechildrensforum.com

f. Phone Number: (850)487-6300

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name: Claudia Davant

b. Firm Name: Adams St Advocates

c. E-mail Address: Claudia@adamsstadvocates.com

d. Phone Number: (850)567-0979