



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1354

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Children ages 0-3 are the largest age group of maltreated children being removed from their homes, and they stay in foster care longer than other age groups. Early maltreatment is toxic to the developing brain, especially in the critical first 1,000 days of life when 80% of the brain is developed. Stable, early, nurturing relationships can repair and "hard-wire" brain pathways for lifelong mental health. Early Childhood Court (ECC) is a problem-solving court docket designed to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children ages 0-3 through an integrated treatment of intensive child/parent therapy, frequent visitation, developmental supports, utilization of trauma-informed judges, and monthly family team meetings and court hearings. Sarasota County has the only ECC with a wait list. DeSoto County has no ECC and is in desperate need. This funding would provide for one more additional ECC team in Sarasota and a .5 ECC team in DeSoto.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	320,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	320,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	320,000	77%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	77,500	19%
Other	15,384	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	412,884	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Currently, County governments are funding the project in Manatee and Sarasota counties. The agency continues to submit grants, fund raise, and seek additional funding sources.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funding received = \$483,974. All used to support salaries. Agency will receive \$65,000 in CARES Act funding from Sarasota County Government for reimbursable expenses related to implementing CDC guidelines in our buildings, offices, and preschool classrooms. (safety supplies, weekly sanitizing by specialized cleaning company at both preschool sites, 25 laptop computers for school-based mental health staff to provide telehealth services to children/families.

11. 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	11,758
Other Salary and Benefits	CFO, HR, payroll, accts. payable/receives	12,815
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	50% program director, 50% asst. program director 100% child welfare case manager 100% licensed mental health clinician 50% family advocate, 100% community coordinator, 25% MH director	278,242
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	operating supplies, IT support, telephones, insurance, travel (Class A and B), training, client assistance	17,185
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		320,000

12. Program Performance

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

Children ages birth to three in foster care will achieve permanency more quickly than those not enrolled in ECC (data between 2014-2018 shows permanency through reunification occurred approximately 8.5 months quicker than non-ECC children). Fewer children will return to care (22 ECC; 36 non-ECC). The parent/child relationship will improve as well as improved child well-being.

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

Intensive child welfare case management activities, frequent child-parent psychotherapy, frequent (3-4x/week) parent/child visitation, transportation, monthly family team meetings, monthly court appearances

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Case management services, child-parent psychotherapy, therapeutic consultation with foster parents, teacher, other caregivers, child/foster parent transportation, supervised visitation.

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



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Children ages birth to five in foster care. Approximately 20 children/families will be served in Sarasota County and 10 in DeSoto county.

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

All children enrolled will be referred to Early Steps for developmental evaluation if developmental screens indicate a developmental delay (tracked by case manager). Children enrolled in ECC will achieve permanency (reunification, permanent guardianship, adoption) more quickly than those not enrolled in ECC. Fewer children enrolled in ECC will return to care once permanency achieved (DCF data base). Child will resolve incurred trauma and improve emotional skills. Parents will resolve underlying trauma and improve parent/child relationship (therapist will provide pre/post scores on the parent/child relationship scale and the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA).

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 the contract?

Performance Outcomes are clearly stated in current Community Based Care (CBC) contract with penalties for failure to meet deliverables or performance measures, up to and including, termination of the contract.

13. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

N/A



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- ☐ Local Entity
- ☐ University or College
- ☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number