



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1704

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

4. Project/Program Description

Create a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to serve abused and neglected children in the 19th Judicial Circuit which includes St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. The CAC is one location where a child tells their story one time and receives all needed resources in that one location - everything from the initial forensic interview, physical exam to mental health resources and more. Currently our children must visit multiple locations to tell their story and receive needed resources. Thus, children are experiencing even more trauma. In just one year there were 3,000 allegations of maltreatment and an average of 35 children removed from their homes monthly due to maltreatment in our judicial circuit. Out of Florida's 20 Judicial Circuits only 3 circuits are without a CAC for abused and neglected children and our circuit is one of the three.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,351,230
Total State Funds Requested	1,351,230

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)	1,351,230	63%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	500,000	23%
Other	300,000	14%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	2,151,230	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.**

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



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No

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	GFNF4kids has secured a 10 year lease for a building central to the entire judicial circuit . The interior of the building will be gutted and built out to meet the needs of the multi-disciplinary team working within the Child Advocacy Center.	1,351,230
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,351,230

12. Program Performance

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

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) will provide all needed resources for the maltreated child in one location - everything from the initial forensic interview, physical exam to mental health resources and more. (Currently a child may visit up to six (6) or more locations to tell their story and receive services.) CAC allows a child to tell their story one time, which is recorded in real time while law enforcement and stakeholders observe in another room. Thus, the purpose and goals are that this multidisciplinary team approach reduces trauma for the child, makes for better mental health outcomes, and successful criminal justice outcome – higher prosecution rates and less time with cases lingering in the judicial system. An example of this is Gulf Coast Kids House where their prosecution rate prior to the CAC was 10%-20% and after the CAC their prosecution rate is 90%.

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

All resources needed for a maltreated child will be provided through a multidisciplinary team located at the CAC which will include Department of Children and Families, Child Protection Team, Law enforcement, Victim Advocates, Sexual Assault Response Team, and mental health resources.

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



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Services needed for a maltreated child will be provided through a multidisciplinary team located at the CAC Child Protection Team, provides medical exams and forensic interviews in collaboration with Law Enforcement, Department of Children and Families and State Attorney's Office. State Attorney's Office ensure child victims access all available and necessary services. The Sexual Assault Assistance Program/Victim Assistance Program provide crisis intervention, advocacy and accompaniment to forensic exam for all sexual abuse cases and forensic interviews. Victim Advocate will provide the child victim and family with a better understanding of the criminal justice system and accompany child and family to court when needed. Mental health services will be offered to all clients and non-offending family members through a lead agency with linkage agreements with other mental health service providers to ensure there is no waiting list for a child to receive services.

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

Abused and neglected children in the 19th Judicial Circuit. In our Judicial Circuit approximately 3,000 allegations of maltreatment are reported annually and an average of 35 children removed from their homes monthly due to maltreatment. The Child Protection Team handles approximately 350 cases monthly.

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

Better mental health outcomes for the child and non-offending family members by the multidisciplinary team approach, reducing the number of locations a child must visit and minimizing the time to receive needed services. Higher prosecution rates for perpetrators. An example of this is Gulf Coast Kids House - their prosecution rate went from approximately 10%-20% to 90% successful prosecution since the advocacy centers creation. Reduce the time the case lingers in the judicial system.

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?

Failure to meet deliverables will result in reduction in funding.

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.

Guardians for New Futures, Inc. has a ten year lease with Baron Commerce Centre, LLC.



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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