



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1779

1. Project Title Foster Family Recruitment and Stability Project

2. Senate Sponsor Gayle Harrell

3. Date of Request 02/08/2021

4. Project/Program Description

The 4KIDS Foster Family Recruitment and Stability Project is dual-purposed. It is designed to 1. Recruit new foster families and 2. Provide high levels of placement stability. Since 1997, 4KIDS has successfully recruited more than 1,100 foster families through strategic recruitment activities. These families provide safe and stable homes to children who have been removed from their biological families due to abuse, abandonment or neglect. To aid in their placement stability, 4KIDS provides families with wrap around support teams and research-based therapeutic services to support the child and family, which includes our exclusive EPIC parent training, resources, therapists and clinicians. Additionally we provide our families with exceptional, caring foster support specialists and we have an extended array of foster support events and groups, all of which ultimately lead to more stable placements.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>750,000</b>

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)	750,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	750,000	2186	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 750,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



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4KIDS relies on government funding to support its family recruitment and stability efforts. If such support was not available, 4KIDS would deploy private funding initiatives to hopefully garner enough funds to continue to provide services at an optimal level. However, other funding is not guaranteed and could significantly impact our ability to recruit and provide support needed for the kids and families.

#### 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.

4KIDS received \$1,025,345, in funding through the CARES Act. Funds were used to help all of 4KIDS to continue all services and keep all staff employed as well as continue to recruit, train and license foster families and provide those families with therapeutic services.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	To cover the cost of staff members responsible for foster parent recruitment, training and licensing, family support, and therapy program oversight and services. The funds will be evenly distributed for the two projects with \$375,000 for the foster parent recruitment, training and licensing and \$375,000 for the trauma informed therapy program oversight and services.	750,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>750,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

The 4KIDS Foster Parent Recruitment and Stability Project will support the recruitment and licensing of foster families in FY 2021-2022, resulting in up to 56 new foster families and ultimately reducing the number of children in group care in circuits 15, 17, and 19. Additionally, this project will positively affect the stability of existing foster care placements resulting in a stability rate of 3.09 or less moves per 1,000 days in care (a 25% reduction in moves compared to the current State of Florida goal of 4.12 as of 1/30/19).

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



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The 4KIDS Community Engagement Team will continue to build partnerships with local churches and research new opportunities to engage the church community to recruit foster families. The team will engage, educate, and encourage potential foster families through presentations on the need for foster parents and will also host information sessions on the foster parent training and licensing process. The outreach strategy includes connecting with church leaders to set up opportunities for presentations at church services, small groups, and all community reaching events. The 4KIDS Clinical Team will provide therapy services, therapeutic training, summer camp, and support groups.

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

The Foster Parent Recruitment and Stability Project will result in the provision of more quality foster homes for children who have suffered from abuse, abandonment, and neglect. Children will be safe and living in a healthy environment. Additionally, children and families who are a part of the foster and adoptive family unit and who are under- or uninsured will receive trauma-informed therapeutic care. We will provide therapy services, therapeutic training and support groups annually to such families. This will have a positive impact on the placement stability as foster families will feel more supported and able to handle the difficulties that come with caring for children from hard places. Due to COVID-19, recruiting and mental health services are extremely important now.

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

The Foster Parent Recruitment and Stability Project will serve children between the ages of 0-17 entering and currently in foster care in circuits 15, 17, and 19. An estimated 67 children will be served by up to 56 new foster families created by the project annually. Children and families who are a part of the foster and adoptive family unit and who are under- or uninsured will receive trauma-informed therapeutic care. We will provide therapy services, therapeutic training for parents and support groups annually to such families.

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

This project will lead to the recruitment and licensing of up to 56 new foster parents in circuit 15, 17, and 19. The project will also benefit licensed foster and adoptive family units who are under- and uninsured by supporting them through therapeutic services, including child therapy and family therapy. 4KIDS expects that the placement stability rate of families receiving therapeutic care will improve as compared to the current State goal of 4.12 to no more than 3.09 moves per 1,000 days in care. 4KIDS' Extended Reach database will be used to record and measure our ability to achieve the intended outcomes. The financial benefit to the State of Florida can be enormous--research from the University of North Carolina's Jordan Institute for Families found that group placements cost 7 to 10 times the cost of placing a child with a family.

**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?**

A reduction in the amount of allocation based on the actual number of foster families recruited, licensed, or if the stability rate of 3.09 is not met.

**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