



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1150

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

In Florida, 1 in 8 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling. Research shows that unresolved childhood grief increases the risk of mental illness, suicide, substance abuse, and engagement in criminal activity. Valerie's House grief support services help to mitigate those risks by providing grief support groups, individual grief counseling, mentoring, and in-school grief support to the communities we serve. Valerie's House services overcome mental health barriers and raise community awareness about childhood grief. Our enrollment is currently at an all-time high. There are an estimated 100,000 grieving children residing in the communities we serve. All grief support services are offered at no cost to bereaved families and additional funding is necessary to keep up with the ever-growing need for child grief services.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	100,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	100,000	9%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	278,000	26%
Other	698,000	65%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	1,076,000	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.**

In lieu of state funding and to ensure the sustainability of our organization, our development team continues to identify grant and donor opportunities.

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



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Yes

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

\$10,000.00 – Loan Advance (04/21/20)
 \$108,400.00 – PPP Loan 1 (04/13/20)
 \$100,000.00 – PPP Loan 2 (02/12/21)
 \$218,400.00 – Total

The funds were spent on payroll, payroll costs, rent & utilities. All loans were forgiven and did not need to be repaid.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	A portion of the CEO's salary and a portion of the Director of Partnerships' salary will be funded to support the overseeing of programmatic delivery and quality of services provided.	25,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	A portion of our reporting software, Apricot, will be funded so that accurate and timely reporting may be generated and continuously evaluated to ensure that goals are being met and services are delivered. A portion of HIPAA compliant Zoom software will be funded to maintain continuity of services throughout the pandemic.	8,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	A portion of salaries for our two on-staff licensed mental health professionals will be funded. These positions are integral to both the intake process as well as providing individual grief support.	15,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will be used to purchase grief books and journals for each child who enrolls in Valerie's House services. Grief books for caregivers will also be purchased. Art supplies and sand tray therapy equipment will be purchased to be used during grief support groups and also as part of individual grief therapy. Funds will be used for travel to conferences for continuing education to learn best practices when working with grieving children.	47,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Valerie's House contracts with a mental health professional who networks within at-risk communities to ensure that enrollment is diverse and that services are being provided to communities with the largest gaps in service. A portion of that contract will be funded. Contracted services for grant reporting and data collection will also be supported with this funding.	5,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		100,000

12. Program Performance

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

Funding will be used to support child grief support service programming offered by Valerie's House. All programmatic elements are offered for free and include grief support groups, individual grief counseling, in-school grief support, mentoring, and financial crisis support. Our goal is to continue to meet the growing needs of the community by supporting every grieving child enrolled in Valerie's House Services while helping to reduce the stigma within our communities associated with grief.



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

Valerie's House will continue to network with local schools and children's organizations to ensure a continuous flow of referrals. Staff will facilitate grief support groups, train volunteer mentors, and assess quality of services in order to recommend improvements. On-staff grief counselors will schedule sessions with grieving children who have been identified as in-need of individual services.

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

Valerie's House will provide FREE grief support services to bereaved children and their caregivers. These services include grief support groups, mentoring, individual grief counseling, financial crisis support, and in-school support services. We also provide grief awareness training and outreach to local schools and medical facilities.

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

Valerie's House serves children ages 4-19 who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. Nearly 70% of families served meet the federal guidelines for low-income or poverty level. We expect to serve 1,200 grieving children and their caregivers in 2022.

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

We expect that 75%+ children enrolled for Valerie's House services will demonstrate progress through their grief journey within their first 6 months of receiving services. Valerie's House uses observation by mental health professionals, case notes, caregiver surveys, and self-reported surveys to measure outcomes. Apricot Software is used to compile and report data.

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?

Should Valerie's House fail to meet deliverables or performance measures, we will conduct an internal audit using an independent consultant to determine what programming and reporting improvements need to be implemented to ensure that we meet future requirements.

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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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1150

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