



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1824

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Over 30 percent of the 300,000 Florida children impacted by incarceration of parents/caregivers are 0-5 years old. Research shows that these children are acutely at-risk for anti-social behaviors, mental illness and cognitive delays stemming from exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). Since 2012, five infants of Children of Inmates (COI) clients have passed away due to accidental death. COI's Babies 'n Brains Program seeks to halt this trend by providing support services for children ages 0-5 who have an incarcerated parent, including home safety visits, administering the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Assessment, and caregiver community supports program. COI offers an innovative approach to interrupt negative patterns by collaborating with state and local agencies to rebuild families with wellness and age-appropriate learning experiences that support children, caregivers, and incarcerated parents to improve the family unit.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	59%
Matching Funds		
Federal	50,000	6%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	275,000	32%
Other	25,000	3%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	850,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	100,000	310A	No

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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Yes

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

COI received two PPP loans in 2021 totaling \$370,316. The loans were critical to allow us to keep going and to provide the ongoing door-to-door or porch-to-porch care coordination support throughout the pandemic. Most of the funds were used for staff salaries who provided basic needs supports to families. Over 118,904 lbs. of food were delivered to homes as well as personal protective equipment, and child development and education resources. Assistance was provided for housing referrals and utility supports. COI also received funding from the City of Jacksonville to provide additional COVID-19 basic needs and child development supports through door-to-door outreach.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director will dedicate 15 percent time to project management and leadership, including building collaborative partnerships, supporting DCF's efforts and collaborating with local agencies.	23,400
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 50% time for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to collaborative meetings with HHS, FDC and partnering agencies across the State is budgeted at \$11,600. Office rent for COI staff, social work interns and COI Corps Staff is budgeted at \$10,000. Office supplies are budgeted at \$2,500.	24,100
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The operational audit is budgeted at \$5,000. Liability and associated insurance is budgeted at \$10,000. An independent evaluation of program implementation and impacts is budgeted at \$10,500 and will be matched with research funds from federal and state sources.	25,500
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	\$200,000 will be reserved to hire up to three FTE social work, health advocates and/or criminal justice staff to provide family support services statewide and to conduct the science-based Babies 'N Brain curriculum in 22 FDC facilities.	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Up to \$100,000 will be reserved to support transportation costs and program supplies including healthy family meal for children and caregivers to participate in child-centered bonding visits to FDC correctional institutions, designed to foster bonds between child and incarcerated parent.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of 15 community/faith-based organizations with an intention to expand across FL. \$97,000 will be reserved to support subcontracts to partner agencies with specialized skills including child brain development, infant mental health, child safety, information technology and advocacy to support the operationalization of the child safety programming and to support outreach to rural areas.	97,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

12. Program Performance

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



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When a parent is incarcerated, infants and young children suffer from insecure attachments and bonds to their parents. This insecurity undermines children's ability to cope and grow in a healthy manner. These broken bonds have been linked to diminished cognitive abilities and inability to establish positive relationships. Over 25% of children with incarcerated parents are under 5 years of age. COI works with the caregivers to provide safety and developmental supports. The program provides critical training on brain development and parenting within the correctional facilities to guide the incarcerated parent on how to support their child in overcoming these challenges and achieve a positive developmental track.

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

Babies 'N Brains provides inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness. In the community, 300 home visits are conducted as well as child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for children ages 0-5 to measure appropriate maturation. Efforts will be made to help families establish a relationship with a primary care provider and enroll in healthcare, where possible. Over the past five years, five infants/young children of COI clients have passed away due to accidental deaths. As a result, COI staff will work to conduct home visits with 85% of households with children ages 0-5 to conduct home safety checks, provide safety equipment and assist with questions of caregivers about the child's development.

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

Inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness. 300 home visits, child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for children age 0-5 to measure appropriate maturation. Direct services to assist with developmental stages and facilitated referrals to specialist to assist with developmental delays. Home safety assessments and home safety materials to 85% of households with children ages 0-5. Advocacy services will be provided to enhance public understanding of the plight of children of incarcerated parents.

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

The target population served by this project are children, ages 0-5 year of age with incarcerated parents and their caregivers. We serve currently and formerly incarcerated parents, assisting them to establish and maintain positive relationships with their children and caregivers. We anticipate serving 500 children with these funds. This equates to approximately 200 families or incarcerated individuals. Research from Cambridge University documents that children with incarcerated parents are at twice the risk of mental illness and three times the risk of antisocial behaviors. Many are economically disadvantaged and often face homelessness. Further, many within the COI population struggle with developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities. Children with incarcerated parents are exposed to higher levels of community and direct violence.

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

The expected benefits are to interrupt intergenerational incarceration by identifying and working with children with incarcerated parents early in their development. Activities will reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences by teaching brain development and child safety precautions. Family visits will create strong bond between incarcerated parent, children and caregivers to promote healthy families. Improving parenting skills will be the focus during individual sessions, support groups and learning experiences for incarcerated parents, caregivers and children. Measures include pre-and post-surveys, and observational data using proven research tools and techniques, such as the Ages and Stages Assessment and other proven tools.

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?

\$1,000 financial consequence per child under 250 children to receive home visit and ASQ assessment. \$500 for every percentage under 85% of households with children five years old and under who do not receive a home safety assessment and supporting supplies.

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