



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2752

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc. is the State Chapter for Florida's 27 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs). We are an accredited Chapter of the National Children's Alliance. We are requesting an additional \$1.5M as Florida's Child Advocacy Centers have reported increases in services for child victims. CACs have indicated family advocacy has increased by 36% with 100% of CACs reporting increased caseloads for victim advocate services. There has been an increase in mental health needs as well. In FY 20/21 Florida provided services to 8,714 new children. In the second half of FY 20/21 the CACs reported a spike in referrals and requests for services. It was also noted that reported cases during the pandemic have also been significantly more egregious, requiring additional care and longer service engagement. One CAC stated they are seeing 200 more children on average monthly than in the past two years due to referrals from law enforcement and DCF.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	24%
Matching Funds		
Federal	256,000	4%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	4,518,240	70%
Local	0	0%
Other	159,000	2%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	6,433,240	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	4,193,240	500,000	1229	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

There is no funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



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

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	sub-awards to 27 Child Advocacy Centers	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

12. Program Performance

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

The Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) use a multidisciplinary team approach to serve child abuse victims that coordinates trauma informed services in a child centered environment. Funding will assist the CACs to improve and expand the consolidation of community, investigative, legal and social service programs necessary to deliver services to children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse, children and who witness violent crime or domestic violence, and child victims of trafficking. The goals are to protect and nurture children by reducing the number investigative interviews and reducing the trauma caused by the abuse to the child through trauma informed, evidence based therapeutic programs. This model improves collaboration between law enforcement, prosecution, treatment professionals, educators, and child protective workers to provide a more coordinated service approach to children and their families.

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

Services provided by the CACs include trauma assessments, case management, forensic and specialized interviews, medical exams, mental health therapy and victim advocacy. The CACs coordinated and comprehensive response is also guided by a shared philosophy that the combined expertise of professionals across disciplines results in a more complete understanding of case issues and better provides the help and support needed.

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

Direct services include the trauma assessments and forensic interviews, case management to include referrals to community services and at times attending court proceedings with the child, medical exams and therapeutic services. The CACs have seen that families are in greater need of services and they are remaining in services for longer periods of time as a result of the pandemic.

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



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The population served by Florida's Child Advocacy Centers are child victims of physical and sexual abuse and child trafficking victims. In FY 20/21 Florida provided services to 8,714 new children. In the second half of FY 20/21 the CACs reported a spike in referrals and requests for services. It was also noted that reported cases during the pandemic have also been significantly more egregious, requiring additional care and longer service engagement. One CAC stated they are seeing 200 more children on average monthly than in the past two years due to referrals from law enforcement and DCF. CACs have indicated family advocacy has increased by 36% with 100% of CACs reporting increased caseloads for victim advocate services.

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

Child victims and their families will receive the necessary services, including crisis intervention, mental health treatment, case management, medical exams and referrals to community agencies. The CACS provide monthly financial invoices, data reports and are monitored - historically on site monitoring; however, this year monitoring activities continued to be done virtually. The CACs also collect satisfaction surveys from families and the information is reported to the National Children's Alliance.

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?

The current contract with the Department of Legal affairs adequately addresses penalties for non compliance.

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