



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1053

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Parent Aide program is an initiative of the National Exchange Club, an evidence-based, in-home prevention services program, providing 6-12 months of services to families with children of all ages. Parent Aide will provide weekly services to 265 families/approximately 620 children in Duval, Clay, Baker, Nassau and St. Johns counties. The goal of the program is to assist parents learn the skills necessary to provide a safe, stable and nurturing environment for their children and reduce the likelihood of DCF intervention thereby keeping children out of the foster care system. We are the only evidence-based program of this type serving NE Florida's families with children of all ages. Outcomes from past years indicate that over 99% of the parents who graduate from the Parent Aide program will have no confirmed report of child abuse or neglect within 12 months of graduation, and no child has been removed by DCF whose parent completed this program over the past 6 years of state funding.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	894,960
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	894,960

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	894,960	78%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	175,000	15%
Other	81,040	7%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,151,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	796,000	315	No

9. Is future-year 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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1053

In 2024/2025, DCF allowed agencies across Florida to apply for CAPTA and CBCAP, federal funds that are usually restricted only to lead agencies. We received grant funding from both sources, however, this was a "one-time opportunity" per DCF, and we do not have other sources available. We continue to seek every funding opportunity offered at local, state and federal levels, as well as private foundations.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List 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.

12. 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 @ .40 to serve as Project Director and promote the program across the counties served, plus FICA/SS/taxes @ .0765 and Health benefits @ 350/mo.	47,260
Other Salary and Benefits	Accountant @ .25 and FICA/SS/Taxes @ .0765.	19,800
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Parent Aide Program Director @ .70 (\$56,000), one Parent Aide supervisor (\$52,000), nine Parent Aides (\$405,000), one Program Assistant (\$45,000) plus Health benefits @ 350/mo (\$46,200), performance-based bonuses (\$30,000) and FICA/SS/Taxes @ .0765 (\$42,700).	676,900
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Mileage @ .445/mile for Parent Aide staff (\$61,000), Technology/licenses (\$12,000), training/conferences (\$15,000), Program materials and curriculum supplies (\$12,000), Printing (\$1,000) and Emergency Flex Funds for Parent Aide families (\$50,000).	151,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1053

Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		894,960

13. Program Performance

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

Parent Aide will serve 265 families referred by DCF investigators, CBC prevention services case managers, public schools, and a wide variety of local social services agencies. Any family with a child under the age of 18 is eligible. Our goal is to help parents learn the skills necessary to create a safe, healthy and nurturing home environment and to deter further intervention from DCF or law enforcement, keeping families together and out of the foster care system. The program and curriculum focuses on building protective factors and parental resilience. In FY24, 71% of families enrolled had children over the age of 5 years, making them ineligible for other in-home programs, and 80% were from DCF investigators and lead agency prevention services case managers for low-to-moderate risk families who had been referred to the Abuse Registry. Public schools also refer families with young children who are chronically absent, to help parents overcome obstacles to attendance.

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

Parent Aide services will be provided to every family who voluntarily enrolls in the program. An Initial Needs Assessment (INA) is completed with each parent and a Family Plan is developed based on the unique needs of each family. The Plan includes goals developed by the parents to be completed during enrollment, and curriculum to be covered based on the INA. All services are provided in the home with weekly 60-minute visits for 3 months and bi-weekly for an additional 3 - 9 months. Pre and post-assessments measure the parents' progress on five specific constructs of parenting, and pre and post-Protective Factor Surveys are completed by parents which demonstrate the parents' improvement in ability to meet their child's needs and build resilience to parenting challenges. Throughout the enrollment period, each child is also provided age-appropriate books monthly and the need for regular school attendance is strongly encouraged. Additional referrals are made as needs are identified.

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

All parents will be provided with 18-24 hours of evidence-based curriculum, delivered in the family's home over a 6-12 month period. We may provide help with basic needs which parents often cannot afford, through referrals to Hope Florida, guidance for job seeking adults, and referrals to other local community resources as needs are identified, such as therapy or substance misuse treatment. Housing assistance and referrals are also provided for families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and we may assist with rent or utility bills if funding is available. Our goal is to help stabilize families, provide parenting guidance and keep children safely at home and out of the foster care system whenever possible. Over 99% of our parent graduates have no confirmed case of abuse or neglect within 12 months of graduation, and no child has been removed by DCF after the parent completed the program over the past six years, when state funding was first appropriated for program.

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

We will serve 265 families/approx 620 children. Referrals come from DCF and lead agency prevention case managers for children deemed at low-to-moderate risk of abuse/neglect, and who therefore do not qualify for high-risk services provided by the lead agencies. We also accept referrals for families who do not qualify for other in-home services programs funded by the state or federal government due to the age of the child. Other in-home programs (Healthy Families, Healthy Start, Nurse to Family Partnership) focus on 0-3 years; 71% of our families in FY24 had children over age 5 years. We also accept referrals from the public schools for families with children under 12 who are chronically absent, to help parents overcome obstacles to the child's school attendance.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1053

Children will remain safe and healthy in their own home with parents who have the skills and ability to provide a safe and nurturing environment, thereby preventing intervention by DCF and possible out-of-home placement for the children. Parent Aide is a nationally accredited program of the National Exchange Club and has been deemed as a Promising program of High Relevance for Child Welfare by the CEB Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (<https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/exchange-parent-aide/>). The Parent Aide goals are: Assure Child Safety, Improve Parenting Skills, Improve Problem Solving Skills and Enhance Social Supports. Using the Nurturing Parenting Program pre and post AAPI assessments, and Protective Factor Surveys, parents will show an improvement in at least two parenting constructs (AAPI) and Protective and Resiliency factors.

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 in the contract?

With each DCF contract, we could incur a possible financial penalty for any performance measure we do not meet. All performance measures and deliverables are reported monthly to DCF, and a 'Return on Investment' form is completed quarterly and annually. Parent Aide consistently costs just under \$1,600 per child annually, as opposed to the \$105,131 per child cost estimated in the 'Child and Family Services Plan 2020-2024' issued by DCF in their report to the federal government.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply



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a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. **First Name** **Last Name**

b. **Organization**

c. **E-mail Address**

d. **Phone Number** **Ext.**

18. 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** **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name**

b. **Firm Name**

c. **E-mail Address**

d. **Phone Number**

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.