



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1192

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

For some time now, Florida has had a youth mental health crisis and concurrent critical shortage of child mental health professionals. Since 1999, the Center for Child Counseling (CFCC) has been a community nonprofit at the forefront of these issues, fighting the horrible impacts of trauma, abuse, and violence inflicted on children. Last year, CFCC served over 7500 disadvantaged children and families in Palm Beach County alone, partnering with public and private local stakeholders, yet referrals to CFCC have continued to increase. In 2023, CFCC received a state appropriation to expand its own capacity and eliminate the waitlist of 500-1000 families waiting for services from CFCC. Now, if funded, this 2025 appropriation (with federal and local government matching funds) will allow CFCC to contribute to the pipeline of qualified child mental health professionals across Florida by expanding CFCC's capacity to train hundreds of therapists (new and existing) for other providers statewide.

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

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes  No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>400,000</b>

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)	400,000	30%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	576,416	44%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	336,000	26%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,312,416</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No  Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**  No  Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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



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### 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)?

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
<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</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Supports hiring in-person staff (clinical supervisors, qualified supervisors, and program specialists) to monitor, implement, and supervise the training of new bachelor and master's level mental health professionals.	348,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Supports development and implementation of web-based continuing education and other clinical workshops and training for bachelor and master's level mental health professionals.	52,000
<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>400,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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For some time now, Florida has had a youth mental health crisis and concurrent critical shortage of child mental health professionals. The data is alarming: 47.4% of Florida middle/high school students have reported they felt depressed on most days; and 12.3% had at least one major depressive episode during the last 12 months, but of those, 61.8% did not receive ANY mental health services. Meanwhile, in 2023, the ratio of clients to mental health professionals in Florida was a totally unacceptable 550/1. This is an urgent and immediate need statewide. Funds will be used to provide in-field and web-based training for 750+ qualified mental health practitioners and program specialists annually to contribute to the statewide pipeline of skilled master and bachelor's level behavioral health professionals, especially with respect to the availability of services for disadvantaged and foster care children.

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

New bachelor level and master's level behavioral health professionals will participate in the in-person and web-based training programs, curriculum, and supervision. CFCC utilizes an innovative training approach, which provides a combination of site-based and web-based training to CFCC student interns and new clinical staff. Phase 1 of the curriculum promotes the integration of theory and practice among staff and situates their perspective within the context of CFCC's client populations. Phase 2 focuses on honing the skills of more experienced therapists as they grow as experts in their field.

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

Ultimately, CFCC expects the program to contribute to the statewide pipeline of available and well-trained bachelor and master's level youth mental health professionals, who are then able to serve thousands of children in need across Florida, many of whom have been victimized by adverse childhood experiences like trauma, abuse, and violence. The program will provide in person (and web-based) training and supervision for hundreds of new therapists and student interns, which will, in turn, increase the statewide workforce pipeline of competent and skilled behavioral health professionals. Thousands of children in need will see positive mental health outcomes.

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

Thousands of children and families across Florida will be served and benefited by this project. The project will also serve and benefit hundreds of incoming and existing professionals in the behavioral health field. CFCC has a long history working in the community (since 1999) and is well supported, with numerous letters of recommendation from local elected officials and community organizations/partners on both sides of the partisan divide. CFCC is also currently partnering (including funding) with Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach County School District to provide urgently needed mental health services and counseling to children and families who experienced trauma. This project will export that capacity across Florida by providing in-person and web-based training to 750+ new mental health professionals annually.

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

The mental health and resilience of our children is vital for Florida's future. With an estimated 1 in 4 children in Florida experiencing an adverse mental health issue, we must re-imagine our approach to care and greatly expand the pipeline of qualified professionals to provide services. CFCC's public health framework has, for years, been focused on building caregiver and community capacity to support children's mental health. CFCC's Data Dashboard will be used to track all training outcomes, at the child, family, staff, and community levels. Through a collaboration and data sharing agreement with Florida State University, this model will be analyzed, with publication of results to inform practice in other communities.

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables without notification of good reasoning, will result in financial penalties as described in contract.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?  No

**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)



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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

**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



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- 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.*