



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1272

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Center will house Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc., dba Youth and Family Advocates (YFA) child welfare program, community-based care lead agency (CBC) staff and their subcontracted diversion provider, the Department of Children and Families Child Protective Investigation services, respite beds, and other non-profit agencies serving children and families in the local community. Each of these agencies have provided a letter of support for this project. The purpose of the Center is to have services for children and families under one roof, providing the opportunity to collaborate and centralize services and obtain optimal outcomes for families. This centralization of services will also allow for the stabilization and controlling of lease expenses in addition to the reduction of service disruptions, which often occurs due to rising lease expenses and leases not being renewed due to the disruptive behavior of clients served.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	750,000
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	10%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	750,000	10%
Other	5,987,000	80%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	7,487,000	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		
2024-25		250,000	332A	No

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

Funding generated through leases with the tenants 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.

Youth and Family Advocates will directly receive any fixed capital outlay funding and are the sole owners of the property and facility being proposed.

12. 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		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Planning, design, engineering, and construction of a 30,000 to 35,000 square foot Center to be utilized by child welfare agencies, the Department of Children and Families Child Protective Investigation Services, and other non-profits serving children and families.	750,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Funds will be used to build The Center for Children and Families, which will serve as a family-centered community resource to support families involved in the child welfare system. Through coordinated services, the Center aims to strengthen families, promote child safety, and reduce the time children spend in foster care. The Center will provide a family-centered hub, co-location of child welfare programs to include YFA case management and adoption services, Florida DCF Child Protective Services, Diversion providers, and other non-profit agencies to increase communication and service coordination, streamline access to services, reduce permanency delays, and provision of services to protect children and strengthen families. This centralization of services will also allow for the stabilization and controlling of lease expenses in addition to the reduction of service disruptions, which often occurs due to rising lease expenses and leases not being renewed due to the disruptive behavior.

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

The Center will house and co-locate the full continuum of Child Welfare Programs in Pasco County. Co-location and collaboration between providers will result in earlier family engagement, meaningful visitation, service referral and prompt linkages to provide child safety and family strengthening. Co-location will also reduce current expenditures on leases by DCF, the Community Based Care Lead Agency, YFA, Diversion providers and those funds can be reinvested in services for children and families and the non-profit programs. YFA has received letters of support of each of the agencies identified above.

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

The Center will serve as Community Hub for family centered child welfare services; provide a central location to ensure families have access to meaningful visits with their children, access to case plan services, and streamline communication with case workers and service providers; co-locate YFA's case management, adoptions, and visitation program; Department of Children and Families Child Protective Investigation Division; the Community Based Care Lead Agency; Prevention and Diversion services; and other non-profit service providers to improve coordination of services; ease the burden for families when accessing services in the community by having providers at one location; support parent-child connections to strengthen families and ensure that children safely exit foster care as soon as possible; create a community safety net for child safety and well-being to sustain families after child welfare services are no longer needed; reduce the cost of multiple leases.

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

The Center will serve children and families involved in the child welfare system in Pasco County. It is anticipated based on the current number of families served, that more than 800 children and their families will be served annually.

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

The Center will house and co-locate the full continuum of Child Welfare Programs in Pasco County. Co-location and collaboration between providers will result in earlier family engagement, service referral and deployment intended to provide child safety and family strengthening. Co-location will also reduce current expenditures on leases by DCF, Community Based Care lead agencies, YFA, Diversion providers and those funds can be reinvested in services for children and families and the non-profit programs. The methodology will be the percentage of families diverted from the dependency system at the time of service delivery and within 6 months of case closure. Also, the percentage of children in the dependency system who achieve permanency within 12 months of removal.

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 the deliverables or performance measures would result in a reduction of approved appropriations.

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)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)



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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	Mark	Last Name	Wickham
b. Organization	Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc., dba Youth and Family Advocates		
c. E-mail Address	mwickham@yfainc.org		
d. Phone Number	(585)314-5830	Ext.	

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization	Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc, dba Youth and Family Advocates
b. Municipality and County	Pasco
c. Organization Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.