



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1468

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

With over 22,000 children in the foster care system in Florida, there is a very real and urgent need to recruit safe, stable foster families and foster family support volunteers (retention) to help these children in our community thrive. Fostering Our Future (FOF) is a community-based, faith-led partnership working with local churches to recruit and train foster families, provide annual parenting and family seminars, and host ministry events to encourage and better equip foster families to support the vulnerable children they care for. State funding will allow Fostering Our Future to train foster families, engage community partners, train local social services agencies on a collaborative case management system, and recruit case managers to respond when a family is in crisis, with the goal of promoting collaboration across service agencies and sectors to move 100 families from crisis to stability.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
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	69%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	336,000	31%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,086,000	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	750,000	315	

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.



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Fostering Our Future will leverage state funding through churches, foundations, corporations, and individuals and will continue to fund at least one-third of its operating costs from local communities.

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
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	Program management and oversight; expert foster family trainers; legal advocacy to train foster families, engage community partners, engage local social services agencies on a collaborative case management system, and recruit case managers to respond when a family is in crisis (total 7 employees).	500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program related expenses, including coalition building, compliance, curriculum delivery, printing, travel, rent, etc.	250,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance



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

Fostering Our Future at Grace Landing (FOF) is a community-based, faith-led partnership working to solve Florida's foster care crisis by increasing the number of high-quality foster families and by working with families in crisis to safely reduce the number of children who enter foster care. FOF's goal is to keep families together and their children out of the foster care system whenever safely possible.

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

State funding will allow Fostering Our Future to train foster families, engage community partners, train local family support agencies on a collaborative case management system, and recruit case managers to respond when a family is in crisis, with the goal of promoting collaboration across service agencies and sectors to move 100 families from crisis to stability. Providing holistic, real-time case coordination and management will expand foster care family capacity and leverage a shared information and measurement platform across participating agencies and organizations to ensure that families are provided holistic, real-time care coordination needed to stabilize the child.

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

See above.

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

Foster children and foster families. 200-400 individuals are expected to be served by the program.

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

The program moves children to permanency faster, whether to family members, their parents, or adoption. The program has a 90% foster parent retention rate with zero cases of substantiated child maltreatment. In FY 2024 FOF served 149 families and 250 children in foster care, prevented 49 children from entering foster care, and had 36 new volunteers complete volunteer training of which 9 families went on to complete foster care pre-licensing and became licensed foster families. Through prevention and reunification, the program will reduce incarceration and the need for foster care and strengthen families by moving them from crisis to thriving without increasing the fixed costs to the state. Progress is measured through longitudinal study of caregivers and their children.

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?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met will be returned to the state.

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)

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



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- 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
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)



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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.