



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1580

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Kinship Care Stabilization efforts aims to divert children from foster homes and group homes, reducing their risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system. This program also provides funding for life-skill development and mentorship to prevent delinquency involvement in children in foster care. In collaboration with Citrus, our local Community-Based Care provider, Voices For Children Foundation serves as a vital safety net for families and youth, ensuring support in situations where no other resources are available.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,000,000</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)	1,000,000	66%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	250,000	17%
Other	250,000	17%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

Voices received funding from Miami-Dade County and through private foundation grants and private donations.



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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	Children's Life-skill Specialists, Foster Care Navigators	600,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Furniture (cribs, twin beds, dressers), Basic Needs (diapers, wipes, shampoo, soap, pillows, uniforms) Utilities, Rental Assistance, life-skill programing, trainings, and other activities to help divert children in foster care from becoming a cross-over youth i.e. dependent youth involved in the juvenile justice system	400,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<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>1,000,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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Our program focuses on diverting children in foster care from becoming crossover youth involved in both the foster care and juvenile justice systems. By stabilizing kinship caregivers—whether relatives or non-relatives—at the time of placement, we ensure these homes remain viable long-term options, preventing children from entering group or foster homes and helping to keep siblings together. This stability reduces the likelihood of children becoming involved in crime. Additionally, our Life Skills Coordinators work with youth on strength-based, pro-social activities to equip them with the tools and skills needed to avoid becoming a statistic and build a positive future.

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

Foster Care Navigators and Life Skills Coordinators play a critical role in prevention and intervention efforts to support children in foster care and divert them from involvement in the juvenile justice system. Foster Care Navigators collaborate with kinship caregivers who accept placement of a child to assess their needs and provide essential support, including assistance with furniture, basic necessities, housing, and other resources that help stabilize the placement and prevent disruptions. Life Skills Coordinators focus on mentoring youth through strength-based, pro-social activities and training designed to build resilience, develop life skills, and foster positive decision-making. Together, these roles create a comprehensive support system by connecting caregivers to additional resources and providing targeted interventions that promote long-term stability and prevent justice system involvement.

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

Foster Care Navigators and Life Skills Coordinators will provide comprehensive direct services to promote stability and prevent justice system involvement for children in foster care. Foster Care Navigators will conduct a thorough needs assessment to develop a tailored plan for each family, ensuring they have access to wrap-around services, service connections, and referrals for resources such as housing assistance, basic necessities, and other stabilization supports. Life Skills Coordinators will work one-on-one with youth to create individualized normalcy plans, engaging them in strength-based, pro-social activities and providing targeted interventions to build life skills and resilience. These plans are designed to promote engagement, support positive decision-making, and divert youth from involvement in the juvenile justice system, creating a foundation for long-term success.

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

Children in foster care, relative and non-relatives who are caring for children who come into foster care, and youth who are nearing their 18th birthday and set to age out of foster care.

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

The goal of this project is to reduce the number of foster youth involved in the juvenile justice system by stabilizing kinship placements, providing tailored support, and engaging youth in strength-based, pro-social activities. Outcomes will be measured by tracking arrests or justice system involvement, conducting needs assessments to connect families and youth with resources, and monitoring academic performance, school attendance, and extracurricular involvement. Progress will also be evaluated through individualized normalcy plans and regular reviews to ensure stability, engagement, and positive development.

**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?**

We will conduct quarterly reviews to ensure a reduction of juvenile justice involvement of children placed with kinship caregivers i.e. relative and non-relative caregivers who are willing to take placement of a child who is removed due to abuse abandonment and neglect. Children in our targeted cohort of 30 will also be reviewed for DJJ involvement. If we see that there is no significant decrease in DJJ involvement we will sunset the project and return the unspent funding.

**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**  **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)



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- 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.*