



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1766

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

Incarceration of parents/caregivers impacts 300,000 FL children. Research demonstrates that these children engage in anti-social behaviors and suffer mental illness at higher levels, putting them on the path toward incarceration themselves. COI, Inc. is an innovative approach to interrupt that pattern by collaborating with FDC to rebuild families with wellness, literacy, civic and STEM learning experiences that support both children and their incarcerated parent's improvements as a family unit. The program started in South Florida and has expanded to most of the metropolitan areas, serving over 2,700 families with over 6,200 children to date. COI, Inc. worked with a warden to design special child-focused visitation focused on reassuring the children about their parent's safety, improving parenting and addressing behavioral issues. Visits are quarterly and to date, COI, Inc. has coordinated over 615 child-focused visits to 22 Florida correctional facilities.

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	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>750,000</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)	750,000	42%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	897,000	51%
Other	120,000	7%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,767,000</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		
2024-25	0	350,000	1589	Yes

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.**



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In lieu of state funding, we would develop a comprehensive fund development plan to include RFP applications, fundraising events and an individual, corporate and foundational donor plan to diversify COI's funding platform.

## 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	Executive Director and Project Head will dedicate 10 percent time to project management and leadership, including building collaborative partnerships, supporting FDC's volunteer engagement efforts and integrating efforts with FDC's reentry efforts and other services.	17,500
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 20% time for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	17,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to collaborative meetings with FDC and partnering agencies across the State is budgeted at \$10,000. Office rent for COI staff, social work interns and COI Corps Staff is budgeted at \$10,000. Office supplies are budgeted at \$2,500.	22,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The operational audit is budgeted at \$2,500. Liability and associated insurance is budgeted at \$5,000. An independent evaluation of program implementation and impacts is budgeted at \$10,000 and will be matched with research funds from Federal and State sources.	17,500
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	\$255,000 will be reserved to hire up to four FTE social work and/or criminal justice staff to support family outreach across the Florida and work with incarcerated parents within FDC system. \$25,000 will be reserved to support COI Corps college intern stipends and reemployment support. (Salaries match with local funding)	225,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$100,000 will be reserved to support wellness, literacy, civics and STEM learning experiences for 4000 child/ family bonding experience. (\$25 per experience) \$200.00 will be reserved to support transportation costs (approximately 60 charter buses) for children (and appropriate caregivers) to participate in the child focused bonding visitation and special child focused developmental events	300,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of community/faith-based organizations with an intention to expand across FL. \$150,000 will be reserved to support subcontracts to partner agencies with specialized skills including mental health, physical health, literacy, child brain development, STEM, civics, information technology and advocacy to support the operationalization of the enhanced learning experiences and to support outreach to rural areas.	150,000
<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>750,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

When a parent is incarcerated, children are uncertain about the safety of their parent and this insecurity undermines children's ability to cope and to grow in a healthy manner. The result for young children is insecure attachments and bonds. These broken bonds have been linked to poorer peer relationships and diminished cognitive abilities. Over half, 58%, of children with incarcerated parents are under 10 years of age. School-aged children and teenagers face problems such as poor academic performance, peer relationship issues and classroom behavior problems, often resulting in suspension and high drop-out rates. The Children of Inmates, Inc. Family Strengthening and Reuniting program addresses these challenges by reconnecting children with their incarcerated parent and working to sustain that connection. Follow-up and support services are offered to help the child overcome the challenges and achieve a positive developmental track.

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

In an effort to continue to support families impacted by parental incarceration, COI resumed bonding visits to support family strengthening in FL correctional facilities but only for Miami Dade and Palm Beach families. In the 2024, COI conducted 34 bonding visits, resuming the process of connecting over 200 families across the state. In 2025, COI seeks to conduct 60 bonding visits, again with residential limitations associated with local funding sources. COI will also continue to work with incarcerated individuals and FDC to identify new families.

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

Direct services to be provided will include transportation, trauma informed support and activities to support families during the bonding visits. For participating "fragile families" wrap-around care coordination, including facilitated referrals to appropriate service providers to meet basic needs including addressing health, homelessness, disabilities, substance abuse and educational needs, child development assessments, child therapy and child development activities and child safety protection gear will be provided. COI also facilitate pro-social community and hobby events for the families.

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

The target population served by this project are children with incarcerated parents and their caregivers. COI serves children, ages 0-21 throughout Florida. We also serve currently and formerly incarcerated parents, assisting them to rebuild relationships with their children and caregivers. We anticipate serving 1000 children with these funds. This equates to approximately 600 families or incarcerated individuals. Research from Cambridge University documents that children with incarcerated parents are at twice the risk of mental illness and three times the risk of antisocial behaviors. Many are economically disadvantaged and often face homelessness. Further, many within the COI population struggle with developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities. Children with incarcerated parents are exposed to higher levels of community and direct violence.

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



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The expected benefits are to interrupt intergeneration incarceration by identifying, working with and supporting children with incarcerated parent. Working with "fragile families", activities will focus on reducing physical, verbal aggression and anti-social behaviors in children with incarcerated parents who exhibit these behaviors. Family visits create strong bond between incarcerated parent, children and caregivers and promote family support for the incarcerated parent upon returning to community. Activities focus on increasing knowledge of civic responsibilities as a platform to connect the children to their parent/caregiver. COI also encourages one-on-one direct time between the child and incarcerated parent to bond without interruptions from caregivers. During this bonding time, COI staff monitor the interactions for appropriateness but do not intrude into the bonding experience directly. One-on-one and family contact allows the child to experience parental engagement.

**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?**

Financial Consequences of \$1,250.00 per occurrence if at least eighteen (18) bonding programs are not completed-annually. Financial Consequences in the amount of \$800.00 for each child less than five hundred (500) unique children. Financial Consequences of \$1000 if at least 75 unique children of "fragile families" are not provided enhanced services.

**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.*