



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1949

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

4. Project/Program Description

In FY 2021-2022, 1,739 youths were arrested in Miami-Dade, continuing a long-term decline. A University of Miami and Miami-Dade Economic Advisory Trust study found youth arrests dropped 76% from 2010 (6,986) to 2022 (1,654), though there was a slight increase from 2021 to 2022. Additionally, the percentage of arrested youth residing in Miami-Dade declined from 94% in 2010 to 90% in 2022.

To further reduce youth arrests, Regis House, Inc. proposes expanding its diversion program, integrating mental health counseling and family therapy to address underlying behavioral issues in justice-involved youth. This initiative will provide evidence-based services to help youth reintegrate into their communities.

Research shows family-based therapy diversion programs reduce rearrest rates to 4%, compared to 17% overall, demonstrating their effectiveness in preventing reoffending and strengthening communities.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	45%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	283,000	51%
Other	25,000	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	558,000	100%

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.**



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Local and county government funding through partnership with Miami-Dade County, Thriving Minds, and The Children's Trust to support community initiatives and services.

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	Funding will support the salary and benefits of the Executive Director / Project Lead, responsible for overseeing the implementation, administration, and compliance of the program. This individual will manage program operations, coordinate with state and local agencies, supervise program staff, and ensure financial accountability.	34,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Funding will support the salary and benefits of an administrative personnel responsible for program coordination and operational support. This individual will assist with scheduling, documentation, compliance tracking, and reporting, ensuring the program runs efficiently and adheres to all regulatory requirements.	20,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will support rent, utilities, and office equipment to ensure efficient operations and maintain essential infrastructure. Rent and utilities will provide a stable location for administration, service coordination, and client interactions, while office equipment will support data management, record-keeping, and communication.	15,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funding will support financial management, compliance, and risk mitigation. Accounting ensures proper fund allocation and oversight, audits maintain regulatory adherence, and malpractice insurance protects clinical staff and service continuity. These services are essential for stability and sustainability.	19,000
Operational Costs		



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Salary and Benefits	Funding will support key personnel, including a Clinical Director for oversight and compliance, a Program Coordinator for operations and records management, and Mental Health Counselors for therapy and recidivism reduction. These roles are essential for service expansion and improved client outcomes.	139,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will support operational needs, including equipment, supplies, and other expenses. This may cover technology, office supplies, clinical tools, and materials for counseling, outreach, and educational resources.	9,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funding will support compliance, efficiency, and quality assurance. MF Healthcare Solutions will manage credentialing and regulatory requirements, while Quality Assurance Guidance ensures adherence to best practices. A secure Electronic Medical Records system will support data management, documentation, and service continuity.	13,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

13. Program Performance

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

Funding this program allows us to reinforce protective factors for high-risk youth and their family/household members, addressing the community's needs to reduce recidivism and significantly increase prosocial behaviors. Over 154,000 MDC residents are uninsured (U.S. Census), and many residents are underinsured, making access to mental health services challenging. Funding this program is a worthwhile investment for Miami-Dade County, as it helps reduce the higher cost of crime recidivism.

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

The Adolescent & Families Outpatient Program (AFOP) aims to prevent crime and reduce recidivism through timely interventions for high-risk youth and their families. It teaches conflict resolution and other protective factors to promote prosocial behaviors, addressing issues like trauma, poverty, peer influence, and mental health, including substance abuse. The program focuses on reinforcing positive behaviors, teaching communication and problem-solving skills, addressing the root causes of anti-social behavior, educating on substance abuse, improving court compliance, and helping youth with criminal histories become contributing members of society.

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

The year-round program, offered at two Miami-Dade County locations, provides a combination of in-person and Telehealth adolescent counseling, individual and family therapy, and parenting sessions by licensed professionals and supervised graduate interns. Referred youth and families undergo a Comprehensive Biopsychosocial Assessment, with adolescents attending at least 12 therapy sessions and undergoing substance testing. Guardians participate in parenting and family sessions, and a personalized treatment plan is updated every four weeks. Progress reports are regularly shared with Juvenile Probation Officers.

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

The program serves adolescents arrested or receiving civil citations and mandated to complete a mental health counseling program, primarily from low-income, high-crime areas. Most offenses include aggravated assault, burglary, auto theft, and firearm possession, with 90% of participants from minority groups. The program aims to enroll 180 adolescents annually, providing group, individual, and family counseling based on a biopsychosocial assessment. Weekly group sessions for adolescents and parenting sessions for guardians are offered. The program has a 15-year partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Miami-Dade Juvenile Services.

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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Participation in the Program aims to enhance resilience in individuals and families, reducing rearrest rates and the need for costly services, with secure youth confinement averaging \$588 per day. Each adolescent is assigned a lead counselor who communicates progress monthly to the Juvenile Probation Officer or Assessment Counselor, with less than 10% of participants expected to be unsuccessfully discharged due to rearrest. The Program anticipates a 70% successful discharge rate and a 90% satisfaction rate from adolescents. Enrollment lasts a minimum of three months, with an average of 45 participants in the Program at any given time.

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?

In addition to standard penalties, the contracting agency may consider implementing specific penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures. These could include financial penalties, such as reducing or withholding future funding allocations, requiring the program to repay a portion of the funds received, or mandating corrective action plans with strict timelines to address performance issues. Additionally, the agency may consider increasing oversight and monitoring of the program to ensure compliance with contractual obligations and performance standards.

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

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):



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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.