



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2197

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

4. Project/Program Description

Caring and Secure Transport has trained transportation professionals who mentor, are compassionate, deescalate, and bring safety to every situation. "At Risk" foster kids have experienced traumatic events and unstable living conditions, which can result in severe mental health challenges and emotional instability. At risk foster kids frequently resist transportation, exacerbating their willingness to work with childcare professionals. Our solution is the implementation of Therapeutic Secure Transportation, staffed by CIT trained professionals, designed exclusively for the unique needs of agitated foster children in need of mental health services and emotional support. Caring and Secure Transport has a proven track record of working with the most uncooperative kids in the State of Florida, bringing peace during stressful transportation challenges. Through consent of legal guardians, as well as strict following of law enforcement procedure, we can physically enforce the transport.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,500,000	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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None.

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	Dedicated staff to coordinate and execute transportation services.	150,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries for transportation coordinators, drivers, and any support staff involved in the program. Ongoing training and development programs for transportation staff will be funded to keep them updated on best practices and safety protocols. Employee benefits, including health insurance, dental insurance, retirement contributions, and other perks, will be provided to transportation staff.	250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Some funds will be allocated to cover administrative costs associated with managing the transportation program, including office space, utilities, and administrative staff salaries. A portion of the budget may be allocated for unexpected emergencies or contingencies, such as vehicle breakdowns or unexpected medical needs of foster children during transportation.	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Transportation staff and drivers will undergo thorough background checks and screening to ensure their suitability to work with vulnerable children. Ongoing training and development programs for staff to keep them updated on best practices and safety protocols. Funds to cover auditing and compliance-related expenses to ensure the program adheres to all relevant regulations and standards.	50,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Hiring and training additional driving staff. Employee benefits, including health insurance, dental insurance, retirement contributions, and other perks, will be provided to transportation staff.	550,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	If new vehicles are needed for the transportation program, funds may be allocated for the purchase or lease of appropriate vehicles. Communication systems (e.g., two-way radios) and tracking systems (e.g., GPS) for vehicles. Safety equipment and supplies such as child safety seats, seat belts, first aid kits, and any necessary vehicle modifications to accommodate special needs children.	250,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Foster child transportation staff must undergo training and certification to ensure they can safely transport children. Training programs, materials, and certification fees.	100,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will be dedicated to ensuring that "at risk" foster children, particularly those in crisis and resistant to attending school or treatment, receive essential support and guidance to ensure these children safely and securely reach their designated destination. Our transportation staff will implement case management plans and providing mentoring. Foster children often experience disruptions in their lives due to placement changes. Therapeutic Secure Transport helps maintain a sense of stability by ensuring they will continue attending school, family therapy, and support programs. The goal is to reduce traumatic experiences that foster children may face during transition and transportation, prevent elopement while the vehicle is moving, and helping them heal and thrive. By ensuring they attend school regularly and without interruptions, these funds support their academic success and long-term prospects.

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

To fulfill the intended purpose of these funds, our drivers will offer life experience-based guidance within secure vehicles, fostering an atmosphere of peace and support for the children. Coordinate all transport services from pick up to drop off. Hiring and training qualified and certified drivers who meet the CST Therapeutic Secure Transport standard for foster children. Ensuring that transportation services are reliable and on time, so foster children can attend school, court hearings, court ordered family therapy, support programs, and visitations without unnecessary delays. Using tracking systems, custom therapeutic partitions, cameras facing in and outside the vehicle monitor the location and status of transportation vehicles during trips, providing additional layers of security. Training transportation staff to handle crisis situations, including de-escalation techniques and communication with children experiencing emotional distress or with mental disorders.

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

The appropriation project will directly provide essential services to "At Risk" foster children by addressing the current budgetary shortfall in case worker funding as well as lack of healthy male influence, particularly in the area of safe transportation for children. The project ensures that at risk foster children have Therapeutic Secure Transportation to school/support programs of which the at risk foster kids may not want to attend. At risk foster children may need to attend court hearings related to their custody and placement. The project ensures their timely and safe transportation to these legal proceedings. The project facilitates visits with their biological families by providing secure transportation to and from visitation locations. The project's emphasis on safety and security aims to protect foster children from potential harm or risks during transportation, ensuring their physical and emotional well-being.

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

There are over 24,000 adolescents in the Florida Foster care system. However, of the 24,000 adolescents in foster care, only 1983 of them are "At Risk" as defined by Florida DCF. Caring and Secure Transport would expect to be able to serve nearly all of the at risk foster children identified by the CBC's as requiring special transportation services. Foster families and caregivers benefit indirectly from the project as it ensures that they have the means to transport foster children safely. This support can lead to increased recruitment and retention of foster caregivers. Close collaboration with child welfare agencies ensures that transportation services align with the overall goals of the foster care system and meet the specific needs of each child.

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



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be measured?

Lives saved. Ever so often at risk foster kids will jump out of vehicles while the car is moving and they get seriously injured. We believe that this initiative aligns with the State of Florida’s commitment to enhancing transportation services and caring for foster children struggling with mental health. By providing specialized Therapeutic Secure Transport for foster children facing mental health and emotional challenges, we can make a significant impact on their lives and future prospects. This will be measured by the success of getting foster children safely to school and treatment who currently are not attending due to resisting transportation attempts. Additionally, we have a proven track record of safely working with children and successfully fostering a sense of respect and honor towards authority figures among them through faith 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?

Saving lives is the goal

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
- 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.