



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2584

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

JFCS will have the capacity to provide outpatient services such as mental health and substance abuse counseling and psychiatric services, to youth and adults involved in/at-risk of being involved in the Child Welfare system in Alachua, Baker, Bradford and Union Counties. Services will help at-risk families (with little to no access to limited community resources) strengthen healthy family functioning, keeping children and families safe, secure and thriving, physically, socially and emotionally. Funding will help subsidize sliding fee scale counseling and psychiatric services to lower income uninsured individuals in the community who do not have access to timely behavioral health services. Funding will also help remove barriers to access, by providing resources such as, but not limited to, transportation assistance to/from sessions and equipment/tablets for telehealth services.

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	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

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)	350,000	85%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	62,500	15%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	412,500	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		
2024-25		450,000	377	No

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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We do not have access to specific funds to support activities in this request. Although Medicaid pays for some services, it will not fund staff positions. Though children in care have Medicaid, there are not enough providers in the counties, wait lists are long and most therapists do not go in the home. Without accessible public transportation (none in Baker County and inconsistent in others), parents can't get to services. Children linger in care, not reunified with their parents.

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	Administrative support for the program	31,818
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Three therapists to provide outpatient mental health counseling and assessment, outpatient substance abuse treatment and parenting education. Additional therapist counseling hours to meet demand and provide oversight of program and additional psychiatric nursing staff hours to provide psychiatric care to clients. Total represents salaries, payroll taxes and benefits.	282,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds for direct client assistance to remove barriers to services, office supplies, cell phone and travel - mileage.	36,182
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	350,000
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13. Program Performance

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

JFCS will have expanded capacity to provide outpatient mental health and substance abuse counseling, as well as psychiatric services, to lower-income children, teens and adults in Baker, Bradford, Union and Alachua Counties. JFCS currently operates a child welfare case management program in these counties. Services will help at-risk families involved in or at-risk of becoming involved in the Child Welfare system strengthen healthy functioning, helping children and families achieve safety and permanency. Funds will ensure that JFCS can provide high-quality counseling services to the community and remove barriers to access to critical mental health, substance abuse and psychiatric services for at-risk uninsured individuals.

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

Licensed and license-eligible therapists will provide outpatient mental health counseling services to children, teens and adults, as well as outpatient substance abuse services to teens and adults. We plan to train therapists to provide parenting education as well. Funding will help subsidize sliding fee-scale services, provide additional program oversight, psychiatric evaluation and medication management services and help remove barriers to access for at-risk individuals. To remove barriers to access, the majority of services will be provided in the home. Therapists will work hand in hand with child welfare case managers to assess family progress and shape case plans, providing critical guidance and feedback to the team of professionals involved.

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

Clients will receive a bio-psychosocial evaluation, treatment plan, counseling sessions and discharge planning. Sessions will typically be weekly, for up to 4 months. Clients may also receive psychiatric evaluation and medication management services, as well as parenting education using a nurturing parenting or other evidence-based curriculum. Additional support to access services may include transportation assistance to/from sessions and/or necessary equipment/tablets for telehealth sessions.

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

JFCS (under contract with the lead agency, Partnership for Strong Families) provides Child Welfare Case Management services in Baker, Bradford, Union and Alachua Counties. The target population for this project is children, teens and adults engaged in services within the JFCS Child Welfare Case Management program. Clients are either involved in the Dependency Court system or at-risk of becoming involved, and in need of outpatient mental health, outpatient substance abuse and/or psychiatric/med management services. Though children in care have Medicaid, there is a severe lack of providers in these counties, challenged with expansive rural areas and a lack of public transportation. Parents can't get to services. With a lack of in-home providers and long wait lists, cases are sometimes lingering for years, with children languishing in foster care, unable to be reunited with their families. We expect to serve approximately 180 clients with legislative funds.

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

Families are operating in crisis mode, and need accessible, timely, affordable mental health care to cope with chronic stress, trauma and fractured family relationships. Accessible mental health and substance abuse counseling is imperative. We will strive to hire a therapist with expertise in working with dual-diagnosed clients - substance use is an issue in roughly 80% of child welfare cases. Providing in-home services along with hands-on parenting education will strengthen parent engagement and improve outcomes for children. We expect 80% of clients will reduce their disruptive symptoms as measured by discharge summaries and/or progress note review. We also expect that 80% of dual-diagnosis clients with co-existing mental health and substance abuse issues will reduce or eliminate their dependency on illegal substances upon exiting the program. We will enter assessment and service plan data into our EHR system, pulling evaluative reports regularly.

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?



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JFCS will respond to any and all corrective action items noted. The Director of Grants & Compliance and COO will work closely with the Director and Associate Director of Clinical Services to ensure that the Agency abides by all contractual, regulatory and accreditation requirements in the provision of 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

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.



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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.