



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2316

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. Children's Advocacy Center of Hernando County (CAC) coordinates the multidisciplinary investigative process of child abuse cases with DCF, law enforcement and the child protection team. It is a child-friendly facility that responds to children who are child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, threatened harm, drug-endangerment, mental injury, neglect, and witnesses of domestic violence. Additionally, the CAC has a trauma treatment program for child victims of sexual abuse. Last year the CAC served more than 867 children and families, of which 301 were children in trauma therapy. Over the last two years, the CAC had to rent additional satellite office space causing services to be provided at multiple locations because the 45 year old main building is no longer big enough to meet the needs of the child victims that we serve. It is best practice to provide all the services under one building, in one location.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,500,000	64%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	1,000,000	26%
Local	0	0%
Other	400,000	10%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,900,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	1,000,000	1906	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** No

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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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

While Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. did receive COVID funds, they were designated for specific programs. The CAC DID NOT receive any federal assistance related to the pandemic. Programs that received federal assistance in 2021 and/or 2022: Head Start (\$1,723,489) Senior Services (\$585,793); CSBG (\$863,241). All federal assistance was restricted for direct program services.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

12. 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.

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. will be the primary owner. The Children's Advocacy Center of Hernando County is a program of Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

13. 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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds will be used to construct a minimum 7,000 square foot building, for the Children's Advocacy Center of Hernando County. The building will provide a safe, child friendly environment for children to disclose abuse and heal from it. It will include medical rooms for rape exams, interview rooms, observation rooms for law enforcement & DCF to observe the interviews, and therapy rooms.	2,500,000



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	2,500,000
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14. Program Performance

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

Funds will be used to construct a minimum 7000 square foot building to provide a child friendly safe environment where children who are victims of child abuse can disclose their abuse and begin healing from the trauma they endured. Currently therapists are housed at different locations and sometimes if there are several children involved, the families have to drive to different locations to receive services for each child. Housing the entire staff at the Children's Advocacy Center is best for the children and their families.

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

On average, the CAC provides services to over 800 children who are victims of child abuse and their family members. Services provided at the CAC include: forensic interviews, specialized interviews, social assessments, forensic medical exams (sexual and physical abuse cases), multidisciplinary team staffing, advocacy, deposition and court accompaniment, and case management, as well as individual and family therapy for child victims and their non-offending family members. The CAC also provides therapeutic treatment for adults who were sexually abused as children. Law enforcement and DCF observe the forensic interviews that take place at the CAC.

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

Services provided at the CAC include: forensic interviews, specialized interviews, social assessments, forensic medical exams, multidisciplinary team staffing, advocacy, deposition and court accompaniment, case management, as well as individual and family therapy for child victims and their non-offending family members. The CAC also provides therapeutic treatment for adults who were sexually abused as children. Law enforcement and DCF observe the forensic interviews that take place at the CAC.

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

Children ages 0-17 who are victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, human trafficking, or mental injury, are drug endangered, who witness domestic violence, or are survivors of homicide as well as adults who were sexually abused as children are eligible for services. Non-offending family members such as siblings, parents, or grandparents are also eligible for services. The CAC expects to serve over 825 children and family members this current fiscal year and expect that figure to grow.

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

The expected benefit is to enhance child abuse investigations and increase prosecution rates with child abuse cases; protect children from harm; improve their physical and mental health, reduce substance abuse; and reduce recidivism. The CAC provides a multidiscipline-coordinated investigative response with DCF, law enforcement, child protection teams and the state attorney where the outcomes of the interview and medical exam are discussed, referrals for therapy are made, and there is discussion of what needs the family has. Pre- and post- assessments are completed with therapy and evidence-based trauma therapy is utilized. 90% of children served will see a reduction in trauma. Cases are tracked to see if additional abuse reports have been called in. Criminal cases are tracked. Victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking often turn to substances and the CAC tracks this information during the pre- and post- assessments and provides information on substance misuse.

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 the contract?

Failure to meet deliverables will result in a return of funds to administering agency.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number Ext.

16. 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number