



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1620

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Foster Forward helps some of Florida's most vulnerable residents, foster youth, to become self-sufficient, productive citizens by providing them with the support, resources, and the family environment needed to maintain housing, avoid incarceration, and achieve good mental and physical health through personalized coaching, year-round housing, engaging workshops, community connections, and college and employment readiness programming. We also work closely with schools to ensure students overcome learning loss, read at their grade level, and graduate. As a result of our programming, our students have low housing turnover rates, high graduation and college enrollment rates, and maintain checking and savings accounts, and obtain employment at Genesis Hopeful Haven (GHH) and community partners.

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

**State Agency contacted?**

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>400,000</b>

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)	400,000	80%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	100,000	20%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	300,000	315	No

9. **Is future 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.**

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1620

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

## 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.

### 13. 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	This includes the administrative portion of the CEO/ Founder's salary (\$25,314) to help with activities and paperwork related to the GHH Community Center, fundraising so our programs and services are sustainable, and administrative tasks needed to keep the nonprofit compliant, including meetings and sustaining partnerships.	25,314
Other Salary and Benefits	This includes the CFO's salary (\$60,000) to ensure GHH is compliant with state appropriations and other funding regulations, the administrative portion of an Operations Manager salary (\$6,328) to ensure the GHH Community Center runs smoothly and maximizes productivity, and healthcare (\$10,486) allocated to the administrative portion of personnel costs.	76,814
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	GHH leverages the expertise of a Development Consultant (\$20,000) to help identify, define, and meet our development goals so we can maintain and expand programming and serve more foster youth. These services include monetary and non-monetary resource development, donor stewardship, and community partner relationship building.	20,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Program salaries for (1) Housing Caseworker (\$35,000), (1) Program Coordinator (\$23,750), the direct program portion of the CEO and Operations Manager's time (\$58,357) to help administer our services and programming, and healthcare (\$34,515). It also includes funding for aged-out youth who are graduates of our program to work at GHH as Camp Counselors and Interns (\$31,250).	182,872



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

**LFIR # 1620**

Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Tutoring to help with learning loss and get students on their appropriate reading and math levels (\$20,000), Door-to-door transportation to ensure students can access programming, resulting in at least 85% attendance (\$20,000), Rent and utilities for an Independent Living Home for aged-out youth (\$45,000), and Insurance to ensure students are safe (\$10,000).	95,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<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>400,000</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

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

Genesis Hopeful Haven (GHH) prepares youth to successfully transition from the foster care system to a self-sufficient, purpose-driven adulthood. The requested funds will provide them with a path to graduation, employment, and life skills. Over 300 foster youth will receive the support, resources, and family environment needed to maintain housing, avoid incarceration, become self-sufficient, and achieve good mental and physical health.

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

GHH will help foster youth successfully transition out of care through comprehensive evidence-based solutions, including personalized coaching, stable year-round housing, engaging workshops and field trips, and community connections. We will also provide our successful college and employment readiness programs, including vocational training and an internship program.

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

These funds will provide foster youth with essential life skills, enrichment, educational, and career classes led by knowledgeable staff and community partners. We will offer personalized tutoring, mental health support, behavioral assessments, one-on-one coaching, mentoring, job opportunities, housing, and accountability. We will also provide door-to-door transportation to ensure access to all services and programming.

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

Our primary target audiences include students who are foster youth ages 10-14, youth transitioning out of foster care ages 15-17, and former foster youth ages 18-25. GHH will serve 300+ youth annually. Citrus Family Network reported that 40% of foster youth in Miami-Dade will experience homelessness by age 19, 25% will be in the justice system by age 20, and only 3% will earn a college degree. The Annie E. Casey Foundation notes that once they age out, they are more likely to have health and housing issues, employment and academic difficulties, incarceration, and other lifelong issues.

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

The expected outcomes of this project include but are not limited to, improved physical and mental health, quality of education, life skills, and housing access, as well as the creation of immediate job opportunities, enhanced economic self-sufficiency, and diversion from the criminal/ juvenile justice system. We will measure these outcomes through surveys, one-on-one meetings, behavioral charts, grades, progress reports, financial savings, housing status, and employment history. We will also consistently solicit feedback from foster parents, GHH staff, teachers, counselors, and school administrators. To ensure this, we have performance benchmarks for GHH staff and conduct internal audits for our programs.

**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?**

Discontinue funding would be the most effective penalty. However, GHH will meet deliverables as we always have with our community partners and grantors. Failure to meet these goals negatively affects our foster youth the most, something we refuse to do.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1620

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name   
b. Organization   
c. E-mail Address   
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