



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Dennis Baxley

3. **Date of Submission:** 11/30/2017

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The Children's Program provided by 15 member agencies of Florida Agencies Serving the Blind provides year-round Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) instruction to children K-12 who are blind or visually impaired. It is a year-round program that takes place at members' facilities and at community sites during non-school days, Saturdays, and summer months. Florida's Agencies use the nationally recognized, evidence-based Expanded core Curriculum's nine core areas to secure academic success and the "real life experience" that is essential to future employability. This curriculum goes beyond what is available in public schools. The Children's Program also addresses the inherent social isolation in public schools by bringing the children from an entire county together in one place. The program also facilitates parent support groups to offer support, advocacy and sharing solutions to child-rearing challenges.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** Yes

a. If yes, which state agency? Department of Education

b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested?

6. **Amount of Non-recurring Requested for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Amount Requested for Operations	Amount Requested for Fixed Capital Outlay	Total Amount of Requested State Funds
1,500,000		1,500,000

7. **Type, amount and percent of matching funds available for this project for fiscal year 2018-19:**

Type	Amount	Percent
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	733,000	32.8%
Other	0	0.0%
TOTAL	733,000	32.8 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 2,233,000

9. **Previous Year Funding Details:**



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- Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? Yes
- In the previous 5 fiscal years, how many years was funding provided? (Optional) 3
- What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded? 2017-18
- Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- Complete the following Worksheet.

FY:	Input Prior FY Appropriation for this project for FY 2017-18 (If appropriated in FY 2017-18 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)		
	Column:	A	B
Funds Description:		Prior Year Recurring Funds *	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds *
Input Amounts:		500,000	500,000
		Total Funds Appropriated (Column A + Column B)	
		1,000,000	

10. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

Yes

- If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year.

\$1,000,000 Annually

11. Program Performance:

- What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds requested?

Blind Children age 5-13 will have the braille, technology and personal skills to keep pace academically and socially with their sighted peers in school. Specific blindness-related social and pre-vocational skills are learned from a team of certified professionals.

- What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Activities/Instruction in 1. Compensatory Academic skills including braille/magnifiers, organization, listening, etc.; 2. Orientation and Mobility (safe travel skills with a white cane); 3. Social Interaction skills; 4. Recreation and Leisure skills; 5. Independent Living skills (cooking, hygiene, cleaning, money and budgeting, time mgmt.); 6. Assistive Technology-screen readers/magnification for computers, researching, etc.; 7. Career Education (experiential introduction to various careers and professions); 8. Self-Determination (self-advocacy, making choices, planning for adulthood); 9. Sensory Efficiency skills (touch, hearing, smell, taste, proprioception/balance). Services: Individual and group instruction in summer and on school holidays and weekends, field trips to explore careers and engage in direct experiences to enhance understanding of social, cultural, historical themes, etc. that are discussed theoretically in school.

- How will the funds be expended?



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Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Administration, monitoring, supervising and accounting	60,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salary and Benefits	Certified Professionals at 15 member agencies-State-Wide: Teachers of Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Vision Rehabilitation Therapists, Technology Specialists and Counselors	1,440,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		1,500,000

d. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Instruction of visually impaired children in specific skills to compensate for affects of blindness on academic achievement, social integration and making vocational goals; counseling of parents in rearing their blind children.

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

210 blind and visually impaired children ages 5-13 in the State of Florida.

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



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will be measured?

Age-appropriate academic achievement, acquisition of social and pre-vocational skills. Assessment through Pre-and Post-tests of academic, independent living, technology and other skills in the 9 Expanded Core Curriculum Skills.

g. 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?

Penalties for failure to meet deliverables (hours of service and number of children served) are meted out by reducing payments. In previous years, all deliverables have been met.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Dr. Elly du Pre', Exec Director
- b. **Organization:** Florida Agencies Serving the Blind
- c. **Email:** edupre@FAASB.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)898-2636

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Florida Agencies Serving the Blind
- b. **County:** Statewide
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - ☐ For Profit
 - ☒ Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - ☐ Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - ☐ Local Entity
 - ☐ University or College
 - ☐ Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Dr. Elly du Pre', Exec Director
- e. **E-mail Address:** edupre@FAASB.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)898-2636

15. If there is a registered lobbyist, fill out the lobbyist information below.

- a. **Name:** Dean Cannon
- b. **Firm:** Gray Robinson
- c. **Email:** Dean.Cannon@gray-robinson.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)577-9090