



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** Early Childhood Court Program (OSCA)

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Lauren Book

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/15/2018

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Early Childhood Court is a problem-solving court docket that aims to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children under age three. SB 1442 seeks to provide resources to expand upon the existing specialized Early Childhood Court dockets to ensure their adherence to the Safe Babies Court Team approach—an evidence-based approach that includes strong judicial leadership, a multidisciplinary team, monthly court hearings, frequent child-parent contact, a continuum of evidence-based services and interventions, and a community coordinator position that works with the local judge to support Early Childhood Court activities. SB 1442 also seeks to assess the potential benefits to Florida's children and families from adopting this approach, and determine whether expansion of the Early Childhood Courts concept in Florida is warranted.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** Yes

a. If yes, which state agency? State Court System

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
1,742,860		1,742,860

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	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
TOTAL	0	0.0 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 1,742,860

9. **Previous Year Funding Details:**



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

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

Yes

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

FY19/20 and FY 20/21 \$1,742,860

11. Program Performance:

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

To improve outcomes of children under 3 years of age involved in Florida's Early Childhood Courts. The community coordinator positions funded by this legislation are pivotal to the success of the Early Childhood Court approach. The statewide project coordinator position (Senior Court Operations Consultant) is necessary to organize the implementation of the program across all of the participating jurisdictions. The Information Systems Consultant II will track data indicators for the program for all of the participating jurisdictions, which will inform the evaluation component included in this legislation.

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

Each community coordinator (Drug Court Manager) will work with the judge or magistrate presiding over an Early Childhood Court, support the activities of the court, and facilitate coordination and collaboration among the members of the Early Childhood Court team. The statewide project coordinator position (Senior Court Operations Consultant) will organize the implementation of the program across all of the participating jurisdictions by providing training opportunities (in-person training events and virtual trainings - utilizing state and national experts) and technical assistance activities (conference calls, site visits, and one-on-one coaching). The Information Systems Consultant II will provide the technical support for the case management system that has been built to support the project (The Florida Dependency Court Information System - Early Childhood



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Court Tracking System) by performing maintenance on the system, software development, and reports design and development.

c. How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
<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	1 Senior Court Operations Consultant position, 1 Information Systems Consultant II position, and 21 local community coordinator (Drug Court Manager) positions	1,642,860
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel expenses for sites visits and local and statewide training events.	100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		1,742,860

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

n/a

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



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Children under the age of three participating in Early Childhood Court. The project is expected to serve 1,000 children and families over the course of the three-year pilot program.

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

Compared to traditional dependency courts, children in Early Childhood Court are expected to achieve more timely permanency and experience fewer instances of repeat maltreatment. The Florida State University, Florida Institute for Child Welfare will develop research methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

- 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?**

n/a

- 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:** Sarah Naf Biehl
- b. Organization:** Florida Courts
- c. Email:** nafs@flcourts.org
- d. Phone Number:** (850)922-5692

- 14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. Organization:** Office of the State Courts Administrator
- 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) Government Agency
- d. Contact Name:** Sarah Naf Biehl
- e. E-mail Address:** nafs@flcourts.org
- f. Phone Number:** (850)922-5692

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

- a. Name:** Sarah Naf Biehl
- b. Firm:** Office of the State Courts Administrator



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