



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1439

1. **Title of Project:** Children of Inmates: Family Strengthening and Reun

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Anitere Flores

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/06/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Incarceration of parents/caregivers impacts 300,000 FL children. Research demonstrates that these children engage in anti-social behaviors and suffer mental illness at higher levels, putting them on the path toward incarceration themselves. Children Of Inmates (COI), Inc. interrupts this pattern by collaborating with FDC to rebuild families with wellness, literacy, civic and STEM learning experiences that support both children and their incarcerated parent's improvements as a family unit.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Corrections

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	56.30%
Federal	464,250	17.43%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	700,000	26.27%
Other	0	0.00%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>2,664,250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		500,000	608	No

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

10. **Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and	Executive director will be dedicated at 20 percent to project	31,200



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Benefits	management and leadership including building collaborative partnerships with local agencies, integrating services with FDC and overseeing operations.	
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 50% for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$11,300 will be expended for travel to administrative meetings with Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) and partnering agencies across the State; \$20,000 will be allocated to office rent to support housing of COI staff, social work interns and AmeriCorps Staff; \$2,500 will be reserved for office supplies.	33,800
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	\$5,000 will be reserved for Operational Audit Costs; \$10,000 will be reserved for liability and associated insurance; \$10,000 will be reserved to contract an independent study of program impacts (Applications for research funds will be submitted to federal and private sources).	25,000
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	\$312,500 will be reserved to hire up to five FTE social work and/or criminal justice staff to support family outreach across the Florida and work with incarcerated parents within FDC system; \$67,500 will be reserved to support COI Corps college intern stipends and reemployment support.	380,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$250,000 will be reserved to support transportation costs for children (and appropriate caregivers) to participate in the child focused bonding visitation programs and special child focus developmental events from metropolitan and rural areas; \$250,000 will be reserved to support program supplies for wellness, literacy, civics and STEM learning experiences.	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of 14 community and faith based organizations with an intention to expand to up to 20 organizations across the state. As such, \$500,000 will be reserved to support subcontracts to partner agencies with specialized skills including mental health, physical health, literacy, child brain development, STEM, civics, information technology and advocacy to support the operationalization of the enhanced learning experiences and to support expansion to rural and metropolitan areas.	500,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>



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

Incarceration of parents/caregivers impacts 300,000 FL children. Research demonstrates that these children engage in anti-social behaviors and suffer mental illness at higher levels, putting them on the path toward incarceration themselves. COI, Inc. interrupts this pattern by collaborating with FDC to rebuild families with wellness, literacy, civic and STEM learning experiences that support both children and their incarcerated parent's improvements as a family unit.

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

COI will conduct a minimum 60 bonding visits to support family strengthening in FL correctional facilities with this funding. In 2018, by leveraging State and local funding, COI conducted 74 visits involving over 846 incarcerated parent/caregivers; 1686 children with 848 caregivers. We will use civic and STEM education activities to foster enhance the literacy rates and community connectedness. COI will also work with incarcerated individuals and FDC to identify and began proactive engagement of "fragile families" to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children. We have found children from "fragile families" consistently have more difficulties with behavior, health and education. We will conduct assessments with incarcerated parents and caregivers of families with over four children, two or more incarcerated individuals, homes without biological parents (but not foster care) and/or chronic crisis situations related to homelessness, medical issues or criminality.

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

Direct services to be provided will be transportation and social services to support families during the bonding visits. For participating "fragile families" wrap-around care coordination, including facilitated referrals to appropriate service providers to meet basic needs including addressing health, homelessness, disabilities, substance abuse and educational needs, child development assessments, child therapy, child development activities and child safety protection gear will be provided. Tutoring and evidenced based engagement activities and supplies will be provided through the STEM and literacy activities. Advocacy services will be provided to enhance public understanding of the plight of children of incarcerated parents.

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

Economically disadvantaged people, at-risk youth, currently or formerly incarcerated persons.

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

Improvement of physical health, mental health, education quality, and enhancement of economic self-sufficiency.

**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?**

Financial consequences of \$1,250.00 per occurrence if at least eighteen (18) bonding programs are not completed-annually.

**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



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#### 13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Shellie Solomon
- b. **Organization:** Children of Inmates, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** SESolomon@childrenofinmates.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (786)781-5141

#### 14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Children of Inmates, Inc.
- 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:** Shellie Solomon
- e. **E-mail Address:** SESolomon@childrenofinmates.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (786)781-5141

#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Yolanda Cash Jackson
- b. **Firm Name:** Becker & Poliakoff
- c. **E-mail Address:** yjackson@bplegal.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (954)985-4132