



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1476

1. **Project Title** Children of Inmates: Rural Routes - Family Strengthening2. **Senate Sponsor** Bill Montford3. **Date of Request** 10/29/20194. **Project/Program Description**

Rural Routes will serve children and families of an incarcerated parent that reside in under-served rural communities. 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 is an innovative approach to interrupt that 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. The program started in South Florida and has expanded to most of the metropolitan areas, serving over 1,700 families with over 3,000 children to date. Visits are quarterly and to date, COI, Inc. has coordinated over 500 child-focused visits to 22 Florida correctional facilities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of CorrectionsState Agency contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1000000	47.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	330,000	16 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	777,000	37 %
Other	00	0 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	2,107,000	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 1,000,000



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive director will be dedicated at 15 percent time to project management and leadership including building collaborative partnerships with local agencies, integrating services with FDC and overseeing operations.	21,200
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 25% time for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	15,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$11,300 will be expended for travel to administrative meetings with FDC and partnering agencies across the State. \$10,000 will be allocated to office rent to support housing of COI staff and social work interns. \$2,500 will be reserved for office supplies.	23,800
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	\$5,000 will be reserved for Operational Audit Costs. \$10,000 will be reserved for liability and associated insurance.	15,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	\$300,000 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.	300,000
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 rural areas. \$150,000 will be reserved to support program supplies for wellness, literacy, civics and STEM learning experiences.	400,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of community and faith based organizations with an intention to expand to up to 20 organizations across the state. As such, \$225,000 will be reserved to support subcontracts to partner with 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.	225,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000



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11. Program Performance

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

Children and families living in rural communities that have an incarcerated parent/caregiver will be engaged to participate in child-focused bonding visits and family strengthening services. We anticipate serving 500 or more children, allowing for them to visit their incarcerated parent/caregiver on a quarterly basis and receive care coordination services to provide them with direct support services and referrals to specialized services.

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

COI will conduct a minimum 24 bonding visits to support family strengthening for families in rural area 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 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 criminali

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

The target population served by this project are children with incarcerated parents and their caregivers that reside in rural, under served communities. COI serves children, ages 0-21 throughout Florida. We also serve currently and formerly incarcerated parents, assisting them to rebuild relationships with their children and caregivers. We anticipate serving 500 children with these funds. This equates to approximately 500 families or incarcerated individuals. Research from Cambridge University documents that children with incarcerated parents are at twice the risk of mental illness and three times the risk of antisocial behaviors. Many are economically disadvantaged and often face homelessness. Further, many within the COI population struggle with developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities. Children with incarcerated parents are exposed to higher levels of community and direct violence.

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

The expected benefits are to interrupt intergeneration incarceration by identifying, working with and supporting children with incarcerated parent that reside in rural communities. Working with "fragile families", activities will focus on reducing physical and verbal aggression and anti-social behaviors in children with incarcerated parents who exhibit these behaviors. Family visits will create strong bond between incarcerated parent, children and caregivers to promote family support for the incarcerated parent upon returning to community. Activities will focus on increasing knowledge of civic responsibilities and principles by children and their incarcerated parents.

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. Financial Consequences in the amount of \$800.00 for each child less than five hundred (500) unique children. Financial Consequences in the amount of \$1,500.00 if at least six (6) program sessions are not provided to incarcerated participants. Financial Consequences of \$1000 if at least 75 unique children of "fragile families" are not provided enhanced services.



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12. 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.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. 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

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.