



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request - Fiscal Year 2018-2019

1. **Title of Project:** Pinellas County Youth Advocate Program

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Jeff Brandes

3. **Date of Submission:** 11/20/2017

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) will provide comprehensive wraparound, support and advocacy services to help prevent Probation youth in Pinellas County who are at high risk to reoffend from further entering the criminal justice system, specifically residential commitment. Through individually tailored, strength-based programming, YAP Advocates will work with juvenile justice involved youth to cultivate family engagement, character development, life skills, education and vocational training, formal and informal community supports and resources, and resilience needed to live productively in their homes, schools and communities. This program expands the benefits of the nationwide Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) in Florida and reduces recidivism, decreases truancy, increases academic/vocational engagement, decreases negative behaviors and encourages civic engagement.

5. **State Agency Contacted?** Yes

a. If yes, which state agency? Department of Juvenile Justice

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
350,000		350,000

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	0	0.0%
Other	45,500	11.5%
TOTAL	45,500	11.5 %

8. **Total Project Cost for fiscal year 2018-19 (including the Total Amount of Requested State Funds):** 395,500

9. **Previous Year Funding Details:**



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- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? Yes
- b. In the previous 5 fiscal years, how many years was funding provided? (Optional) 1
- c. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded? 2017-18
- d. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- e. 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	C
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds *	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds *	Total Funds Appropriated (Column A + Column B)
Input Amounts:		150,000	150,000

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

Yes

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

Yes, \$350,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) wraparound advocacy and support services will help 35- 45 high risk youth annually in Pinellas County, who are juvenile justice involved or at risk of system involvement, avoid detention/institutional placement and live productively in their homes, schools and communities. A legislative appropriation and a significant FL DJJ training investment this past year, enabled YAP to expand its successful programming assisting high-risk youth and families beyond Hillsborough, Orange and Seminole counties to include juvenile justice-involved youth and families in Pinellas County. The YAP Wraparound Advocate services prove to reduce recidivism rates, decrease truancy, increase academic and vocational engagement, and decrease negative behaviors of high risk youth and adults. In addition to benefitting youth, families and communities by helping to divert youth from criminal involvement and detention through providing alternative community and home based supports.

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

Program cycles average 4-6 months per year depending on need. Youth receive an average of 10 service hours a week from Sunday to Monday. These culturally sensitive and interactive services include individual and group hours. YAP services also include in-home visits with the youth and family, as well as, pre-release detention center visits as appropriate. Visiting a youth at the detention center prior to release helps to



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establish the bond needed to engage that individual. Home visits provide critical insights into family dynamics that inform and enhance YAP’s individualized interventions. YAP differs from traditional case management models. Rather than imposing mandated treatment plans, YAP uses a strength-based approach to “wrap” comprehensive, individualized services and support services “around” challenged youth. This is a community-based Wraparound Advocate approach.

c. How will the funds be expended?

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	1 FT Director of Pinellas County YAP provides program oversight & direct client prevention/diversion services (inc. home visits; supervised community service) to high risk young persons	60,000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Salary and Benefits	1 FT Administrative Manager Description: Responsible for administrative office functions including mandatory reporting and record keeping, confidentiality of data/communications, etc.)	38,700
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transportation, insurance, office and craft supplies, building rental, and training	25,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salary and Benefits	1 F/T Program Coordinator– Provides direct client services including home visits, oversight of Advocates and Administrative back-up. 10 P/T Advocates - recruited from neighborhoods served provide direct client services including	190,276



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	home visits	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transportation, insurance, office and craft supplies, building rental, training, activity fund, and supported work for estimated 15 clients	81,524
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		395,500

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

The direct services provided to program youth and families are outlined above. They include: Diversion from criminal/juvenile justice system involvement; Improved academic engagement, family involvement, and mental, emotional and physical health awareness; Enhanced individual economic and self-sufficiency through career and vocational development; Reduced recidivism, substance abuse, and truancy. Since YAP works with youth and their families, family members also benefit from YAP’s interventions. YAP connects them with critical resources. Finally, in line with pressing state needs, this program has the capacity to serve youth in relevant service categories from Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands who relocated to Florida from their storm ravaged home communities. As far as community benefits, in addition to potentially saving lives this proposal saves taxpayers money – in the short and long term. YAP is providing an alternative to expensive institutional care. The DJJ website poste

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

The target population is comprised of Department of Juvenile Justice involved youth in Pinella’s County ages eight (8) to seventeen (17). These youth are on Probation or are otherwise at-risk of residential/institutional placement. YAP will be positioned to serve 35-45 youth and their families a year. They are disproportionately more likely to be youth of color. They are usually living at or near the poverty level. Their home lives may be dysfunctional. Their peer associations may be destructive, even gang related. They often face mental and behavioral health challenges. Educational, vocational, housing, employment, healthcare, and transportation challenges loom large. YAP has a no reject-no eject policy. Its target population is the youth that other programs have given up on or have forgotten. Many of the youth YAP traditionally serves are crossover, or multi-system involved, youth. Youth in foster care present unique challenges to DJJ. YAP will use its expertise in this area.



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

Decreased recidivism (reoffending) among participating DJJ involved youth is this project's primary expected benefit. Key performance outcomes are identified in the contract with DJJ and include the goal that 100% of participating youth will not reoffend/recidivate during program involvement and within a year after discharge. Performance evaluation processes and minimum thresholds are contractually outlined. DJJ's contractual minimum thresholds relate to "the percentage of youth that shall not recidivate" as being "at or above the last CAR (Comprehensive Accountability Report) of similarly classified services (greater or lesser depending on the measure)." Mandatory reporting during interim periods, including monthly and discharge reports, tracks youth activities and improvements. Activities and improvements are also noted consistently in the youth's program case file. These document what services have been provided when and detail the incurred benefits.

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?

YAP's current contract with DJJ clearly sets forth standards and policies as related to program monitoring. It outlines a quality improvement review process that provides for contract termination if deficiencies are not addressed. Additionally, there will be no option to renew a contractual relationship for 12 months after such a termination. Financial consequences will also be assessed for contract noncompliance or nonperformance. This relates to failure to submit or implement a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) within specified time frames or to make acceptable progress in effectuating improvements contained therein. YAP has, and will, contractually agree to the imposition of financial consequences, in addition to all other remedies available to the Department by law.

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:** Dorienne Silva
- b. **Organization:** Youth Advocate programs, Inc.
- c. **Email:** dsilva@yapinc.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (912)272-7955

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Youth Advocate programs, Inc.
- b. **County:** Hillsborough
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)



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- d. Contact Name:** Dorienne Silva
- e. E-mail Address:** dsilva@yapinc.org
- f. Phone Number:** (912)272-7955

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

- a. Name:** Tanya Jackson
- b. Firm:** PinPoint Results, LLC
- c. Email:** Tanya@PinPointResults.com
- d. Phone Number:** (850)445-0107