



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1902

1. **Title of Project:** Reimburse for Extraordinary GAL Advocate Expenses

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Keith Perry

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/14/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

This issue requests funding in the amount of \$331,262 for recurring general revenue expense funds to support the extraordinary travel expenses of Guardian ad Litem advocates. The Guardian ad Litem program received non-recurring funding in the amount of \$331,000 for FY 18-19, and recurring funding is requested for FY 19-20. These funds are for reimbursement of travel expenses to advocates when they travel long distances to visit or transport children they represent, or other situations requiring long or overnight travel. Due to a lack of sufficient foster homes, more than 30% of abused children are placed out of their home county and more than 19 % are placed out of their home judicial circuit. This requires extensive travel on the part of advocates who are often on fixed incomes. Consistency in advocates is critical to maintaining an informed and caring relationship with an abused child, as these advocates are often the only stable adults in their lives.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Justice Administration

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	331,262
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	331,262

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)	331,262	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	331,262	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		331,262	783	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 0

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel reimbursement for extraordinary expenses for volunteers	331,262
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		331,262

11. Program Performance:

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

These funds will be used to reimburse Guardian ad Litem advocates for travel to visit or transport children long distances. Due to the lack of enough foster homes, children are often placed out of county or even out of circuit. Reimbursement will allow advocates, often on fixed incomes, to travel to visit their assigned children in placements outside their home communities, or other situations requiring long or overnight travel. The effect should result in more advocates remaining on children's cases, and thus consistency in the life of the children who count on their Guardians ad Litem.

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

When children are placed out of their home communities, these funds will reimburse advocates for the travel to meet the required monthly visitation with children to assess their wellbeing and the suitability and safety of their placements. These findings are reported to the court and recommendations made for ongoing services. These funds will also reimburse advocates for other situations requiring long or overnight travel.

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

Volunteer guardians ad litem serve the same purpose that staff would serve, but at no cost to the state, saving millions of dollars to meet the statutory mandate for a guardian to be appointed in every dependency case.

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

Dependent children who have been abused or neglected will receive the benefit of this appropriation.



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

Benefit: Guardians will remain on cases even when the children they represent are moved out of their home communities due to lack of placements. This benefits the children by ensuring a long term relationship with a caring and concerned adult who is often the only stable adult in their lives. Outcome Measurement: Miles traveled; children visited; qualitative information on the impact of the travel funds

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?

This is not applicable. No contract will be employed.

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.

NA

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Alan Abramowitz
- b. **Organization:** Guardian ad Litem Program
- c. **E-mail Address:** Alan.Abramowitz@gal.fl.gov
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)241-3232

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
- 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) State agency
- d. **Contact Name:** Alan Abramowitz
- e. **E-mail Address:** Alan.Abramowitz@gal.fl.gov
- f. **Phone Number:** (850)922-7213

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** None
- b. **Firm Name:** None
- c. **E-mail Address:**
- d. **Phone Number:**