



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1411

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Blind Babies program is a year-round service provided by 14 non-profit agencies, members of Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind d/b/a Florida Agencies Serving the Blind. These services prepare babies/toddlers who are blind or visually impaired, ages birth - 5, to use all their senses (hearing, touch, taste, smell, proprioceptive) and whatever remaining vision they may have to maximize child development stages. These babies will enter kindergarten with sighted peers, ready to learn. Parents are devastated at hearing their child's diagnosis but find the support they need from Early Intervention specialists who come to their homes and/or serve their children at the agencies' facilities. Parents learn to apply parenting skills and specific supportive interactions with their child that foster age-appropriate developmental growth. The program also facilitates parent support groups to offer group support, advocacy and sharing solutions to child-rearing challenges.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?     Yes     No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="500,000"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="000"/>
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</b>

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)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="500000"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="100.0"/> %
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Local	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Other	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100</b> %

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		
<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="2019-20"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="2,438,004"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="400,000"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="50"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**     Yes     No
- If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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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 Benefits		<input type="text"/>
Other Salary and Benefits		<input type="text"/>
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		<input type="text"/>
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input type="text"/>
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	For teams of Certified Professionals in Florida ASB member agencies.	500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		<input type="text"/>
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input type="text"/>
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		<input type="text"/>
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>



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## 11. Program Performance

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

The Blind Babies program prepares blind or visually impaired babies, ages birth - 5, to use all their senses (hearing, touch, taste, smell, proprioceptive) and whatever remaining vision they may have to attain developmental milestones. Early Intervention specialists teach parents to apply specific supportive interactions with their child that foster developmental growth. The babies enter kindergarten ready to learn with sighted peers in the same classroom.

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

Professionals engage babies in evidence-based therapy that teaches the use of other senses to perform tasks. Toys that can be manipulated, that make sounds and/or light up; iPad games encourage babies/toddlers to reach, grasp, learn cause and effect, use any remaining vision. Babies develop age-appropriate milestones to sit up, crawl and walk, eat and dress at appropriate age level, understand the concepts of up/down/behind/in front of/under/over, across, etc. which are essential to future safe travel instruction, self-care skills, and educational success.

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

Instruction of visually impaired babies in the family home or at the agencies' facilities in specific skills to compensate for effects of blindness on reaching developmental milestones. Parent training in specific supportive interactions with their child that foster age appropriate development. Parent support groups. Instructors are licensed or certified Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Early Intervention Specialists, Low Vision Therapists, Orientation & Mobility Therapists, etc.

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

365 blind babies in the State of Florida and their parents/primary caregivers.

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

Age-appropriate developmental gains and acquisition of social and pre-vocational skills. Pre and Post-tests normed for blind babies are used to assess their progress in 8 primary skill areas: Cognitive, Language, Vision, Compensatory, Socialization, Self-Help and Fine and Gross Motor Skills.

- 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?

Penalties for failure to meet deliverables (hours of service and number of children served) are meted out by reducing payments. In previous years, all deliverables have been met.



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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.