



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1738

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

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. 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. COI, Inc. worked with a warden to design special child-focused visitation focused on reassuring the children about their parent's safety, improving parenting and addressing behavioral issues. 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

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	46%
Matching Funds		
Federal	50,000	2%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,029,000	48%
Other	75,000	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	2,154,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	250,000	598	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

COI received PPP loans to support staff to provide basic needs supports to over 400 families during the crisis. Over 118,904 lbs of food were delivered to homes as well as personal protective equipment, child development and education resources. Assistance was provided for housing referrals and utility supports. COI also received funding from the City of Jacksonville to provide additional COVID-19 basic needs and child development supports through door-to-door outreach.

11. 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 dedicate 20 percent time to project management and leadership, including building collaborative partnerships, supporting FDC's volunteer engagement efforts and integrating efforts with FDC's reentry efforts and other services.	31,200
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 50% time for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to collaborative meetings with FDC and partnering agencies across the State is budgeted at \$11,300. Office rent for COI staff, social work interns and COI Corps Staff is budgeted at \$20,000. Office supplies are budgeted at \$2,500.	33,800
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The operational audit is budgeted at \$5,000. Liability and associated insurance is budgeted at \$10,000. An independent evaluation of program implementation and impacts is budgeted at \$10,000 and will be matched with research funds from Federal and State sources.	25,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	\$355,000 will be reserved to hire up to seven FTE social work and/or criminal justice staff to support family outreach across the Florida and work with incarcerated parents within FDC system. \$25,000 will be reserved to support COI Corps college intern stipends and reemployment support.	380,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$100,000 will be reserved to support program supplies for wellness, literacy, civics and STEM learning experiences for 4000 child/ family bonding experience. (\$25 per experience) \$150,000 will be reserved to support transportation costs (approximately 60 charter buses) 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
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of 15 community/faith based organizations with an intention to expand across FL. \$250,000 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 outreach to rural areas.	250,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

12. Program Performance

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



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When a parent is incarcerated, children are uncertain about the safety of their parent and this insecurity undermines children's ability to cope and to grow in a healthy manner. The result for young children is insecure attachments and bonds. These broken bonds have been linked to poorer peer relationships and diminished cognitive abilities. Over half, 58%, of children with incarcerated parents are under 10 years of age. School-aged children and teenagers face problems such as poor academic performance, peer relationship issues and classroom behavior problems, often resulting in suspension and high drop-out rates. The Children of Inmates, Inc. Family Strengthening and Reuniting program addresses these challenges by reconnecting children with their incarcerated parent and working to sustain that connection. Follow-up and support services are offered to help the child overcome the challenges and achieve a positive developmental track, with the support of caring, responsible adults.

b. What activities and services 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. The Covid-19 pandemic halted visitations and severely interrupted bonding for the children and their parents; further, it left children and caregivers with a heightened concern about their loved ones, creating additional trauma. During this period, COI continued to operate, providing door-to-door outreach to bring food, personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, educational supports and most importantly, child development activities to over 400 families. We focused on providing civic and STEM education activities to foster enhanced literacy rates and community connectedness. With the relaunch of bonding visitations, COI is engaging incarcerated individuals and FDC to proactively serve "fragile families." We have found children from "fragile families" consistently have more difficulties with behavior, health and education. We will create care plans with incarcerated parents.

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. 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 1,500 children with these funds. This equates to approximately 600 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 intergenerational incarceration by identifying, working with and supporting children with incarcerated parents. Working with "fragile families", activities will focus on reducing physical, verbal aggression and anti-social behaviors in children with incarcerated parents who exhibit these behaviors. Over 85% of COI children report reduced anti-social behaviors. Family visits create strong bond between incarcerated parent, children and caregivers and promote family support for the incarcerated parent upon returning to community. Using FDC data, COI found that over 89% of COI participants successfully re-enter and rebuild their lives over a three year period. In short, family matters for reentry.

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 the contract?

Financial Consequence of \$1000, per occurrence if at least 18 bonding programs/ community event programs are not completed annually.



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13. 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



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number