



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2154

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Heart Gallery of Florida is requesting a one-time outlay for Family Finder, a technology platform that has increased the number of foster families and has digitally transformed foster parent recruitment. It is being used in Judicial Circuit 12 and piloted in two other judicial Circuits. All three have expressed that they need the technology and have asked for it. At a time when COVID isolation has placed foster children in more danger from neglect and abuse and the shortage of recruited, trained and vetted foster parents continues to rise, Family Finder is necessary and critical for the well-being of our foster youth.

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                         | 250,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>250,000</b> |

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)       | 250,000        | 67%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                |             |
| Federal  | 0              | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0              | 0%          |
| Local  | 0              | 0%          |
| Other  | 125,000        | 33%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b> | <b>375,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
|                          |           |              |                             |        |

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.

The Heart Gallery will fund 50% of the amount requested from the state in the first year. In recurring years, Family Finder will be integrated with the Community Based Care (CBC) agencies. These agencies are currently managing the prospective parent inquiries that are sent via Family Finder and have the ability to handle the volume with existing staff.



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

No

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

N/A

#### 11. 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                    | Director for one year to scale the program and technology integrations for a seamless handover to DCF   | 60,000         |
| Other Salary and Benefits  | Project Manager to coordinate the retrieval and reporting of outcomes to the state in order to hand over to the state.  | 30,000         |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Marketing and webinar for each of the 14 Florida Heart Galleries and CBC's as training modules in the first year of operation.  | 60,000         |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Recruitment costs: technology implementation, support and administration of technology - fees to software developers and cloud platform migration - finalization of the software development for daily use and support. | 100,000        |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>  |   |                |
| Salary and Benefits  |   | 0              |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                |   | 0              |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  |   | 0              |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>                    |   |                |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering                      |   | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |   | <b>250,000</b> |

#### 12. Program Performance

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

This is a one time outlay to fund the technology that will overhaul DCF's current antiquated technology platform and overcome the shortage of recruited, trained & licensed foster parents,

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

Delivery of an active marketing and recruitment platform for DCF to replace the outdated and passive recruitment strategy. The addition of the Family Finder technology will create efficiencies, streamline foster parent recruitment, vetting, licensing and child placements.

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

- Wrap around service support for foster and adoptive parents, decreasing wait time for licensing and home studies.
- Decreased wait time in foster care for children available for adoption from 2.5 years to 1.4 years.
- CBC's will save 20% of their annual recruiting costs and will reduce the expenditures for children under their care by at least 8% annually.

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

Family Finder has the ability to find and match families for the 19,000 children in foster care in Florida using algorithmic prioritization and category/item weighting for characteristics of foster families, including Race, Health, Academics, Behavioral, Developmental, Prenatal drug exposure, Background issues, and Language.



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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?**

Family Finder will create efficiencies, provide quantitative data of matches, and expose areas of opportunities in the current system of care.

- A 6-month pilot for a Central Florida child welfare organization yielded 8000 new families vs. 200 candidates using traditional methods.
- A 6-month pilot in Judicial Circuit 12 yielded 1,926 families seeking foster parent licensing or adopting from foster care vs. 100 candidates using traditional methods, a 321% increase.

The cost for a child in a group home is \$3,000 per month vs. \$650 for a child placed in an adoptive or foster home. Investing in statewide implementation of Family Finder recruitment technology pays for itself with only 30 additional families.

**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?**

If the Heart Gallery of Florida should not meet all deliverables, the organization will be held responsible for restitution.

**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