



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2423

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Children in foster care are much more likely than their peers to become involved in the criminal justice system. An estimated 25% of foster care children will become involved with the criminal system within two years of leaving care and over half of youth in care experience an arrest, conviction, or overnight stay at a correctional facility by age seventeen. Voices for Children provides programs that are innovative and hands-on to create an effective system of care for children in foster care to divert them from becoming involved in criminal activity. Our programs work by ensuring adequate resources are provided, creating support structures, providing opportunities to elevate their social mobility and educational opportunities, and investing in their lives so they can pursue their hopes and dreams.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	100,000

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)	100,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	100,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	100,000	310A	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

The Florida Attorney General's Office has included Voices in their recent Victims of Crime Act grant 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.

Voices for Children received \$53,702.00 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to continue offering life-changing services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program expenses, including transportation, program supplies, housing assistance, emergency and normalcy needs, case management and advocacy, and educational assistance	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		100,000

12. Program Performance

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

The purpose of the program is to help prevent foster care youth from entering the juvenile justice system by ensuring that the youth have sufficient access to the resources and support they need. The program works to end the foster care-to-prison pipeline and promote the sustained safety and well-being of young people in the foster care system.

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

Year-round advocacy, case management, age-appropriate referrals, resources, trauma-informed care, and wrap-around services to promote a crime-free future for children who are in the foster care system and/or about to transition out of the system.

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

Services are designed to create systematic change to the foster care system and work to prevent youth from engaging in criminal activity and divert youth from entering the criminal system. Direct services are provided with compassion, empathy, and second chances to youth who might not otherwise receive it. Direct services include: trauma-informed care; individualized case management; individual, group and family focused advocacy; crisis intervention counseling; navigation and linkage of behavioral health system and services; court advocacy; social and life skills training; education and job training services; recreational services; and housing support.

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



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The target population includes children under the age of 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ in the foster care system. In addition, this program works with foster care children as they transition out of the foster care system. However, we know that certain populations within foster care are disproportionately at risk for criminalization, such as black children, who are around twice as likely to be placed in foster care than white kids. Because black children are already subject to disproportionate school discipline and criminalization rates, being a foster youth compounds this risk. In addition, foster youth, particularly girls, are targeted by sex traffickers, and the criminalization of sex work can funnel these victims of human trafficking into the criminal justice system. And lastly, foster youth are up to four times more likely to be prescribed antipsychotic drugs for mental health illnesses, which provides another drive of the foster care-to-prison pipeline.

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

While children enter the foster care system at no fault of their own, they will go on to have a much higher chance than their peers of being incarcerated, both as youth and adults. One-third of youth who have experienced foster care will be arrested within two years of leaving foster care, and at least a quarter of them will spend at least one night in a correctional facility. Youth experience trauma and loss when they enter foster care. With the constant placement and school changes, foster care children experience exclusionary discipline at three times the rate of their peers. As a result, foster care youth graduate high school on time at less than half the rate of their peers. In addition, any meaningful relationships they had were severed. They rarely receive the mental and behavioral health support they need to heal from their trauma and repeated loss.

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?

Failure to meet deliverables without notification of good reason will result in financial penalties as described in the contract.

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