



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2298

1. Project Title Pathways to Independence: Creating Thriving Futures for Florida's Foster Youth

2. Senate Sponsor Alexis Calatayud

3. Date of Request 2/28/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Studies show that 40% of Miami-Dade foster youth will experience homelessness by 19, 25% will be in the justice system by 20, and only 3% will earn a college degree. The Annie E. Casey Foundation notes that after aging out, foster youth are more likely to have health and housing issues, employment and academic difficulties, incarceration, and other lifelong problems. So, in partnership with the State of FL, Genesis Hopeful Haven will provide holistic, wraparound programs and services, including housing, educational support and advocacy, vocational training and career readiness, essential life skills, and enrichment programming to 300 foster youth. We remove barriers and create opportunities so these students can excel in school, maintain housing, learn life skills, earn employment, avoid incarceration, become independent, and build healthy relationships. We have 70+ community partners, including Hope Florida, The Children's Trust, and The Carrie Meek Foundation.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? No

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>400,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	400,000	80%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	100,000	20%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	300,000	315	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

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 Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2298

## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction ☐ N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List 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.

### 12. 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	This covers a portion of the CEO's salary (\$25,314) as she works to (1) ensure the organization is compliant with local, state, and federal regulations, (2) hire, oversee, and manage staff, (3) connect students with resources, (4) build community partnerships, and (5) help develop services, workshops, and curriculum.	25,314
Other Salary and Benefits	This includes (1) the CFO's salary (\$60,000) to ensure GHH is compliant with state appropriations and other funding regulations and reports, (2) a portion of the Operations Manager's salary (\$6,328) who is responsible for the Community Center and Independent Living Homes' operations, maintenance, and logistics, and (3) healthcare (\$10,486) for essential program and admin personnel.	76,814
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	To ensure the organization's sustainability and impact, GHH leverages the expertise of a Development Consultant (\$20,000) to help identify, define, and meet our fundraising goals so we can maintain and expand programming and serve more foster youth. These services include monetary and nonmonetary resource development, donor stewardship, and community partner relationship building.	20,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

**LFIR # 2298**

Salary and Benefits	Program salaries are for (1) a Housing Caseworker (\$35,000), (2) a Program Coordinator (\$23,750), (3) the program portion of the CEO and Operations Manager's time (\$58,357) as they administer direct services to foster youth, and healthcare (\$34,515). It also includes salaries for aged-out youth we hired to work as GHH Camp Counselors and Interns (\$31,250).	182,872
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	This includes (1) Tutoring to help with learning loss, graduation, and getting students to appropriate reading and math levels (\$20K) (2) Transportation so students can access interviews, appointments, and programming, resulting in at least 85% attendance (\$20K) (3) Rent and utilities for an Independent Living Homes for aged-out youth (\$45K) and (4) Insurance to ensure students are safe (\$10K).	95,000
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>400,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

This program prepares youth who will not be reunified with family or adopted to successfully transition from the foster care system to a purpose-driven adulthood, independent of public assistance and out of the justice system. The appropriation funds will provide students with a path to graduation, employment, life skills, and independence. 300+ foster youth will receive the wraparound support, resources, and the family environment needed to maintain housing, avoid incarceration, become self-sufficient, complete post-secondary education, and achieve good mental and physical health.

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

We will meet the purpose of these funds through evidence-based solutions, including personalized coaching, stable housing, life skills, connection to community services like therapy, and access to programming via transportation and technology. We will also provide educational and employment readiness programs, including tutoring, vocational and entrepreneurial training, and job creation at Genesis Hopeful Haven and in partnership with community agencies.

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

These funds will provide foster youth with life skills like financial literacy, healthy relationships, and civic engagement and offer educational, enrichment, and career workshops led by knowledgeable staff and community partners. We will provide personalized tutoring, mental health support, behavioral assessments, one-on-one coaching, mentoring, job opportunities, housing, and accountability.

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

The target population is foster youth ages 10-14, youth transitioning out of foster care ages 15-17, and former foster youth ages 18-25. Most of our foster parents come from low-income to lower-middle-class socioeconomic statuses, and 85% of our students have mental health disorders, including autism. They are some of the community's most vulnerable residents who have experienced neglect, abuse, physical, mental, and sexual violence, human sex trafficking, and separation from their siblings, all of which can be gateways to involvement in the justice system without Genesis Hopeful Haven's comprehensive intervention, diversion, and prevention programming. Approximately 300 students in this target population will be served. (Persons with poor mental health, Jobless persons, Economically disadvantaged persons, At-risk youth, Homeless, Grade school students, High school students, University/College students, Currently or formerly incarcerated persons, Victims of crime)

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2298

Expected program outcomes include improving physical and mental health, education quality, and housing access, as well as creating immediate job opportunities, enhancing economic self-sufficiency, and diverting foster youth from the criminal/ juvenile justice system. We track outcomes through frequent data collection to assess impact, including school report cards, attendance records, and feedback and testimonials from teachers, school counselors, caseworkers, and foster parents, as well as behavioral charts and social-emotional learning assessments that measure social skills, emotional resilience, and stress management strategies, increased leadership roles are measured by the level of involvement in GHH, school, and home activities, demonstrating the student's ability to take on responsibility and lead others, student meetings, interviews, surveys and assessments to gauge program satisfaction and information retention, and employment status and length, pay stubs, and bank statements.

**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?**

We will meet deliverables as we always have with our community partners, including the FL Department of Children and Families. Failure to comply and perform negatively impacts our foster youth the most, which we refuse to do. To ensure our compliance, we have performance benchmarks for Gensis Hopeful Haven staff and conduct internal audits for our programs. We can share this information to show our progress, impact, and outcomes. We also welcome an audit if the State feels we failed to meet agreed-upon measures.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2298

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

#### 17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 18. 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  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*