



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1150

1. Project Title Foster Care Family Visitation Center Expansion

2. Senate Sponsor Lori Berman

3. Date of Request 11/17/2025

4. Project/Program Description

ChildNet is the Community Based Care Lead Agency for Palm Beach County and is responsible for arranging supervision for parent-child visits in the child welfare system. In Palm Beach County, parent-child visitation is generally court ordered three times per week for dependency cases involving a child's removal from their parent's care and custody due to allegations of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. ChildNet supports visitation through scheduling, operational coordination, transportation, supervision of the visits, and reports to the court. Due to the high volume of visitation, and the vast size of Palm Beach County, a significant need exists for an expanded visitation space at the current Palm Beach location, along with an additional visitation center in the southern portion of the county to adequately provide the space and geographic accessibility to accommodate the volume of visitation in a family-friendly environment.

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 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	625,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	625,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	625,000	81%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	150,000	19%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	775,000	100%

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		
2025-26	0	400,000	305A	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.



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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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	3 Transporters - Salary \$33K, plus benefits @ ~\$7055 New Location: 1 Visitation Specialist - Salary \$49,750, plus benefits @ ~\$10,637 .36 (Shared) Transportation Manager -pro rata salary \$60K prorata 3 Visitation Monitors - Salary \$33K, plus benefits @ ~\$7,055	366,992
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Current Location Transportation Expense for 3 vehicles -\$8,500/vehicle (lease, fuel, maintenance, vehicle insurance) - \$25,500 Workspace modification allocation - \$30K (durable flooring) -New Visitation Center - South county Occupancy 5K sq ft @\$25 per sq ft x 12 months Utilities/ Janitorial - \$1,100 per month for 12 months	258,008
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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)		625,000

13. Program Performance



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

The purpose will be to provide a safe and family-friendly environment for parents and children involved in the local foster care system to visit with one another allowing for maintained relationships, attachment, child nurturing, and reduction of trauma. Along with those critical reasons, the ultimate goal is to increase the chances of family reunification as quickly as it is safe to do so. A research study by Davis, Landverk, Newton, and Ganger, "Parental Visiting and Foster Care Reunification," found maternal visiting at the recommended level was the strongest predictor of reunification among the five study variables, indicating that a child visited by the mother as recommended was approximately 10 times more likely to be reunified (Children and Youth Services Journal, 1996).

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

ChildNet will provide supervised visitation for parent-child visits involved in the child welfare system in Palm Beach County where a child has been removed from the parent's care and custody due to abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment. Service array delivered by Visitation Monitors, Visitation Specialists, and Transportation Specialists will include scheduling visits, coordinating visitation logistics, providing direct in-person supervision of the visits, transporting children to and from visits as needed, and developing visitation reports for the dependency courts. In order to accommodate the additional number of visits, the space will be expanded and staffing will be enhanced.

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

Direct services to the citizens will include supervision of family visitation, scheduling, transportation, and completion of required reports to the court.

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

Target population includes both children and parents with an open legal dependency case in Palm Beach County and the child(ren) has been removed from the parent's care and custody due to abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment. Ages of the children may range from 0-18; parents may be any age. ChildNet's Palm Beach visitation program will serve 152 children annually.

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

Supervised Visitation will be provided for a minimum of 152 children annually (38 children quarterly). At least 80% of target will be achieved each quarter and annually. The measure will be determined by dividing the total number of children who received supervised visitation by the number of program participants.

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?

ChildNet is willing to work with the Legislature to identify a course of action that would satisfy the Legislature's mandate to be good stewards of the state's funds.

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



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- ☐ 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

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



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☐ 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.