



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1192

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 2,800 families with over 7,000 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 600 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 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	41%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	993,000	55%
Other	65,000	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,808,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2025-26	0	187,500	606	Yes

9. Is future-year 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.



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In lieu of state funding, we would develop a comprehensive fund development plan to include RFP applications, fundraising events and an individual, corporate and foundational donor plan to diversify COI's funding platform. Local grant dollars are often secured on a community by community basis. This creates difficulties for State correctional agencies as some counties have funding while others do not.

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	Executive Director and Project Head will dedicate 10 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.	17,500
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 20% time for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	17,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to collaborative meetings with FDC and partnering agencies across the State is budgeted at \$10000. Office rent for COI staff, social work interns and COI Corps Staff is budgeted at \$10,000. Office supplies are budgeted at \$2,500. Travel to collaborative meetings with FDC and partnering agencies across the State is budgeted at \$10000. Office rent for COI staff, social work interns and COI Corps Staff is budgeted at \$10,000. Office supplies are budgeted at \$2,500.	22,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Allocations of: The operational audit is budgeted at \$2,500. Liability and associated insurance is budgeted at \$5,000. 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.	17,500
Operational Costs		



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Salary and Benefits	\$255,000 will be reserved to hire up to four 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. (Salaries match with local funding)	225,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$100,000 will be reserved to support wellness, literacy, civics and STEM learning experiences for 4000 child/ family bonding experience. (\$25 per experience) \$200,000 will be reserved to support transportation costs (approximately 60 charter buses) for children (and appropriate caregivers) to participate in the child focused bonding visitation and special child focused developmental events	300,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of 15 community/faith based organizations with an intention to expand across FL. \$150,000 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 enhanced learning experience. \$23,750 is to support social work/criminal justice interns.	150,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance

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

Over 300,000 FL children are impacted by incarceration of a parent/caregiver; they are more likely to engage in anti-social behaviors and suffer mental illness that put them on a path towards incarceration. COI's Family Strengthening, in collaboration with FDC, is proven to interrupt this pattern with supervised visitation/support services. Families reconnect through literacy, and STEAM learning experiences. Each engagement becomes a powerful step toward healing and transforming futures.

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

COI will continue to expand the child-focused bonding visits to support family strengthening in FL correctional facilities with this funding. COI will continue to work with families by facilitating community support events to enhance community safety. COI will continue to work with FDC on reentry efforts, having achieved over an 80% success rate with participants.

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

Direct services include family reunifications, trauma-informed support activities and family stabilization efforts. COI supports: bonding by providing transportation, supervised visitation and parenting education; wrap-around care including facilitated referrals for basic needs addressing health, homelessness, disabilities, substance abuse and educational needs. COI also facilitate pro-social community and hobby events for the families.

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 1,000 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?



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The expected benefits are to interrupt intergeneration incarceration by identifying, working with and supporting children with incarcerated parent. 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. Family visits create strong bond between incarcerated parent, children and caregivers and promote family support for the incarcerated parent upon returning to community. Activities focus on increasing knowledge of civic responsibilities as a platform to connect the children to their parent/caregiver. COI also encourages one-on-one direct time between the child and incarcerated parent to bond without interruptions from caregivers. During this bonding time, COI staff monitor the interactions for appropriateness but do not intrude into the bonding experience directly. One-on-one and family contact allows the child to experience parental engagement.

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?

Financial Consequences of \$1,250.00 per occurrence if at least eighteen (18) bonding programs are not completed-annually. Financial Consequences in the amount of \$800.00 for each child less than five hundred (500) unique children. Financial Consequences of \$1000 if at least 75 unique children of incarcerated families are not provided enhanced services.

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



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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.