



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1234

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Fostering Our Future (FOF) is a community-based, church-led partnership designed to increase the number of high-quality foster families while safely reducing the number of children who enter foster care. Through its 100 Churches Initiative, FOF mobilizes, organizes, and equips local churches to care for vulnerable foster children as a compassion ministry of the local church, helping them to recruit, train, and support the foster families within their congregation. State funding in FY 2026-2027 would equip FOF's Initiative to scale up foster care family capacity and wrap around services in Central Florida (Orange, Osceola, and Seminole), East Central Florida (Flagler, Putnam, Volusia, Brevard), as well as immediate surrounding counties when resources bleed over. FOF will continue to fund at scale one-third of its operating costs from local communities.

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	69%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	336,000	31%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,086,000	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	500,000	305A	No

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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Fostering Our Future at Grace Landing, Inc., has been funded through churches, foundations, corporations, and individuals in our local community and will continue to fund at scale one-third of its operating costs from local communities.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Program management and oversight; expert foster family trainers; legal advocacy to train foster families, engage community partners, engage local social services agencies on a collaborative case management system, and recruit case managers to respond when a family is in crisis (total 7 employees).	500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program related expenses, including coalition building, compliance, tech/course management, curriculum delivery, printing, travel, rent, insurance storage, and miscellaneous office expenses.	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Services: bookkeeping, tax preparation, reporting, business operations, annual compliance, technology/innovation, legal, training facilitators and family support counselors	100,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000



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13. Program Performance

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

The funds will expand the capacity of high-quality foster families in our community. Through our Community of Care model, we will recruit, train, equip, and sustain families who are willing to open their homes to vulnerable children. Unlike traditional strategies, our model has proven more effective - recruiting three foster families for every one brought in through the legacy system. Our process, systems, and tools provide families with more than just training; they offer a full circle of support that helps parents remain engaged and successful in fostering. In addition to foster families, we will grow our volunteer base to strengthen wrap-around support for kinship caregivers, foster families, and the children they serve. We will continue to build on the progress of our Citizen Review Panel initiative in Brevard and expand to Orange, which accelerates the path to permanency for youth in care. More children will be placed in stable, safe, and loving homes where they can thrive.

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

Expansion of the 100 Churches foster care training initiative in targeted communities in a 7-county region which will provide families with more than just training; we will provide a full circle of support to help parents remain engaged and successful in fostering. In addition, we will grow our volunteer base to strengthen wrap-around support for kinship caregivers and the children they care for.

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

Building on last year's program, professionally managed and trained volunteers provide individual caregiver support and help with respite care, meals, items needed for new foster children entering the home, invitations to regularly scheduled events and trainings, self-growth and improvement sessions.

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 foster children and foster/kinship families. Over 2,000 individuals are expected to be served.

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

The 100 Churches initiative moves children to permanency faster - whether to family members, their parents, or adoption with a 90% foster parent retention rate with zero cases of substantiated child maltreatment.

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?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met would be returned to the state.

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.