



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1287

1. Project Title Children of Inmates: Babies 'N Brains for Children with Incarcerated Parents

2. Senate Sponsor Alexis Calatayud

3. Date of Request 11/19/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Over 300,000 children in the state of Florida have a parent incarcerated; over half of these children are young children as their parents are early in their criminal career. Research states that these children are acutely at-risk for anti-social behaviors, mental illness and cognitive delays stemming from exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). As a silent population, these children are often overlooked by social service systems because no system exist for identifying them and offering services. Program will provide supplemental support services for children ages 0-5 with an incarcerated parent, including home safety visits, Ages and Stages Questionnaire Assessment and ongoing caregiver community supports program.

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

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	450,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	450,000

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)	450,000	31%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	982,285	67%
Other	32,000	2%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,464,285	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	450,000	305A	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 450,000

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



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Options for additional sources of funding are limited and include efforts to win competitive local, federal and philanthropic grant funds or funds raised privately from individual donors. Most funders however do not recognize the extreme risk associated with parental incarceration, incorrectly assuming that the children are served by state social service systems.

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 will dedicate 5 percent time to project management and leadership, including building collaborative partnerships, supporting DCF's efforts and collaborating with local agencies	8,750
Other Salary and Benefits	Fiscal staff (1 FTE) will be supported at 10% time for the management of budgeting, invoicing, internal controls and audit support.	9,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to collaborative meetings with DCF, FDC and partnering agencies across the State is budgeted at \$7500. Office rent for COI staff, social work interns and COI Corps Staff is budgeted at \$10,000. Office supplies are budgeted at \$2,500.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Allocations of: 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 \$10,500 and will be matched with research funds from Federal and State sources.	18,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	\$200,000 will be reserved to hire up to three FTE social work, health advocates and/or criminal justice staff to provide family support services statewide and to conduct the science-based Babies 'N Brain curriculum in 22 FDC facilities.	200,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	Up to \$100,000 will be reserved to support transportation costs and program supplies including healthy family meal for children (and appropriate caregivers) to participate in child-centered bonding visits to FDC correctional institutions, designed to foster bond between child and incarcerated parent.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	COI is a collaboration of community/faith based organizations with an intention to expand across FL. \$70,000 will be reserved to support subcontracts to partner agencies with specialized skills including child brain development, infant mental health, child safety, information technology and advocacy to support the child safety programming and to support outreach to rural areas. \$23,750 is to support social work/criminal justice interns.	93,750
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		450,000

13. Program Performance

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

When a parent is incarcerated, infants and young children suffer from insecure attachment and bonds to their parent and this insecurity undermines children's ability to cope and to grow in a healthy manner. These broken bonds have been linked to diminished cognitive abilities and inability to establish positive relationships. Over 25% of children with incarcerated parents are under 5 years of age. COI works with the caregivers to provide safety, developmental support and trauma informed wrap-around care. The program also provides critical training on brain development and parenting within the correctional facilities to guide the incarcerated parent on how to support their child in overcoming the challenges and achieving a healthy developmental track. This training is particularly important for female incarcerated parents who are working to reunite with their children and required to learning parenting skills, especially to satisfy for court requirements.

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

Babies 'N Brains provides home visits to provide wellness check ins, child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for children 0-5 to screen developmental delays. The program is proposing to enroll a minimum of 300 children. The program also provides inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness. Over the past eight years, five infants/young children of COI clients have passed away due to untimely accidental deaths. As a result, COI staff will work to conduct home visits with 85 percent of households with children 5 years of age and under to conduct home safety checks, to provide safety equipment, assist with questions of caregivers about the child's development and provide trauma-informed wrap-around care coordination. Care coordinators will continue to provide intensive emotional support to small children who are having difficulties grappling with the absence of their incarcerated parent.

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

Inmate education on infant brain development and child wellness, child safety assessments and Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for a minimum of 300 children (ages 0-5) to assess development delays, and trauma informed wrap-around care coordination. Babies 'N Brains will collaborate with community service providers for referrals and to assist with developmental delays. Home safety assessments and home safety materials will be delivered to 85 percent of households with children age 5 years old and under. Advocacy services will be provided to enhance public understanding of the plight of children of incarcerated parents.

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 served by this project are children, ages 0-5 year of age with incarcerated parents and their caregivers. We serve currently and formerly incarcerated parents, assisting them to establish and maintain positive relationships with their children and caregivers. We anticipate serving 300 children with these funds. This equates to approximately 200 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. Children with incarcerated parents are exposed to higher levels of community and direct violence. Many are economically disadvantaged and often face homelessness. Further, many within the COI population struggle with developmental disabilities and/or physical disabilities.

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

The expected benefits are to interrupt intergeneration incarceration by identifying and working with children with incarcerated parent early in their development. Activities will reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences by teaching brain development and child safety precautions. Family visits will create strong bond between incarcerated parent, children and caregivers to promote healthy families. Improving parenting skills will be the focus during individual sessions, support groups and learning experiences for incarcerated parents, caregivers and children. Measures include pre and post surveys, observational data using proven research tools and techniques, such as the Ages and Stages Assessment and other evidence based programs.

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?

\$1,000 financial consequence per child under proposed 300 children to receive home visit and ASQ assessment. \$500 for every percentage under 85% of households with children five years old and under who do not receive a home safety assessment and supporting supplies.

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)?



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- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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



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