



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1611

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

2. Senate Sponsor Alexis Calatayud

3. Date of Request 12/2/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Pathways to Independence is a comprehensive continuum of care program that transforms foster youth from underserved, at-risk youth to healing, thriving, and self-sufficient. 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. So, in partnership with the State of FL, GHH 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 will 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.

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	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

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)	350,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	350,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	700,000	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		
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.



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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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	(1) Education and enrichment classes to ensure learning, skill development, and exposure and (2) Transportation so students can access interviews, appointments, and programming, resulting in at least 90% attendance	236,750
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	(1) Intensive tutoring by experienced teachers and qualified professionals to mitigate learning loss, ensure graduation, and improve reading and math levels and (2) Community partners to facilitate employment and life skills workshops	113,250
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		350,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The purpose of the appropriation funds is to provide direct wrap-around services, programming, and resources to over 300 foster youth who will not be reunified with their families, enabling them to overcome learning loss, master life skills, maintain housing, and become employment-ready. Thereby, creating pathways to high school and college graduation, employment, and independence through GHH's After-School, Career Readiness, Vocational Training, and Camp Independence programs.

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

GHH will meet the purpose of these funds through our evidence-based programming, created in-house and refined over 10 years, as well as our community partners who are experts in youth development, life skills, career readiness, and vocational training. Collectively, our program curriculum will create measurable, life-changing pathways to independence for foster youth in Miami.

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

GHH's direct services include hands-on, instantly accessible solutions, such as HVAC vocational training and certification, personalized tutoring by certified teachers, job placements at GHH and local small businesses, life skills training and career readiness workshops provided by GHH staff and community partners, as well as one-on-one mentoring to ensure accountability and results.

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. This includes 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. 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 GHH's comprehensive intervention, diversion, and prevention programming. Approximately 300 students in this target population will 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 expected program outcome is more self-sufficient foster youth aging out of care and diverted from the criminal/juvenile justice systems, resulting from improved educational support, housing access, job opportunities, life skills, and physical and mental health services. We measure these outcomes through frequent data collection, including school report cards, attendance records, and feedback 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?

Failure to meet deliverables or performance measures will result in a reimbursement of funds to the state.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? ☐ No

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):



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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

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)



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☐ 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.