

LOI Form

Organization Information

A Word version you can use to draft your request is available for download.

The rubric that will be used to score your LOI is available for download.

Project Name*

Please give your proposal a short, descriptive title. This is how your request will appear throughout the PCF grant portal.

Suncoast Voices for Children - Request Committee funding for the needs of children in foster care.

Amount Requested*

The minimum grant request for this process is \$50,000.

The maximum grant request for this process is \$325,000.

If you request the full \$325,000, your organization should be able to demonstrate a *significant* impact to be made from these funds.

Please be sure that your grant request is proportional to your annual operating budget. If you have any questions about how much funding to request, please contact Jocelyn Howard at jhoward@pinellascf.org.

\$50,000.00

Annual Operating Budget*

Please provide the amount of your annual operating budget, (expenditures only) for your entire organization.

\$997,000.00

Grant Start Date*

PCF expects to issue a contract to approved organizations in September 2023. If awarded with a contract issuance date of September 1, 2023, when would your organization begin to spend funds?

09/01/2023

Grant End Date*

PCF expects the grant period to be between 12 and 24 months for this process. Given this range, when would your organization expect to finish expending funds if awarded?

08/31/2025

Mission Statement*

Please write your organization's mission statement below. This should be no longer than one or two sentences.

Suncoast Voices for Children provides for the unmet physical, psychological, educational, and social needs of abused, abandoned, and neglected children in Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

Is your organization headquartered in Clearwater?

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

No

Programming Background*

Please describe the program that this grant would support.

Example

Peer Counseling Services Inc. offers after-school support groups for middle schoolers and high schoolers. Below, Peer Counseling Services Inc. would describe what its programming is, how its programming works, and who is served.

Why PCF asks this: PCF wants to learn about what your organization does and how it carries out its mission.

Suncoast Voices works with the Sheriff's Department Child Protection Investigators (CPI), Case Managers, and other community partners to keep children out of the dependency system or meet their needs while in the system. While it is sometimes necessary for safety reasons for the CPI Unit to remove children from parents, the disruption to the children's lives caused by the removal is immeasurable. The disruption can be reduced when the CPI identifies a safe extended family member or friend who can care for the child. Oftentimes, the family members and friends do not have a bed for each child, which is a requirement for the CPI to place the children. Voices provides beds in these cases to ensure that placements can occur. Voices also works with community partners to provide children who enter into foster care with access to items and opportunities not funded by the state, including clothes, car seats, music lessons, camp, extra curricular activities and more. Funds awarded would be used to provide items and services to meet the needs of children in, or at risk of entering, foster care.

History in Clearwater*

Please describe how long you've been providing services in the City of Clearwater, and the nature of such services.

Why PCF asks this: Given that the City of Clearwater is the funding source for this grant program, PCF may prioritize organizations headquartered in Clearwater or those that have a strong presence in the City.

Suncoast Voices for Children has been serving children and families in Clearwater since its inception in 2004. The process of reviewing and fulfilling requests is our flagship program. By funding services and items for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, abandonment, or neglect, we are able to their immediate needs in a timely manner. Starting in 2022, Voices began tracking requests by zip codes. Over the last 10 months, Voices served a total of 165 children in Clearwater - granting requests totaling \$39,720. The majority of these requests were for the following items:

- Beds and bedding
- Car seats

- Clothing
- Laptops
- Extra-curricular activities
- Food
- Birthday gifts

Outcomes*

Define one to two outcomes already being measured by your organization in relation to the programming this grant would support. This is not the outcome of this specific funding, but of the programming itself. **Outcomes are not the number of people you will serve, but how they or their situation will change.**

"Outcomes - are specific, measurable statements that let you know when you have reached your goals. Outcome statements describe specific changes in your knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors you expect to occur as a result of your actions. Good outcome statements are specific, measurable, and realistic."

(W.K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide)

Example

80% of youth involved in peer counseling will show increased emotional intelligence after six months of participation.

Why PCF asks this: PCF considers measurable outcomes to be a cornerstone of effective social service programming. Tracking outcomes allows both an organization and its supporters to know how effective its programming is and helps an organization improve its programming over time.

Since inception, our goal has been to provide for the previously unmet needs of children in foster care. A quick turnaround means less time a child suffers with a toothache because the state refuses to pay for anesthesia. It means Voices has diapers and bottles in-house so that children do not have to go hungry or dirty while their cases are being reviewed. Families and caregivers are often referred to us by a case worker, a Child Protective Investigator, or FSS support staff. These advocates, who form relationships with the children, are in a better position to observe long-term outcomes. Measuring how a child's future is changed by receiving school supplies, or new shoes, is not possible when your contact isn't with the child but with their advocate. However, the feedback from caregivers and the thank you notes we receive demonstrate our effectiveness and impact. We are happy to provide examples.

Measurements*

Explain what measurement tools you will use to evaluate the stated outcome(s) above. That is, how will your organization know it is achieving or not achieving the outcome(s) stated above? Stronger requests will use a validated tool or method of data collection.

Example

Peer Counseling Services administers the Schutte Self Report Emotional Intelligence Test before counseling begins, and in six-month intervals thereafter.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to know how the outcome(s) you've specified are measured, and if you used a validated tool that has been proven in usage outside your organization. If you've developed your own tool, please describe how it was made.

Voices works alongside the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Child Protection Division and the Family Support Services diversion service providers to identify children who have safe, loving family members who are able

to take custody of children who would otherwise enter into foster care. Our community partners perform assessments developed by the Department of Children and Families to determine if homes are appropriate and if any interventions or services can correct identified deficits. Voices provides the requested services and items to every family that has been assessed to be appropriate to take custody that meets the organization's program criteria in order to place children with family.

Grant Impact*

How would this grant help your organization and its clients achieve the outcomes stated above? That is, what would you be able to do with this funding that you otherwise could not?

Why PCF asks this: The intention of this grant is to fund organizations providing support for individuals and families in Clearwater with emergency housing and social services needs. How that support happens, and how this grant could help, differs from organization to organization. PCF would like to know specifically how this grant would help your organization and the clients you serve.

According to the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, almost 3 million children “live in homes with no parent present (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). The majority live with a relative; over half live with a grandparent.” Research shows that kids who are placed with safe family members instead of in foster care are much more likely to succeed as adults. However, loving aunts, uncles, and grandparents often can't afford to take in children, or they don't have the supplies required by law to take custody. If awarded, this grant will fund requests from Clearwater caregivers and provide for the increasing needs of children in foster care in the Clearwater community. Monies awarded will help to ensure family members have beds, car seats, safety equipment and other childcare essentials that are needed for our kids to stay with protective, Sheriff-approved relatives instead of entering foster care, which leads to better outcomes for our kids.

To date, Suncoast Voices has granted every single request that fits within our mission. However, these needs have increased significantly over the years. Last year, Voices saw a 27% increase in the total number of children served by the request committee. We know that keeping children in a familiar environment minimizes trauma. By funding necessary items (such as beds, car seats and school supplies) and opportunities (such as summer camp or music lessons) we can keep children with safe, familiar caregivers. This grant will ensure our ability to meet the growing needs in the Clearwater foster family community.

Preliminary Budget Narrative*

Please write a brief breakdown of line items showing how your requested funds would be used. You may add context to the expenses if needed (for example, if salaries are requested, state how that position supports the programming described in your proposal). A more detailed, formal budget will be required if your request is moved forward in the funding process.

Small equipment purchases are permitted under this grant provided they are directly tied to service delivery. You may include those purchases in this narrative.

If your organization will be requesting indirect costs, please include this in your narrative. Note that the indirect cost rate for this grant is capped at 5% of the grant.

Why PCF asks this: PCF would like to gain a general understanding of the proposed programming costs for this grant.

Beds and Bedding (includes cribs, pack and play, twin beds and bunk beds) - \$40,000

Food and Clothes - \$5,000

Childcare supplies, Safety Items and Home Goods - \$2,500

Extra-curriculars, Birthday/Holiday, Summer Camp - \$2,500

*Based on previous spending categories and subject to slight variations based on need.

Reduction in Funding*

Due to limited funding, your request amount may not be fully awarded if it is moved forward in the grant process. How would reduced/partial funding impact your proposed program?

Why PCF asks this: The review committee that ultimately recommends proposals for funding may consider partial funding. PCF would like to know upfront what impact this would have on your proposal.

Partial funding would still provide growth opportunities for the request committee and help to ensure all requests are funded.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded