

# Budget Detail Request - Fiscal Year 2016-17

Your request will not be officially submitted unless all questions and applicable sub parts are answered.

1. Title of Project: CASTLE: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect through Education & Awareness
2. Date of Submission: 01/04/2016
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Larry Lee

## 4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No  
*If answer to 4a is ?NO? skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d*
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request (Note that Column E will be the total of Recurring funds requested and Column F will be the total Nonrecurring funds requested, the sum of which is the Total of the Funds you are requesting in Column G):

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2015-16 (If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 (If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated  (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)	Recurring Base Budget  (Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A )	<b>INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested</b>	<b>TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested</b>  (Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)	<b>Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding</b>  (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)
Input Amounts:					700,000	0	700,000

- e. New Nonrecurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:  
 Operating Expenses     Fixed Capital Construction     Other one-time costs
- f. New Recurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:  
 Operating Expenses     Fixed Capital Construction     Other one-time costs

5. Requester:

- a. Name: Theresa Garbarino-May
- b. Organization: CASTLE
- c. Email: tgm@castlec.org
- d. Phone #: (772)465-6011 Ext. 222

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: CASTLE
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Saint Lucie
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Saint Lucie

7. Write a project description that will serve as a stand-alone summary of the project for legislative review. The description should summarize the entire project's intended purpose, the purpose of the funds requested (if request is a sub-part of the entire project), and most importantly the detail on how the funds requested will be spent - for example how much will be spent on positions and associated salaries, specifics on capital costs, and detail of operational expenses. The summary must list what local, regional or statewide interests or areas are served. It should also document the need for the funds, the community support and expected results when applicable. Be sure to include the type and amount of services as well as the number of the specific target population that will be served (such as number of home health visits to X, # of elderly, # of school aged children to receive mentoring, # of violent crime victims to receive once a week counseling etc.)

a. Program Purpose:

CASTLE is seeking a funding appropriation of \$700,000 to help to solve the crisis in child abuse and neglect in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. Funding from the State of Florida will be directed to CASTLE's successful and high impact child abuse prevention programs ? programs that work with parents and children to build healthy, safe and resilient families. Prevention and early intervention through education and awareness is key to finding a solution to this problem. At CASTLE, we're proud of our 35 year history of preventing child abuse. CASTLE is successful with 98% of parents and children we serve. Funds will be directed toward operating expenses so to help ensure that CASTLE can restore services that were cut due to a tremendous loss in funding over the past several years from Devereux CBC, the local child welfare community-based care agency serving Judicial Circuit #19 and CASTLE's core funder.

CASTLE's mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect through education and awareness. CASTLE's impact is felt across the community as we empower parents and ensure that they have the resources they need to raise their children in healthy, loving and nurturing homes, in a community where keeping children safe is everyone's priority.

Our mission resonates through six evidence-based educational and support programs: an in-home parent education program, a support group for children experiencing divorce or loss, supervised visitation for parents and children experiencing domestic violence, low-intensity education and support workshops to a family-strengthening program for at-risk families. Over the years, we have worked with an estimated 50,000 families, including more than 110,000 children. CASTLE serves as the model for a national network of child abuse prevention centers that span 45 locations in the U.S.

The population we serve include families who are at-risk for abusing or neglecting their children; and families who have had a reported incident of abuse or neglect, but who, with support and education, can build a safe and stable home for their children. Aside from this, there are no restrictions or requirements to participate in our programs.

b. Program Budget:

CASTLE is seeking \$700,000 to help to solve the crisis in child abuse prevention in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties.

The \$700,000 would be allocated as follows: \$525,000 (75%) to salaries and related benefits, and \$175,000 (25%) for operating expenses. The funding would support CASTLE programs as follows:

? \$300,000 (Safe Families): Funding will be used to support the staffing needs that were lost due to the reduction from Devereux. (Over the past several years, CASTLE's Parent Educator slots have been reduced from 17 to 12. The reality of this loss is that 750 families cannot receive the support and education services so vital to remaining together.) Services will be available to increase the number of families we serve in all four counties, from approximately 375 to nearly 600.

? \$150,000 (Valued Visits): CASTLE will be able to offer this program 2-1/2 days per week, in all four counties, increasing the number of families we reach from approximately 100 to 250. (Note: CASTLE does charge a modest fee (\$15 for a monitored visit), these fees can be shared by the parents, and/or reduced or eliminated. The fee itself, the party responsible, and a fee reduction or waiver is all the purview of the courts. Currently, fees are less than 10% of the budget.)

? \$250,000 (Strengthening Families): Funding will enable CASTLE to continue the program in St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Indian River Counties, and begin it in Martin County. Our reach will expand from approximately 120 families to over 250 families.

c. Local, Regional, Statewide Interests /Areas Served:

CASTLE provides services throughout St. Lucie County, Martin County, Indian River County, and Okeechobee County.

As a financial service provider, the State of Florida will serve as a key strategic partner investing in the solution to the crisis in child abuse along the Treasure Coast and in Okeechobee County.

At CASTLE, we see the adverse results of cutting prevention efforts and programs locally, regionally and statewide, leading inevitably to higher rates of child abuse and more children taken from their homes and placed in foster care. Every day that a child is safe from harm, we are transforming lives for this generation and the next.

d. Need for Funds:

Child abuse and neglect is a public health issue along the Treasure Coast and in Okeechobee County. Unfortunately, child abuse often only gets attention when the media features a child's tragic death. Over the past three years, 28 children in the Treasure Coast ? 22 of them under the age of three ? have died. In just the last year alone, 12 Treasure Coast children died due to abuse. These deaths could have been prevented. Unfortunately, only one in four cases receive services ?

largely because those services are not available. Moreover, in 25% of these deaths, there was no prior contact with DCF.

Most people become aware of child abuse when an extreme case is publicized through the media. Unfortunately, most abuse cases do not make the headlines. Most happens in the family home. It is shocking to realize that 97% of children who are abused never leave their homes. These families live in every zip code in our service region. The most common reasons for abuse are toilet training, excessive crying and feeding. A history of parental substance or alcohol abuse, psychological instability and/or poverty all compound the risk to children. Additionally:

? Florida's rate of child abuse is 47% higher than the national average, according to the 2013 Child Maltreatment Report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

? Data indicates that Devereux CBC is the lowest funded agency of its kind in the state, and that they spend less than 2% of their budget on child abuse prevention services.

? Florida's Department of Children and Family Services reports that only one in four children across the state who have been abused receive the services they need to be safe and to heal, down from 3 in 5 four years ago.

? St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties have an abuse rate 20% higher than the national average.

The consequences of not taking action are tremendous. Healthy Families Florida states, "children who are abused are more likely to need special education classes in school, become pregnant as teenagers, become involved in the juvenile detention system or end up addicted to drugs." The Children's Bureau states that, "Besides the enormous physical, mental, and emotional harms of child abuse, there are economic costs. Indeed, the average lifetime cost of non-fatal child maltreatment is estimated to be \$210,012. The estimate includes costs to both society and the victim for short- and long-term health care, productivity losses, child welfare services, criminal justice services, and special education." These facts demonstrate that prevention is not only fiscally responsible, it is socially imperative.

At CASTLE we believe that prevention is the key to dismantling child abuse. The need for prevention services is before a crisis happens ? before a child is harmed. If we are going to turn the system around, the need for prevention must be addressed. And prevention dollars must flow to programs that help parents with children of all ages, whether they are babies, toddlers, elementary school or even in high school. Child abuse knows no age limits. While teaching new parents effective techniques and skills when they have a newborn, the stresses of parenting can manifest into child abuse and neglect no matter what age the child.

e. Community Support:

CASTLE works with a wide range of agencies throughout our service area ? our network is wide and deep. CASTLE's cost per client is less than half of the national average; therefore, leverage every possible community partnership.

Our community partners include Children's Home Society, Hibiscus Children's Center, Healthy Families, Safe Space Domestic Violence Center and Harvest Food and Outreach Center for referrals, training, advocacy efforts, etc. Internally, we work closely and collaboratively across program areas and management, Board and volunteers. This ensures an efficient, cohesive and transparent operation throughout the agency.

This collaborative community-based network enables CASTLE to serve as the only organization on the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee County to provide abuse and neglect prevention services in the specific manner as CASTLE does. We tackle child abuse and neglect by working 1:1 with parents to change harmful or negligent patterns and replace them with positive approaches to raising and disciplining children. By first addressing risk factors that lead to abuse, and then building in protective factors that create family stability, we deal with the problem directly and stay until the job is complete. We create a professional, polite and courteous relationship with these families ? some of the communities? most marginalized and vulnerable ? ensuring that each family member?s dignity is always respected to the utmost.

f. Expected Results:

CASTLE?s impact in the community is clear as reflected below:

- ? 97% of those families who successfully completed the Safe Families program had no confirmed reports or re-reports of abuse for one year after completing services as measured through the state child abuse hotline.
- ? 100% of the children and adults who participated in Strengthening Families increased their pro-social behaviors and decreased their anti-social behaviors, and their attitudes on reducing the use of alcohol, marijuana and illicit drug use.
- ? Additionally, 96% of all families increased family functioning and improved in at least two parenting skills.
- ? 100% of Valued Visits participants had no confirmed reports of abuse while enrolled in the program and for up to one year afterward.

CASTLE?s programs benefit parents and children long after they have completed the program. Parents are taught to raise their children in healthy, positive and nurturing ways. When parents are given the tools they need to successfully raise their children, families are able to remain together and children do not enter the state child protection system. In families who have experienced abuse over generations, the cycle of abuse is broken, and harmful parenting techniques are eliminated rather than being passed down to the next generation. Most importantly, children have the chance to thrive and grow into positive, strong and successful adults.

g. Type and Amount of services:

We are requesting funding for three key programs.

- 1) Safe Families is a home-based, comprehensive education program where parents learn the skills necessary to become strong parents, leading to safe children and long-term stability for families.
  
- 2) Valued Visits is a court-ordered, supervised visitation program ? the only one in all four counties - that provides a safe, neutral place for children to visit with a parent to begin rebuilding relationships.
  
- 3) Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is an internationally-recognized, evidence-based, cost-effective parenting and family strengthening program for high risk families that has been found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, and alcohol and drug abuse in children and to improve social

competencies and school performance. Child mistreatment also decreases as parents learn more effective parenting skills. The program assists parents in creating mechanisms to generate change through respectful communication and listening, consistent rules and expectations, and safe opportunities that promote independence. Through education and linkages to community resources, families are offered support to make lasting changes in the way they interact with one another.

? Safe Families: Services will be available to increase the number of families we serve in all four counties, from approximately 375 to nearly 600.

? Valued Visits: CASTLE will be able to offer this program 2-1/2 days per week, in all four counties, increasing the number of families we reach from approximately 100 to 250.

? Strengthening Families: Our reach will expand from approximately 120 families to over 250 families.

h. Specific Target Population:

CASTLE's target population includes the following:

? Families who are at-risk for abusing or neglecting their children,

? Families, who have had a reported incident of abuse or neglect, but who, with support and education, can build a safe and stable home for their children.

? Parents and their children between the ages of 0-17 years old who are at risk of being abused/neglected due to an identifiable risk factor such as poverty, lack of parenting knowledge and skills, or a parent's own history of abuse, addiction, or family violence.

? There are no additional restrictions or requirements to participate in our programs.

? For further information regarding the number of families served, please refer to item ?g? above.

CASTLE typically serves more than 3,000 families each year throughout our service area.

? 85% of the families we work with each year earn less than \$25,000.

? Our families are 48% White, 17% Black, 28% Hispanic, and 7% Other.

8. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding:

Federal: 0

State: 498,000 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)

Local: 200,000

Other: 0

9. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

Yes