

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: Open Doors: A First Responder Network for Commercially Exploited Children (CSEC)
2. Date of Submission: 12/15/2015
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Ross Spano

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)	INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested	TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested (Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)	Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)
Input Amounts:					3,567,000	0	3,567,000

- 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: Roy Miller
- b. Organization: The Children's Campaign
- c. Email: RMiller@iamforkids.org
- d. Phone #: (727)224-7274

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Open Doors
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Collier, Duval, Leon, Orange, Sarasota
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Baker, Bay, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Duval, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Saint Johns, Sarasota, Seminole, Taylor

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.)

Open Doors: A First Responder Network for Commercially Exploited Children (CSEC)
2016 Legislative Appropriations Issue
Summary of \$3.5 Million Request (Expanded)

Principal Authors: Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center; Roy Miller, The Children's Campaign; Connie Rose, Selah Freedom; Linda Alexionok, Voices for Florida, and Shelly Katz, Children's Home Society of Florida. For more information, contact Roy Miller, 727.224.7274 or RMiller@iamforkids.org

Appropriations Request: \$3,567,000

Florida leads the country in the strength of its sex trafficking laws according to national advocacy organizations. Recent public awareness efforts including legislation mandating signage in targeted public places is reaching broader audiences, including more crime victims. When child victims are recovered or come forward, however, trauma-focused crisis intervention and therapeutic services lack availability, sequencing, and consistency. This creates on-going challenges and critical response gaps for the crime victim, law enforcement and community agencies willing to help.

The Open Doors: Statewide Network of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) provides a framework and program design to assist victims immediately

and expertly and make better use of existing services and improve their delivery. The Open Doors Statewide Network proposed for Florida utilizes a public-private partnership approach and draws on the strengths of the Massachusetts (My Life My Choice), Minnesota (No Wrong Doors) and Georgia (Georgia Cares) initiatives cited in a workgroup report issued by the Florida Department of Children & Families and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. These models have successfully increased care coordination for CSEC victims / survivors by developing and implementing emergency response and assistance, victim support, survivor mentors, screening, access to clinical services, research-based assessments, safety planning, individual care plans, coordination of mentoring services, training, public awareness and collaboration.

Legislative Action: New appropriations to be administered through a single contract with a private non-profit organization are required to implement the Open Doors project in 5 target regions. Additional regions could be targeted in subsequent years based on successful implementation and funding. The administering organization will subcontract with lead agencies in each of the targeted regions and for an overall statewide consultation and evaluation component as described in more detail in this briefing paper. The model enhances opportunities for additional local, private and philanthropic funding.

Cost: \$ 3,567,306 (1)

5 Regions (8 Navigators) \$508,000 (annual salary @ \$63,500)

5 Regions (10 Survivor Mentors) 635,500 (annual salary @ 63,500)

Benefits 343,050 (benefits @ 30%)

Mileage 155,520 (1,500 miles x 12 months x 18 Staff x .48 per mile)

General Operating 900,000 (rent, telephone, supplies, special needs, technology, liability insurance, etc. in 3 regions @ \$200,000; 2 regions @ 150,000)

Quarterly Meetings 36,000 (4 meetings per year/18 people @ \$500 average travel costs)

Overhead 394,710 (5 regions 78,924 audits, financial management services, administrative support services)

Statewide Contractor 594,526 Evaluation, Monitoring, Quality Assurance and 10% for administration.

(1) An important highlight in the June 2015 OPPAGA report ? State and Local Agencies Are in Initial Stages of Addressing Needs of Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation ? was the acknowledgment about the lack of important data around the number of sex trafficking victims and what the actual operational / program costs are for services to these victims. As such, it is important to note that the appropriation request above is based on a prudent evaluation of costs associated with similar and successful pilot projects, estimated costs of the average rates for professional staff and supervisor / management salaries, and the average market costs for overhead and other professional fees.

Assumptions adopted from research and state models

A set of basic assumptions adopted from research and state models guided the development of Open Doors: A Statewide Service Network for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children. These assumptions are fundamental to the development of a system response, service delivery and prevention training to sexually exploited crime victims or children and youth at risk of sexual exploitation.

1. Florida needs a statewide integrated service network to address the multiplicity of needs of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

2. The child protection system is currently not designed, nor prepared, to address the needs of CSEC victims
3. The juvenile justice system is not designed, nor prepared, nor offers appropriate placement to address the needs of CSEC victims
4. A critical component of an effective service network is the availability of First Responder survivor mentors to provide immediate support to rescued crime victims. To be successful in creating a therapeutic alliance individuals must be able to honor and not shame the coping mechanisms and tactics that sexually exploited victims use to survive. A survivor mentor can understand what a particular victim is experiencing and is able to build a trusting alliance. This trust leads to the development of a plan to serve the victim appropriately and one in which the victim will engage voluntarily. This alliance with the survivor mentor reduces the frequency and longevity of running away episodes
5. Organizations that provide services to children in every community should be trained and adept at identifying sexual exploitation. When appropriate, these service providers should be given the necessary supports, resources and education to incorporate best practices into their service delivery model specific to addressing the needs of sexually exploited victims
6. Utilize research-based training curricula to increase providers' knowledge about the scope of the problem, the reframing of those who have survived commercial exploitation as victims and not criminals, the relationship between sexual abuse and CSEC, methods used to exploit children, why people exploit children, and risk factors associated with CSEC and warning signs. Most importantly, participants must learn about the coping mechanisms used by CSEC survivors, post-traumatic stress disorder, and trauma reenactment as well as appropriate intervention and treatment strategies
7. Access to a comprehensive needs assessment by highly trained and skilled staff is vital and a critical first step in the development of a comprehensive care management strategy
8. Clinical services must be readily accessible and with the flexibility required to meet the victim's current situation
9. CSEC victims need support in transitioning to adulthood. Services cannot end when a recovering victim reaches age 18. Understanding that the needs of the victim may change, transition plans must ensure that victims are able to access services and receive on-going support. Anecdotal evidence from law enforcement supports that the survivor mentor model can lead to an increase in prosecutions by empowering victims to testify and stand against their captors.

Recommendations

Opens Doors will provide five selected regions with 8 highly skilled regional navigators and 10 survivor mentors located in Northeast (2 regional navigators), Big Bend ? Panhandle (1 regional navigator) Central (2 regional navigators), Suncoast / Tampa Bay (2 regional navigators), and Southwest Florida (1 regional navigator). These navigators will be funded positions through a preferred pre-selection process of existing providers with experience and commitment to the Open Doors philosophy and model. Funds would be administered through a single contract with a statewide non-profit organization. The administering organization would subcontract with lead agencies in each of the targeted regions to provide highly structured and tailored services that reflect the specific needs of each community. Agencies engaged for the subcontracts would be required to demonstrate their experience, expertise and commitment in providing services to CSEC. The administration of the Open Doors pilot program through a single contractor also allows for protocols, uniformity and consistency in the delivery of effective services and the increased efficiency in the sharing of information and resources and data collection. Likewise, a single evaluation component can be integrated into the project.

Regional Navigators: The regional navigators would be full time positions. Each navigator would be required to develop and submit a workplan to the Statewide Contractor. The workplan would contain the following components: regional needs assessment which includes an examination of the population at risk; regional strengths and areas for development, goals, measureable outcomes and an action plan with activities and timelines. The Regional Navigators duties include:

- a. Provide initial care management services including access to and coordination of clinical services
- b. Complete assessments to ensure victims receive a comprehensive, trauma-centered service plan that meets the victim's individual needs
- c. Serve as the regional expert and resource to professionals who need information on how to work with children who are victims of sex trafficking
- d. Develop relationships with service providers, law enforcement, governmental agencies, clinicians, etc. to assist children, youth and families with navigating the various systems and ensuring therapeutic support services are readily available as needed
- e. Provide information to the general public and others seeking to learn more about commercial sexual exploitation of children/trafficking
- f. Ensure that training has been provided to regional stakeholders so children and youth in that region encounter open doors to services, and professionals who come into contact with children and youth know the signs of sex trafficking and can access the services identified by the regional navigator
- g. Work to ensure adequate outreach and services for trafficked youth are available in their region.

Survivor Mentors: The survivor mentors would be full time positions. The Survivor Mentors serve as the FIRST RESPONDERS and work collaboratively with Regional Navigators and with the identified clinicians.

- a. On call 24 hours/7 days a week, First Responders provide immediate crisis intervention and assistance
- b. On-going care management services to victims and their families (when appropriate)
- c. Verify recovered child's eligibility for services, coordinating these services, providing support and ensuring victims are safe and able to participate in services
- d. Engage community stakeholders in providing the necessary ongoing support services
- e. Accompany the children and youth to court hearings as needed
- f. Assist with referral appointments as appropriate
- g. Coordinate the day-to-day care management and clinical support services specific to the assessed needs under the supervision of the regional navigators.

Recruitment, Education and Training of Survivor Mentors

Protocols for recruitment and screening will consist of multiple layers inclusive of extensive training and education. Recruitment of survivor mentors will leverage networks locally, statewide and nationally and use social media and other technologies. Job postings will include internet sites such as Idealist.com, Indeed.com, etc., outreach to human trafficking task forces and coalitions, Schools of Social Work, law enforcement, and direct service groups such as Hope International, Florida Coalition for Children, etc.

Qualifications include a high school diploma but with some college preferred and a minimum recovery period of 2 years but preferred 3-5 years. Volunteer service in teaching, youth groups, or other settings is encouraged as is successful involvement in established self-help programs such as those addressing

alcoholism, eating disorders or domestic violence. Many exceptional clinicians with advanced college degrees have histories of exploitation but have been unwilling to come forward due to associated stigma. Open Doors will attract their interest as Survivor Mentors as it embraces all survivors and reinforces its commitment to them. Issues with background screening due to past criminal charges will follow the process Florida allows for expunction and exception. Situations will exist where associate history will NOT result in hiring.

All Survivor Mentors will be required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of specially designed training and education offered by The Girls-Centered Institute at the University of North Florida Division of Continuing Education. This certification program began in 2015 and was envisioned by Voices for Florida and the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center.

Based on other successful models, Open Doors provides self-care and reduction of secondary vicarious trauma of its personnel due to assisting newly rescued crime victims of sex trafficking. This will be provided by the clinical team of the associated implementing organization.

Rationale for Navigator / Survivor Mentor Model: While the goal is to develop a statewide service network for victims of sexual exploitation, various regions of the state differ in their service availability and capacity and have unique populations and strengths as well. Services provided to victims and survivors are often uncoordinated and the relationships between various governmental and non-governmental organizations inclusive of law enforcement are often uncoordinated as well.

A regional navigator will solely focus on the region and work collectively with the various systems to provide access to multiple services and troubleshoot based on the individual needs of the children, youth and families. The peer support provided by the Survivor Mentor is grounded in established psychosocial models that include social support, experiential knowledge, helper-therapy principle, social learning theory and social comparison theory. In one study, the addition of a peer specialist to a care management team resulted in improvement in quality of life measures, fewer significant life problems and improved self-esteem and social support.

According to experts, evidence indicated that peer-provided services can improve the effectiveness of the traditional mental health delivery system.

The goal is to shift away the blame, shame, discrimination, isolation and trauma experienced by victims towards a model that offers validation, support, unconditional acceptance and relational safety.

Children need to be able to trust a healthy adult figure in order to establish healthy bonds. According to Kate Price, Wellesley University, mentoring offers those very supports in a community or program based context to keep kids connected.

Once a victim survivor is able to develop a trusting healthy relationship, they stop running away. The mentor relationship is a safe space, where both connection and disconnection can occur in a safe space without the fear of persecution.

Another advantage that survivor mentors can provide is support in navigating new experiences, systems and relationships. A survivor mentor can understand what a particular child is experiencing and can assist in helping the youth accept the referrals for therapeutic clinical services.

Statewide Training that Ensures Compliance and Reduces Inefficiencies: As part of its commitment to the Safe Harbor Act, the Florida Legislature passed training requirements for organizations and facilities working with CSEC placements. Open Doors presents an opportunity to leverage resources and reduce administrative burden while ensuring compliance with these training requirements. Open Doors will provide an education and training program available to providers, thereby eliminating duplication and reducing costs associated with individual providers securing required or on-going training on their own. Open Doors will offer its education and training program to key stakeholders and community groups.

Department of Children and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice CSEC Services Workgroup Recommendations

The Open Doors: Statewide Network of Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth is aligned with recent work jointly undertaken by the Department of Children & Families and Department of Juvenile Justice.

On November 13, 2014, the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice released the CSEC Services Workgroup report: Restoring Our Kids: An Analysis of Florida's continuum of care and recommendations to improve services for commercially sexually exploited children. The recommendations were informed by input from published research reports, national studies, and members of the CSEC Services workgroup. The report calls for the following funding priorities (page 31):

- ? Statutorily-created statewide coordinated care approach for funding and care management.
- ? Statewide survivor-mentor programming, as a component of statewide coordinated care approach.
- ? Prevention education for at risk youth, potential johns, and professionals working with children.
- ? Drop-in centers at existing locations, prioritizing Miami, Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach and Duval.
- ? Specialized substance abuse, mental health and trauma services in outpatient and residential settings. Funding should follow the survivor so they do not have to change providers as they move through the system.
- ? Specialized services for boys and LGBT youth, prioritizing counties above.
- ? Multiple kinds of residential placements for survivors, not just safe homes.

The Open Doors: Statewide Network of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children project provides a logical starting point for implementing services in a thoughtful, cost effective manner as it creates a solid foundation on which all other service needs will be identified and considered.

Organizations developing Open Doors: Voices for Florida, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, Selah Freedom, Children's Home Society of Florida, and The Children's Campaign.

For more information, contact: Roy Miller, president, The Children's Campaign, Rmiller@iamforkids.org, 727-224-7274 (cell).

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

Federal: 0

State: 0 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)

Local: 0

Other: 0

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

Yes