

Protocol for Requesting Risk Pool Funding

State Fiscal Year 2021-2022

This Protocol for Requesting Risk Pool Funding for state fiscal year 2021-2022 outlines the process by which Community-Based Care Lead Agencies may apply for potential funding from the Risk Pool appropriation provided in the General Appropriations Act.

The establishment of a statewide risk pool program, administered by the Department, serves to manage, and share the financial risks associated with the Community-Based Care (CBC) model for child welfare services in Florida. Should factors outside of a Lead Agency's control (e.g., shifts in the number of children in care, increase in the number of very difficult populations, or a change in the characteristics of the children and families served) cause costs to rise, potentially impeding the Lead Agency's ability to provide ongoing quality services for all children and families served, section 409.990(7), F.S., (Exhibit A) provides qualified Lead Agencies with access to petition for relief from the risk pool in an effort to avoid lead agency failure.

Section 1: Eligibility criteria

Proviso language contained in Specific Appropriation 321 of the General Appropriations Act for state fiscal year 2021-2022 requires the Department to conduct a comprehensive, multi-year review of the revenues, expenditures, and financial position of all CBCs for the most recent two consecutive fiscal years (SFY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021).

To simplify the risk pool process and minimize duplication in requests for data and information, the risk pool protocol will rely significantly on the extensive data used to develop financial viability plans and to support the ongoing monitoring of all CBCs for financial stability and programmatic performance.

A CBC is eligible to apply for risk pool funds in state fiscal year 2021-2022 if they meet the following criteria:

- The CBC meets the statutory requirements for uses of risk pool funding in 409.990(7)(c), Florida Statutes.
- The CBC projects an end of fiscal year deficit, exclusive of any carry forward deficit.
- The CBC's Financial Viability Plan includes well defined and effective actions as well as measurable and reasonable projected outcomes to improve their primary costs drivers that affect their projected deficit.

Section 2: Application submission process

In addition to the CBC's Financial Viability Plan, a CBC seeking risk pool funds must submit to the Department by **October 15, 2021**, the "Risk Pool Funding Application SFY 2021-2022."

Applications will be reviewed with all available cost/expenditure data and all other supporting documentation, including the CBC's Financial Viability Plan. Department personnel, upon request, may review additional records related to this Application for potential funding resolutions.

- 1.1 The CBC should consult with their Regional Managing Director (RMD) regarding their Risk Pool Funding Application and forward their application to the Office of CBC/ME Financial Accountability (OFA), and cc: their contract manager and RMD. **This step shall be accomplished no later than October 15, 2021.**
- 1.2 The review of all Risk Pool Funding Applications will be governed by a peer review process led by the Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare and subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families. The Peer Review Committee will be selected and facilitated by the Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare and will include, but not be limited to, the following members (or their designees):
 - (a) Two (2) Executive Directors (ED) or Chief Executive Officers (CEO) from non-applicant Lead Agencies; and
 - (b) One (1) Chief Financial Officer from a non-applicant Lead Agency.
- 1.3 The Peer Review Committee will:
 - (a) Review, analyze, and discuss the application.
 - (b) Verify the accuracy of the data being reported by the Lead Agency.
 - (c) Assess need for immediate technical assistance regarding budget development/management, and determine if continued on-site technical assistance is appropriate. In these cases, the Peer Review Committee will serve as the coordinating entity for the provision of technical assistance.
 - (d) Make a final recommendation to the Secretary upon the completion of all required site visits, regarding approval or disapproval of the application. Recommendations for approval will include:
 - i. Amount of funding and mix of funds to be made available.
 - ii. Limitations or requirements on use of additional funding that are linked to correction of factors that caused the shortfall.
 - iii. Any follow-up actions or additional documentation needed from the Lead Agency or Region.
 - iv. Report on technical assistance activities completed and remaining, and/or recommendations for future technical assistance.

v. Access to the risk pool.

1.4 If at the end of the year, a Lead Agency that received assistance from the Risk Pool concludes with a surplus, the Department reserves the right to require the Lead Agency to refund the Department the relative portion of the surplus that was accumulated as a result of the awarded risk pool funds.

Risk Pool Funding Application SFY 2021-2022

Please complete all items, sign, and date the application, consult with your Regional Managing Director, and submit electronically to the Barney Ray, Director of Revenue Management & Partner Compliance at Barney.Ray@myflfamilies.com

Lead Agency Name: Brevard Family Partnership

Region: Central

Contract No.: GJ401

Address: 389 Commerce Parkway Suite 120 Rockledge, FL 32955

Lead Agency Contact: Don Johnson

Phone No.: (321) 752-4650 x 3069

Contract Manager: Jessica Walker

Phone No.: (321) 720-0294

This request is being submitted in response to a projected deficit at 6/30/2022 inclusive of all currently available funding.

Financials:

- 1) State the amount of funding requested from Risk Pool funds and the amount of the projected deficit at the end of Fiscal Year 2021-2022:
Projected Deficit: \$1,001,232
Amount of Risk Pool Funds Requested: \$763,382
- 2) Confirm that the amount of funding requested would be fully expended during Fiscal Year 2021-2022: Yes No
- 3) State specifically how the Lead Agency would qualify for Risk Pool funds based upon the requirements in s. 409.990(7)(c), F.S. (Appendix A):
Brevard Family Partnership projects an end of fiscal year deficit, exclusive of any carry forward deficit. BFP's Financial Viability Plan includes well defined and effective actions as well as measurable and reasonable projected outcomes to improve primary costs drivers that affect projected deficit.

- 4) Please attach a narrative explaining how the deficit occurred, what steps have been taken to address the cause(s), and how the Lead Agency will work within its allocated core funding in the future. The narrative should not exceed five pages. See Attachment.

5) Please provide a detailed proposal that addresses how you will use these funds to address or correct the underlying cause of the shortfall? Funds provided will be used to offset Out of Home Care Deficit. Several operational initiatives were implemented to correct the underlying causes of the shortfall. In FY 20/21 BFP was awarded the Home Visitation for Substance-Affected Infants grant to address unmet needs in home visitation services for at-risk pregnant woman and parents/caregivers using substances, and services for families with infants affected by prenatal substance exposure. In partnership with DCF, BFP was selected to pilot the Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN) units with the goals of timelier reunification and decreased length of stay to permanency. Circuit 18 Brevard County will implement Early Childhood Court in January 2022 if not sooner, a specialty Court also expected to increase timeliness of reunifications. BFP participates in Shelter Calls 24/7 to divert removals whenever possible and a Family Preservation Work Group that meets regularly to analyze entries and exits with noted trends, observations, and counter measures. In collaboration with DCF, BFP developed a new Multidisciplinary Team process to provide another diversionary track/alternative option to reduce the number of children being removed. The first convening of the Family Preservation Team was held on June 2, 2021. In addition to child welfare leadership, the team consists of community service providers who serve as Subject Matter Experts across the System of Care to support families with open investigations. The process-early engagement and intervention, front line support, consultation with community providers and expedited service referrals for families in the investigation process discussed during Family Preservation meetings, was implemented to decrease removal rates. BFP has also been meeting regularly with DCF CPI leadership to increase referrals to less restrictive levels to serve families earlier. Central Florida Cares Health Systems will fund the expansion of the prevention continuum in the BFP System of Care. The new team adds dedicated resources to extend diversionary support for families with present active danger threats in the investigation process. The team will be available in the field to provide support in decision making in Florida's child welfare practice model-Safety Decision Making Methodology and will serve as part of the Safety/Risk decision within the first 48 hours, the timeframe required to identify present danger and complete a risk assessment. This team will effectively collaborate (during pre and post commencement) and provide immediate consultation through teamwork with Subject Matter Experts including the Family Preservation Team, screening, and assessment with individuals from specific professional disciplines, and ancillary support to ensure families are engaged and successfully linked to services. The Family Preservation Team will provide additional support to the frontline with early engagement, identification of need and intervention to stabilize families. This pilot is expected to improve outcomes for children and families, increase child safety, increase quality and accountability, reduce the number of children in out of home care and improve the financial health of the child welfare system. BFP has continued to recruit family foster homes that will serve teens to sustain low group home utilization as a means of cost control. The length of time to Adoption Finalizations has decreased through monthly Adoption Staffing's for all children pre and post TPR. The Dependency Judge has solicited the assistance of several Senior Judges to address back log. A General Magistrate has been requested ongoing to maintain adequate docket flow. Two Family Finders positions have been embedded in dependency case

management. Several permanency initiatives have been added to increase exits, the Kinship Unit will be expanded to increase Level 1 percentages.

6. Please provide a detailed budget projection for FY 2021-2022 using the template provided with this application.

Please See Attached FY2021-22 Budget Projection Template

7. Please include a detailed narrative budget for the proposal presented in #5 and expected Return on Investment (ROI) for the funds requested.

Brevard Family Partnership requests \$763,382 from State Fiscal Year 2021-22 Risk Pool Funding to target anticipated expenditures above appropriated allocations within the areas of Residential Group Care (\$340,000), and Level II-V Licensed Foster Homes (\$423,382).

Each of these areas are experiencing a greater rate of expenditure, as described within the indicator reporting contained within the attached Narrative accompanying this application. Funding received through this application would be utilized to offset a projected deficit, in essence making Brevard Family Partnership whole, for the elevated rate of expenditure through Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Brevard Family Partnership is not requesting State Fiscal Year 2021-22 Risk Pool Funding to target (3) additional areas of potential deficit within Level I Foster Homes (\$86,262), Maintenance Adoption Subsidies (\$179,912), and Guardianship Assistance Payments (\$54,387). These areas, withheld from our request, are historically reimbursed to CBCs through reallocations, or other means as the fiscal year progresses. Brevard Family Partnership does not wish to utilize State Fiscal Year 2021-22 Risk Pool Funding that could help other CBCs, and subsequently has strategically targeted areas whereby reallocations or other means may not be available to make our organization whole.

Lead Agency Name: Brevard Family Partnership

Region: Central

Contract No.: GJ401

Lead Agency CEO/ED Name: Phil Scarpelli [Click here to enter text.](#)

Please confirm the following:

The Lead Agency is actively working its SFY 2021-2022 Financial Viability Plan.

Yes No

Did the Lead Agency receive Risk Pool funding in SFY 2020-2021?

Yes No

If Yes, please attach a status update on the recommendations made by the Risk Pool Committee.



Lead Agency CEO/ED Signature

10/15/21

Date

Exhibit A

Section 409.990(7), Florida Statutes:

(a) The department, in consultation with the Florida Coalition for Children, Inc., shall develop and implement a community-based care risk pool initiative to mitigate the financial risk to eligible lead agencies. This initiative must include:

1. A risk pool application and protocol developed by the department which outlines submission criteria, including, but not limited to, financial and program management, descriptive data requirements, and timeframes for submission of applications. Requests for funding from risk pool applicants must be based on relevant and verifiable service trends and changes that have occurred during the current fiscal year. The application must confirm that expenditure of approved risk pool funds by the lead agency will be completed within the current fiscal year.

2. A risk pool peer review committee, appointed by the secretary and consisting of department staff and representatives from at least three nonapplicant lead agencies, which reviews and assesses all risk pool applications. Upon completion of each application review, the peer review committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the secretary, providing, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. Justification for the specific funding amount required by the risk pool applicant based on the current year's service trend data, including validation that the applicant's financial need was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the lead agency management;

- b. Verification that the proposed use of risk pool funds meets at least one of the purposes specified in paragraph (c); and

- c. Evidence of technical assistance provided in an effort to avoid the need to access the risk pool and recommendations for technical assistance to the lead agency to ensure that risk pool funds are expended effectively and that the agency's need for future risk pool funding is diminished.

(b) Upon approval by the secretary of a risk pool application, the department may request funds from the risk pool in accordance with s. 216.181(6)(a).

(c) The purposes for which the community-based care risk pool shall be used include:

1. Significant changes in the number or composition of clients eligible to receive services.

2. Significant changes in the services that are eligible for reimbursement.

3. Continuity of care in the event of failure, discontinuance of service, or financial misconduct by a lead agency.

4. Significant changes in the mix of available funds.

(d) The department may also request in its annual legislative budget request, and the Governor may recommend, that the funding necessary to effect paragraph (c) be appropriated to the department. In addition, the department may request the allocation of funds from the community-based care risk pool in accordance with s. 216.181(6)(a). Funds from the pool may be used to match available federal dollars.

1. Such funds shall constitute partial security for contract performance by lead agencies and shall be used to offset the need for a performance bond.

2. The department may separately require a bond to mitigate the financial consequences of potential acts of malfeasance or misfeasance or criminal violations by the service provider.