



Legislative Funding Priorities 2014-2015

1. CINS/FINS Services – Total funding of \$30M

Support of recurring funds of CINS/FINS services for original programs in the amount of \$28.5M and for rural programs in the amount of \$1.5M.

The Florida Network provides CINS/FINS services as defined in Florida Statute 984. Youth struggling in school, those with significant family problems or lack of parenting, runaways and ungovernable youth often resort to antisocial and criminal behavior. CINS/FINS services are targeted at those youth whose risk factors predict extensive juvenile justice involvement.

More than 15,000 youth and families are served each year through the provision of crisis shelter, counseling and case management. The Network has a success rate of 90% in preventing juvenile crime and saves taxpayers \$160M per year. In 2013, the legislature expanded CINS/FINS to ten rural communities who have not had access to CINS/FINS services.

2. Respite Services – Total funding of \$3.325M

Support of recurring funds of \$1.7M and new funding of \$425,000 for domestic violence respite beds.

Support of recurring funds of \$1.2M for probation respite services.

The Florida Network provides statewide domestic violence and probation respite services as follows:

Domestic violence respite services provide an alternative to secure detention for those low risk youth who are charged with domestic violence. Providing these services in shelter beds is less costly and more effective at addressing family conflict. Additional funds are required to provide domestic violence respite beds to 50% of the total youth eligible for these services.

Probation respite beds were funded by the legislature in 2012 for those youth who were on probation with adjudication withheld. The goal of the program is to provide respite to prevent youth from engaging in further delinquent activity. Probation officers identify youth that would benefit from this intervention and make appropriate referrals.

3. Special Population Services - \$2.1M

Support of new funding of \$1M for a truancy intervention project.

Support of new funding of \$1.1M to provide for specialized services to victims of domestic minor sex trafficking.

The Florida Network proposes to expand its services to provide for a demonstration project to address chronic truancy as well as services to victims of domestic minor sex trafficking.

Truancy is well documented to be an early predictor of juvenile delinquency and criminal activity. Truant students are at a much greater risk of addiction, alcoholism, and violent activities. The cost to the taxpayer is two-fold: the loss of educated young people entering the workforce and the damage done by the effects of truancy on the health of the individual and the community at large. Students may become truant due to parental neglect, persecution at school, and lack of academic supports to encourage them to succeed over obstacles to learning.

In 2012, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Safe Harbor Act, which seeks to ensure the safety of child victims who have been trafficked for sex and allows children who are rescued from prostitution to get help from child welfare professionals instead of being placed in juvenile delinquency. The law provides for the use of short-term safe houses but did not appropriate any funding in which to accomplish this goal. This situation is further complicated by the fact that child welfare professionals have very little to no resources to fill the gap. The Network is positioned to develop a model, which would provide for intake, emergency shelter, and assessment for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. The Network would provide oversight, coordination, data collection and analysis as well as highly specialized training.

4. Critical Medical Care Services - \$1.1M

Support of new funding of \$1.1M to provide for part time nurses at each of the 28 shelters in the state.

Currently, 69% of the youth entering CINS/FINS shelters have medical or mental health issues and 36% are taking prescription medication. Some youth are turned away from services due to medical needs, which exceed the ability and qualifications of the emergency shelter staff. Nursing staff is critically needed to address the medical needs of these youth who need the services offered in CINS/FINS shelters. The risks involved with the potential for medication errors and inability of line staff to address chronic medical conditions have increased over the last few years. Errors and the lack of medical training could result in severe injury and even death.

In summary, the Network's funding priorities for 2014-15 include recurring funding of \$32.9M and new funding is \$3.625M.

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Who We Are

- We are a statewide association of organizations serving as the Emergency Room for children and families that serves over 20,000 youth per year with a 90% success rate. These services are known as CINS/FINS (Children/Families In Need of Services).
- Funding comes from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Office of Prevention and has a separate line item in the DJJ budget of \$30 million each year.

Who We Serve

- Thirty-two agencies throughout the state serve youth and families in crisis by providing triage, assessment, crisis shelter and short-term residential services and family counseling. Services are available 24/7 to every community in Florida. Youth served may be runaways, homeless or throwaways. Most are experiencing problems in school, in their family and are in engaging in risky behaviors. These behaviors include failing one or more classes, school suspensions, parents making statements that they cannot control their children and, lastly, associating with peers that runaway, use illegal drugs or engage in illegal activities.

Our Outcomes

- The CINS/FINS model in Florida is considered a national model by the US Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the American Bar Association and the Vera Institute of Justice.
- Outcomes average 90% success statewide in preventing juvenile crime and delinquency.

Return on Investment

- A 2001 Florida TaxWatch found that Florida Network CINS/FINS services save taxpayers millions of dollars each year in deep end services.
- A 2011 study by the Justice Research Center estimated that the Florida Network's early interventions potentially saved the state nearly \$160 million
- The Florida Network cost to provide services per youth: \$2,043; cost to state if youth had entered juvenile justice system: \$ 38,500.

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Keeping Crises from becoming Catastrophes