



Funding Opportunities, Policies and Tentative Schedule

CSC-SLC
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Council Policies on Funding

All funds shall be allocated within the intent of **Florida Statute 125.901 Children's services; independent special district; council; powers; duties; and functions**, and in accordance with the mission statement of the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County: *To Improve the quality of life for all children in St. Lucie County.*

Funding Criteria

It is CSC-SLC's policy to fund child development and prevention services. However, this policy does not preclude financial support to programs providing services of a problem solving nature. To be eligible to receive funds from CSC-SLC, programs must reflect the Priorities identified in the Strategic Plan as well as the operating principles of CSC-SLC. The following criteria are to be used as guidance by the Council in assessing applications submitted for CSC-SLC funding:

- Programs shall either demonstrate new approaches and techniques based on research and/or promising practices; or
- Programs shall utilize existing approaches and techniques that are best practice programs validated by proven research.
- Programs must demonstrate cost effectiveness and provide tangible benefits for the participants.
- Programs receiving funding from CSC-SLC shall not discriminate against an employee, volunteer, or participant of the provider on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, citizenship, disability, marital status, or age except that programs may target services for specified participant groups as defined in their application. Additionally, agencies receiving funds shall demonstrate the standards, policies, and practices necessary to provide services in a manner that respects the worth of the individual and protects and preserves the dignity of people of diverse cultures, classes, races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds.

While the above criteria are used as guidance for funding, it is not the only consideration taken into account in making a decision on funding. In the judgment of the Council and Staff, other considerations may include factors such as the provider's ability to implement the proposed program, the soundness of the proposed methodology, and the administrative and fiscal capability of the provider.

Funding Eligibility

Preference will be given to programs operated by non-profit, incorporated agencies or public agencies. CSC-SLC will also consider programs operated by for-profit agencies and governmental entities. CSC-SLC does not fund:

- Programs that are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the public school system (FS 125.901).
- Programs requiring worship or religious instructional activities as a condition of participation.

Non Allowable Funding

CSC-SLC does not fund the following:

- The acquisition of real property.
- Supplementation of operating reserves for an ongoing corporation.
- The supplanting of existing funding by another agency without the prior agreement of the Council. CSC-SLC may delay approval of requests when anticipated funds from other sources may be influenced by the Council's decision.
- The payment of fines or assessed penalties.
- Expenses not otherwise approved through the budget or budget amendment process.
- Any event that is not sponsored or organized by a CSC community partner or CSC funded program**

Funding Priorities

The CSC-SLC's funding priorities are intended to reduce the risk factors identified by the Community Comprehensive Strategy "St. Lucie Hand in Hand." The 5 priority risk factors identified have been shown by research to significantly contribute to unhealthy behaviors and increase in juvenile crime. These factors are:

Low Neighborhood Attachment & Community Disorganization

Poor Family Management

Academic Failure Beginning in Elementary School

Early & Persistent Anti-social Behavior

The funding priorities of the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County are programs/initiatives that instill the positive promotion of: that address the following goals:

- Healthy families and babies
- School readiness and school success
- Family building and strengthening
- Teen pregnancy prevention and healthy lifestyles
- Recreation activities and youth development

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County Funding Opportunities

CSC-SLC funding/fiscal year operates from October 1st – September 30th. Below is a summary of funding opportunities through CSC-SLC. Before applying for funds from CSC-SLC, **agencies are required to meet with staff** to ensure the proposed program/request fits the priorities of CSC-SLC and to make certain the correct application is completed.

All funding requests are brought before the Council for funding decisions with the exception of requests that are \$5,000 or under, in which case, the Executive Director of CSC-SLC has funding decision authority. For funding requests that require Council decision and does not already have a designated time frame, completed paperwork must be submitted **at least two weeks prior to the next scheduled Council meeting** to be considered for funding.

Program Proposals

***Time frame:** released in December*

***Application:** Program Proposal Narrative and Budget*

Released only to currently funded programs that continue to meet the funding priorities of CSC-SLC. The funding application is for the following fiscal year and provides a demographics, outcome, and fiscal update of the program. Agencies funded through this process are required to sign a yearly contract, submit a copy of their audit, and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies.

Summer Program Funding

***Time Frame:** released in January*

***Application:** Summer Funding Request Form and Budget*

CSC-SLC releases funding for new or expanded summer programs. CSC-SLC's priority is to increase the summer programs available or expand current programs to serve more children, extend hours of operation, or increase number of days of operation. The application process consists of the completion of the Summer Grant Proposal including full budget application. Agencies funded through this process are required to sign a contract, and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies.

Targeted Funding

***Time Frame:** released in May*

***Application:** 3 Page Summary, Targeted Funding Narrative and Budget*

Based on community indicators and the priorities of the Strategic Plan, CSC-SLC releases funding opportunities in specified areas. The release may be as direct as replicating an existing model or open to new innovative programs in a target area. The application process begins with the completion of a three-page summary. Based on the 3 page summary, promising programs will be selected to complete a full application for a competitive grant review. Agencies funded through this process are required to sign a yearly contract, submit a copy of their audit, and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies. Based upon the success of the program in meeting its outcomes and complying with CSC guidelines, programs funded through Targeted Funding may be asked to apply the following year through the Program Proposal process.

New Program or Expansion Funding

***Time Frame:** open*

***Application:** Special Designation Funding Request Form and/or Program Funding Narrative and Budget*

CSC-SLC is open to developing funding partnerships with agencies for potential new or expanded programs that positively impact the CSC-SLC funding priorities. Agency staff are required to meet with CSC-SLC staff prior to application to discuss program idea to ensure it meets CSC-SLC priorities. While there is no specific deadline, requests are subject to availability of funds and Council approval. The application process consists of the completion of the Special Designation Funding Request Form. In the

event the request is for an on-going (multi-year) program, the agency will be requested to complete the Program Funding Narrative and Budget which provides more description and measurable outcomes. An agency funded through this process is required to sign a yearly contract, submit a copy of its audit, and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies. Based upon the success of the program in meeting its outcomes and complying with CSC guidelines, programs funded may be asked to apply the subsequent year through the Program Proposal process.

Capital Improvement

Time Frame: open

Application: *Special Designations Funding Request Form*

CSC-SLC makes funds available for the improvement to real property for the direct use and benefit of children in St. Lucie County. Capital improvement requests have a CSC-SLC funding cap of \$10,000 and applicants are required to provide documentation indicating that at least 50% of the total capital improvement budget is being funded by other sources. CSC-SLC capital improvement projects are intended to provide long term use by St. Lucie County children. Full re-payment to CSC is required if the improved property does not remain in regular, intended use by children for a minimum of five years. Usual maintenance and repair costs are not considered capital improvements. The application process consists of completing the Special Designations Funding Request Form and attaching support documentation of other committed funds as well as a budget narrative of requested CSC-SLC funds. Entities funded through this process are required to sign a contract and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies.

Matching Funds

Time Frame: open

Application: *Special Designations Funding Request Form*

CSC-SLC makes funds available to agencies applying for grant funds requiring a local match. CSC-SLC may match up to 50% of the cost of a program meeting the priorities of CSC-SLC and proposing new or expanding services for children in St. Lucie County. The application process consists of completing the Special Designations Funding Request Form and attaching a summary of the program for which grant funds are being sought. CSC-SLC, in making its funding decision, may pledge the matching funds with the condition the applicant receive the award from the grantor. Entities funded through this process are required to sign a contract and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies.

Neighborhood Mini-Grants

Time Frame: open

Application: *Neighborhood Mini-Grant Application*

CSC-SLC makes funds available for small projects that bring neighborhood children and families together. Example projects include, but not limited to, developing child friendly parks, basketball courts, or neighborhood computer labs. The application process consists of completing the Neighborhood Mini-Grant application and demonstration of neighborhood support through committed volunteer hours. Neighborhood Mini-Grants are required to have a 100% match for the funds requested. The match can be financial, in-kind contributions, or up to 50% in volunteer hours. Entities funded through this process are required to sign a contract and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies.

Specific Needs Grant

Time Frame: open

Application: *Special Designations Funding Request Form*

CSC-SLC makes funds available for a one-time request based upon the applying agency's immediate need as it relates to children or the agency's ability to deliver services. The application process consists

of completing the Special Designations Funding Request Form and a budget narrative of requested CSC-SLC funds. Entities funded through this process are required to sign a contract and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies.

Staff Development

Time Frame: open

Application: *Staff Development Request Form*

CSC-SLC makes funds available for agencies that serve children in St. Lucie County to send staff to training workshops or sponsor workshops that will increase the skill level of staff providing services, or expand capacity of the agency. Funds for agency staff to attend training workshops are limited to registration fees, travel related costs, lodging and meals. Staff attending training workshops are required to submit a paragraph summary of the workshop and provide copies of all handout materials. The application process consists of completion of Staff Development Request Form. Agencies funded through this process are required to sign a contract and adhere to CSC program and fiscal policies.

** CSC will not fund, promote or participate in any event that is not sponsored or organized by a CSC community partner* or CSC funded program. Promotion includes distribution or posting of fliers, literature, or emails. CSC reserves the right to withhold its support or participation in events that are hosted by community partners or CSC funded programs.

*Community partners include those agencies that work directly with the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County to help accomplish our mission. Community Partners include: member agencies of the Executive Roundtable, member agencies of the Early Learning Coalition, member agencies of the Alliance, members of Children's Services Council of Florida, Inc., member agencies of the Swim Collaborative, member agencies of Lifelong Literacy Coalition, St. Lucie County Health Department, Workforce Solutions, and St. Lucie County Education Foundation.