



Funding Opportunities, Policies and Tentative Schedule

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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 Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County'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 Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, programs must reflect the Priorities identified in the Strategic Plan as well as the operating principles of Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County. The following criteria are to be used as guidance by the Council in assessing applications submitted for Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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 Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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, 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. Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County will also consider programs operated by for-profit agencies and governmental entities. Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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

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

Funding Priorities

The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County'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 that address the following goals:

- Ensuring every baby is a healthy baby
- Stopping child abuse before it starts
- Keeping kids in school
- Keeping kids off the streets, and
- Keeping kids away from drugs, alcohol and other risky behaviors.

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

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County's funding/fiscal year operates from October 1st – September 30th. Below is a summary of funding opportunities through Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County.

Before applying for funds from Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, **agencies are required to meet with staff** to ensure the proposed program/request fits within the priorities of Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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 Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County has funding decision authority. For funding requests that require Council decision and do 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.

Continuing Program

Time frame: released in December

Application: Program Proposal Narrative and Budget (via e-Clmact)

Released only to currently funded programs that continue to meet the funding priorities of Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County. 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

Time Frame: released in December

Application: Summer Funding Request Form and Budget (via e-Clmact)

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County releases funding each year for new or expanded summer programs. The Council'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: subject to availability of funds

Application: 3 Page Summary, Targeted Funding Narrative and Budget

Based on community indicators and the priorities of the Strategic Plan, Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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/Expansion of Existing Program

Time Frame: open and subject to availability of funds

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

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County is open to developing funding partnerships with agencies for potential new or expanded programs that positively impact the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County funding priorities. Agency staff are required to meet with Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County staff prior to application to discuss program idea to ensure it meets the Council's 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 and subject to availability of funds

Application: Special Designations Funding Request Form

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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 Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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. Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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 Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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 and subject to availability of funds

Application: Special Designations Funding Request Form

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County makes funds available to agencies applying for grant funds requiring a local match. Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County may match up to 50% of the cost of a program meeting the priorities of Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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. Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, 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.

Specific Needs Grant

Time Frame: open and subject to availability of funds

Application: Special Designations Funding Request Form

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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 Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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 and subject to availability of funds

Application: Special Designation Form

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County 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.