



Request for Applications (RFA)

**Administrative Services Organization (ASO)
Flexible Funds for Non-CBHC Funded Programs**

Fiscal Year 2021

RFA Designation Number: PRO 2021-03

Release Date: September 15, 2020

Total Allocation: \$300,000

Application Deadline:

Applications accepted through April 01, 2021, or until funds are depleted.

**Kelley Parris, Executive Director
Edwin Narain, Board Chair**

For further information, please contact:

Rebecca Bacon, Director of the ASO

BaconR@childrensboard.org

(813) 204-1749

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Introduction to the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County

In 1988, Hillsborough County residents agreed that improving supports and services to our county’s children and families was a major priority for our community’s future. Thus, the Children’s Board was established in 1989 as a Special Taxing District allowing a levy not to exceed 50 cents per \$1,000 of the assessed property tax.

Strategic investments in the community include developing local prevention and early intervention services; convening community partners to work on outcomes improving the lives of children and their families; and providing venues for community engagement and advocacy efforts. The Children’s Board is committed to funding opportunities through strategic grant making principles and leveraging strategies; developing innovative services and supports; and, catalyzing the research and community perspective to promote wellness, learning, professional training, and enhance service delivery systems.

VISION

Hillsborough County will be recognized as one of the top places in the nation to raise children.

MISSION

The Children’s Board invests in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in Hillsborough County.

CORE VALUES

Integrity - Excellence - Team Work - Respect

COMMUNITY IMPACT

In 2019, the Children’s Board and our partner agencies served more than 183,000 children and their family members residing in Hillsborough County. Over \$32 million was invested in 113 programs to address the needs of our community.

To ensure that our community receives high-quality services, the Children’s Board promotes the use of best practices and evidence-based programming to achieve maximum benefit. The Children’s Board works in partnership with our funded programs to evaluate the impact of the services provided to children and families. We assess the overall effectiveness of our investments within a Results-Based Accountability framework by measuring:

- *How much did we do; how well did we do it; and is anyone better off?*

The following are select results of performance evaluation efforts:

- 96% of more than 400 women received early prenatal care by at least 20 weeks gestation and 92% of 1,131 women maintained adequate or better attendance at prenatal visits prescribed by their medical provider.
- More than 15,000 children have received a developmental screening from 2017-2019.
- More than 3,200 children measured by six of our funded partners, demonstrated increased school readiness skills during the last three years.
- For the last six years, our programs exceeded the performance benchmark for providing families with concrete supports and resources.

Introduction to the ASO

The Administrative Services Organization (ASO) is a project operated by the Children’s Board to manage flexible funds for families. The ASO supports a wraparound approach in which families identify their strengths, goals, needs, and service providers via a family support plan. As payment of last resort, flexible funds managed by the ASO can be used to pay for supports and services with qualified community providers.

The Children’s Board maintains a reserve of flexible funds to support our funded agencies participating in the ASO. A portion of the reserve funds (\$300,000) is also made available to support case management programs that are not funded by the Children’s Board but are aligned with our mission and strategic focus areas. Background information regarding the ASO is included below, along with guidance for agencies interested in applying for access to ASO funds.

ASO Background

In 2003, the Children’s Board created the ASO to manage flexible funds in support of family directed care. Initially funded by a federal grant from SAMHSA, this unique funding model now braids flexible dollars from different funding sources from various agencies, including the Children’s Board, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Eckerd Connects, and the Florida Department of Children and Families. Flexible funds managed by the Children’s Board ASO currently assist a variety of target populations including pregnant women, children at risk for developmental delays, victims of domestic violence, families served by the child welfare system, and families facing homelessness.

Trained and authorized case managers work with families to develop individualized family support plans and to select a wide range of services and supports for the children and their families. Families are able to prioritize the services they need the most and select a provider of their choosing. At this time, eighty-five different service types are available from a fully credentialed provider network that includes hundreds of agencies, vendors, individuals, local businesses, and faith-based organizations.

The Children’s Board ASO manages approximately \$3.2 million in flexible funds and offers accounts payable services, detailed financial reporting, provider network management and credentialing, and quality assurance. All processes, including participant enrollment and funding authorization, are managed through a custom web-application.

Intent for ASO Reserve Funds

ASO funds are available on a limited basis for programs that do not have a contract with the Children’s Board, are currently providing service coordination or case management to children and families in Hillsborough County, and do not have adequate flexible funding to support client needs. The program may service a larger population but if awarded access to ASO funds, they can only be utilized for **pregnant women, teen parents, or families with children birth through middle school**. The program must also contribute to result areas that are consistent with the Children’s Board mission, vision, and strategic focus areas below.

Children are Healthy and Safe:

Early preventative health and education prepares a family to develop nurturing and healthy habits which are enhanced by coordination with community partners including healthcare systems and primary care providers.

Children are Developmentally on Track:

Early Identification of developmental needs for children birth to age five is essential for optimizing a child’s potential and serves as an opportunity for caregivers to learn more about their child’s current developmental functioning.

Children are Ready to Learn and Succeed:

School readiness services for young children should be designed in a way that foster a nurturing, safe and healthy environment for children and respects a families' cultural values. In addition, quality early learning must also promote early caregiver involvement and professional development for early care educators.

School success for elementary school age children works best in collaboration with teachers, administrators and parents to provide support consistent with school benchmarks. Successful youth services (through middle school age) support leadership development, provides positive role modeling, and motivates students to learn in safe environments.

Family Support:

Support for the whole family is essential for developing informal supports, stability and overall well-being. Family Support plays an important role in a young child's brain development because early experiences develop through positive relationships which establishes the foundation for secure attachments and future physical, cognitive and social-emotional health.

Requirements for Participation as an ASO Case Management Program:

1. The applicant must offer some form of case management as a service strategy, either as a primary strategy or in conjunction with other service strategies. **ASO funds do not pay for case managers or case management services, so this service must already exist for the program that is applying.**
2. Individualized Family Support Plans must be a component of the service strategy. All services and supports purchased with ASO funds must relate to a specific goal in the family's plan.
3. Supervisors and case managers must have training in case management using a system of care approach, prior to access of ASO funds. This training can be accessed from Success 4 Kids and Families if needed, at the applicant's expense. The training is a one day, seven (7) hour training, at the rate of \$75 per participant.
4. Supervisors and case managers must attend ASO training (3-hour Overview and Web Application Training) which is provided by the Children's Board at no cost to the participant.
5. Program supervisors are required to attend bi-monthly ASO Supervisors Meetings.
6. ASO funds requested from the Children's Board must be used in accordance with established values, policies, and procedures which are provided in ASO training and posted on the ASO web application.
7. The program must participate in annual monitoring by the Children's Board, including records review of families who benefitted from ASO funding.
8. The program must use an outcome tool for measuring and reporting the impact of their services on participants. If the program does not currently have a measurement tool in place, the Children's Board may work with you to identify one.

9. The applicant must provide a certificate of liability insurance to the Children’s Board.
10. It is the responsibility of the agency to register with and use the E-Verify system, to ensure compliance with E-Verify requirements, and verify the work authorization status of all employees and contractors providing services associated with Children’s Board of Hillsborough County funding as defined in SB 664.

Application and Review Process

The application process for ASO Funds will open September 15, 2020 and will remain open through April 1, 2021 or until the funds have been depleted, whichever occurs first. The Children’s Board encourages the submission of applications by all potential agencies currently providing case management and capable of providing the requested services. Applicants eligible for Children’s Board funding include not-for-profit corporations and governmental organizations that are legally authorized to operate in the State of Florida. CBHC funding or resources shall not be used to replace funding for activities for which other local, state, or federal governmental agencies are obligated by statute, administrative rule, or local ordinance to pay. **ASO access is for residents of Hillsborough County, Florida.**

The Children’s Board encourages the participation of minority, faith-based, and grassroots organizations in all contracts. No person or legal entity will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against in connection with the award and performance of any Children's Board procurement on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or marital status. The applicant shall not discriminate in providing services on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or marital status.

Agencies requesting access to ASO Funds must complete the application found on the Children’s Board website and **submit an electronic copy to:**

**Rebecca Bacon, Director of the ASO
Children’s Board of Hillsborough County
Email: BaconR@childrensboard.org**

Please use Email subject line: [Pro 2021-03 ASO Funds Application](#)

Review Process

For new applicants:

The Director of the ASO will bring the request to the Children’s Board Program Support Meeting, which meets bi-weekly. The Program Support Team consisting of research, fiscal, and contract specialists will approve or deny the request, and recommend an allocation of funds. The application is then reviewed by the Director of Programs and the Executive Director for final approval. The Director of the ASO will communicate the decision to the requesting agency, along with the justification for the decision. If approved, the ASO team will work with the agency to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and implement access to the ASO in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

For programs who received ASO funds between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020 and are re-applying:

The Director of the ASO will review the application, along with Fiscal Year 2019-2020 monitoring and utilization reports for the program and recommend an allocation of funds for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The application packet is then reviewed by the Director of Programs and the Executive Director for final approval. The Director of the ASO will communicate the decision to the requesting agency. If approved, a MOU will be established, and the new allocation of funds may be available as early as October 1st.

Allocated funds must be utilized for services by September 30, 2021 and the maximum initial allocation per agency will be \$25,000. The amount of the allocation will be based on the size and scope of the program, as well as their previous experience with the ASO, if any. Additional funds may be requested from the Children’s Board reserve, once the initial allocation has been utilized and the program has successfully completed the ASO monitoring process.

Before beginning your application, review the **Children’s Board ASO Application Review Checklist (Appendix A)** that will provide you with additional information on criteria used to evaluate applications. Only applications that are complete and meet the minimum requirements will be considered for funding.

Any and all questions regarding ASO funds must be submitted in writing to **Rebecca Bacon, Director of the ASO**, via email to BaconR@childrensboard.org with subject line **Pro 2021-03 ASO Funds Application**.

**Pro 2021-03
ASO Request for Applications (RFA)
Appendix A
Review Checklist**

Program Name	
Agency Name	
Review Date	
Review Team Members	

Background			
Brief description of the program:			
Minimum Requirements			
Program:	Yes	No	Comments
Serves pregnant women, teen parents, or families with children birth through middle school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Addresses one or more CBHC strategic focus area			
<i>Children are Healthy and Safe</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Children are Developmentally on Track</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Children are Ready to Learn and Succeed</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Family Support</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Employs case management/ coordination as a service strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Develops Individualized Family Support Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has process for collecting outcome data for families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Had a successful ASO monitoring in previous year, if applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Additional Considerations/Discussion		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Program		
<input type="checkbox"/> Re-Applying Program		
Recommendation		
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve Request	Allocation Amount	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deny Request	Reason for Denial	

Children's Board Approvals	Signature	Date
Rebecca Bacon, Director of the ASO		
Maria Negron, Director of Programs		
Kelley Parris, Executive Director		