



Board of Directors Meeting

June 11, 2009

Kinship Services Grant: Request for Matching Funds

Item III.A.

Recommended Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Budget \$10,000 to Children's Home, Inc. each year for three years as cash match for a federal Kinship Care Grant.2. Direct targeting of five (5) child care slots (\$20,000) each year for three years in support of this grant.3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign and submit a letter to the Administration on Children and Families that commits these funds should the grant be awarded.
Issue:	Share Required Federal Match for Years 1-3 of Grant (Estimated 250 total caregivers and youth per year to be served)
Program:	Kinship Services Program
Budget Impact:	Up to \$30,000 in FY 2009-2010 Up to \$30,000 in FY 2010-2011 Up to \$30,000 in FY 2011-2012
Strategic Plan Goal:	Prevent Child Maltreatment

Background:

The Children's Home, Inc. (CHI) is applying for a three-year program grant from the Administration on Children and Families Children's Bureau. These competitive grant funds are authorized by the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351). The purpose of the program is to help children who are in, or are at risk of entering into, foster care reconnect with family members by developing and implementing programs. Funding is available for non-profit organizations to: (1) provide kinship navigation services, (2) facilitate family group decision-making meetings, (3) use intensive family-finding efforts to locate biological family members, and (4) develop residential family treatment programs. Applicants may apply to provide one or more of the four program areas. CHI is developing an application focusing on expanding kinship navigation services and family group decision making.

JWB has been funding the Kinship Services Network since 2004. CHI is the lead agency; staff is based in three locations within Pinellas (CHI provides office space in north county, Big Brothers Big Sisters is in mid-county, and Catholic Charities is in south county). Services currently provided are network navigation, case management, support groups, family activities, child care, respite services and referrals to needed community resources for relative caregivers to achieve self-sufficiency and stability. The emphasis of this program is on informal kin placements. Services are open to all county relative caregivers and are provided county-wide. The

program has grown from serving 319 primary adults and children in 2005-06 to 693 primary participants in FY 07-08. An additional 3,093 participants were in group activities such as support groups in FY 07-08. CHI is partnering with Eckerd Community Alternatives, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Catholic Charities Diocese of St. Petersburg, and the University of South Florida to expand and provide kinship navigation and family group decision-making meetings to Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties, and JWB staff (Office of Resource Development, Child Welfare Advocacy Manager, Contract Management) is assisting in developing the grant application.

The grant application proposes to expand the program to include full-time kinship navigators and facilitate family group decision-making services. The program would expand in Pinellas County. In addition, CHI is coordinating with Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA) and Healthy Kids, Incorporated (HKI) to provide services in Pasco and Hillsborough Counties, respectively.

This three-year grant opportunity has the potential to keep children safe, improve family stability and prevent children from entering the child welfare system while also garnering up to \$3M for the Tampa Bay area. The federal Administration on Children and Families requires a 25% match in Years 1 and 2, and a 50% match in Year 3. At least half of each year's match must be cash; the remainder can be in-kind.

Eckerd Family Foundation has expressed an interest in providing matching funds. CHI is pursuing other matching opportunities, including the Children's Board of Hillsborough County.

Staff is requesting that JWB provide a portion of the required matching funds to support the program operation in Years 1-3. JWB provides 25 low-income subsidized child care slots to the kinship program. The proposed JWB match is 5 additional child care slots per year (5 slots at a value of \$4,000 each per year = \$20,000) and a cash match of \$10,000 each year. These funds would be limited to residents of Pinellas County.

If awarded, sites will enter data into SAMIS. CHI will be the fiscal agent. CHI and Coordinated Child Care will ensure the five child care slots dedicated to this project will be filled first. This initiative is consistent with the JWB strategic focus area of preventing children from maltreatment.

The application is due July 6, 2009.

Recommendation:

Approve the request to budget up to \$30,000 for FY 2009-2010; up to \$30,000 for FY 2010-2011; and up to \$30,000 for FY for 2011-2012 and authorize the Executive Director to sign and submit a letter to the Administration on Children and Families that commits these funds should the grant be awarded.