

## Risk Pool Application SFY 2016-17

*Please complete all items and submit electronically to the Regional Managing Director. Upon review and concurrence of the Risk Pool Request, the Regional Managing Director will submit the application to the Deputy Secretary for the Department.*

Lead Agency Name: Eckerd Community Alternative Circuit 13

Region: Suncoast Region

Contract No.:

Address: 9393 North Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610

Lead Agency Contact: Lorita Shirley

Phone No.: 727-631-6241

Contract Manager: Jason Thomas

Phone No.: 727-401-0587

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This request is being submitted in response to an anticipated current year deficit in excess of available carry forward funds.

### Financials:

- 1) Confirm the dollar amount being requested: \$ 2.1M
- 2) Confirm that funds will be expended by the end of the current fiscal year:  Yes  No
- 3) How do you propose to use these funds to address or correct the underlying cause of the shortfall?

### Underlying Cause

Between the end of March and early June of 2016, a historically unprecedented number of kids were removed from their homes by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. These children were considered to be at risk of harm by the Sheriff's Child Protective Investigation team resulting in a 24 percent increase in children entering our care due to removal from an unsafe home environment. In FY16, 1,672 children were removed in Hillsborough County. To give context to the gravity of this level of removals, this was:

- The highest number of children removed in any county in Florida;
- More removals of children than in any of the previous 10 years in Hillsborough;

In Hillsborough County, children are being removed from their homes at twice the rate of the rest of the state.

Also contributing to the issue was the fact that 180 children were removed in April 2016 and another 186 children were removed in May 2016—which is 61 percent and 66 percent higher than the previous five year monthly average removals of 122.

In addition, during the period encompassing September 2013-2016, Hillsborough County has a sustained net increase in removals of over 30.28%.

Based on removal rates experienced as outlined above, Eckerd has realized an average 2.2% increase in out of home care costs per month. If we project this trend to continue for the remainder of this fiscal year, the anticipated shortfall is \$2.3M. Eckerd has identified counter measures that will reduce this shortfall by \$265,430 by the end of the fiscal year.

In addition to the fiscal shortfall identified above, during FY17, Eckerd used non-recurring carry-forward funding in the amount of \$1.9M to fund current year services. These dollars will not be available next year resulting in a need for Eckerd to off-set next year's budget by an additional \$1.9M to sustain the current system of care during FY 18.

#### **Proposed Use of Risk Pool Dollars**

It is our understanding that Eckerd can only request risk pool dollars to offset the current year deficit. As such, we are proposing to use the requested ask of \$2.1M (\$2.3M shortfall minus \$265,430 savings) to offset the shortages generated from the following:

- Added 21 additional case management positions and 1 case management supervisor to resource up to the unprecedented system growth and maintain caseload of 1:17—Cost- \$1.1M
- Increased OHC budget to account for more youth entering paid placement: \$1.2M

To ensure program sustainability moving forward, Eckerd will continue to work with our Hillsborough Children's Services Council and network of prevention/diversion providers in an effort to reduce the rate in which children are entering our child welfare system. In addition, Eckerd will continue the counter-measures already in place this year, which should provide additional savings in the amount of \$988K. Eckerd believes we will also receive new child welfare funding based on the statutorily approved allocation methodology for legislatively appropriated new child welfare funding.

Lead Agency Name: Eckerd-C13

Region: SunCoast

Contract No.:

[Signature]  
Lead Agency CEO/ED Name and Signature

11/30/14  
Date

[Signature] Danette Brewer  
CBC Contract Manager Name and Signature

12/1/2016  
Date

Regional Managing Director Name: Lisa Mayrose

**Please confirm the following:**

- The Lead Agency submitted a Financial Viability Plan.  Yes  No In progress
- The Lead Agency is actively working its Financial Viability Plan.  Yes  No

Please check the applicable box to indicate your level of support of this application:

- Concur
- \*Do Not Concur

[Signature]  
Regional Managing Director Signature

12/01/16  
Date

**\*Rationale:**

**(This item must be completed if "Do Not Concur" is checked.)**

## Exhibit A

### Section 409.990(7), Florida Statutes:

- (a) The department, in consultation with the Florida Coalition for Children, Inc., shall develop and implement a community-based care risk pool initiative to mitigate the financial risk to eligible lead agencies. This initiative must include:
1. A risk pool application and protocol developed by the department which outlines submission criteria, including, but not limited to, financial and program management, descriptive data requirements, and timeframes for submission of applications. Requests for funding from risk pool applicants must be based on relevant and verifiable service trends and changes that have occurred during the current fiscal year. The application must confirm that expenditure of approved risk pool funds by the lead agency will be completed within the current fiscal year.
  2. A risk pool peer review committee, appointed by the secretary and consisting of department staff and representatives from at least three nonapplicant lead agencies, which reviews and assesses all risk pool applications. Upon completion of each application review, the peer review committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the secretary, providing, at a minimum, the following information:
    - a. Justification for the specific funding amount required by the risk pool applicant based on the current year's service trend data, including validation that the applicant's financial need was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the lead agency management;
    - b. Verification that the proposed use of risk pool funds meets at least one of the purposes specified in paragraph (c); and
    - c. Evidence of technical assistance provided in an effort to avoid the need to access the risk pool and recommendations for technical assistance to the lead agency to ensure that risk pool funds are expended effectively and that the agency's need for future risk pool funding is diminished.
- (b) Upon approval by the secretary of a risk pool application, the department may request funds from the risk pool in accordance with s. 216.181(6)(a).
- (c) The purposes for which the community-based care risk pool shall be used include:
1. Significant changes in the number or composition of clients eligible to receive services.
  2. Significant changes in the services that are eligible for reimbursement.
  3. Continuity of care in the event of failure, discontinuance of service, or financial misconduct by a lead agency.
  4. Significant changes in the mix of available funds.
- (d) The department may also request in its annual legislative budget request, and the Governor may recommend, that the funding necessary to effect paragraph (c) be appropriated to the department. In addition, the department may request the allocation of funds from the community-based care risk pool in accordance with s. 216.181(6)(a). Funds from the pool may be used to match available federal dollars.
1. Such funds shall constitute partial security for contract performance by lead agencies and shall be used to offset the need for a performance bond.
  2. The department may separately require a bond to mitigate the financial consequences of potential acts of malfeasance or misfeasance or criminal violations by the service provider.