

**The White Family Foundation**  
**Grant Request: #743**  
**Family Support Services of the Suncoast, LLC**  
**March 30, 2022**

<b>Date of grant proposal submission</b>	Wednesday, March 30, 2022
<b>Are you an IRS compliant 501(c)3 public charity/ nonprofit?</b>	Yes
<b>Legal name of organization</b>	Family Support Services of Suncoast, LLC
<b>DBA Name if Applicable</b>	FSS Pasco, Pinellas
<b>Address</b>	8550 Ulmerton Road, Suite 130 Largo, FLorida 33771 United States
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://fssc6.org">https://fssc6.org</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	904.421.5800
<b>Fax</b>	904.348.3258
<b>Organization Director/ Title</b>	Jenn Petion, President & CEO
<b>Contact Person/Title</b>	Whitney Butler, Director Recruitment, Grants, Community Engagement
<b>Contact Person's Telephone</b>	904.707.4119
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**Grant Request Amount**     \$20,000.00

**Please provide us with a brief description of your organization (no more than 500 words).**

Family Support Services (FSS), established in 2002 as part of the State of Florida's Child Welfare privatization movement, is the first and only lead agency for Child Welfare Services in Duval County, expanding to Nassau County in 2007 and Pasco and Pinellas Counties in January 2022. Through community-based care, FSS provides services and programs to help prevent child abuse and neglect, to promote a healthy family environment and to care for our community's children in foster care. A 501(c) (3) agency, certified by the Council on Accreditation (COA), our Mission is to be the leader in providing safety, stability, and quality of life for all children by working with the community to strengthen the family unit. Our vision is that children grow up connected to their own families, supported by quality families and embraced by the community; that children have the opportunity to achieve in school and to learn to be productive citizens, and; that all citizens, organizations, and agencies recognize that child protection is a community responsibility and represents the best interests of all County residents. FSS strongly believes that to be successful at caring for children involves engaging the local community, and is, therefore, fully embedded in our communities, using local resources to support the child welfare system. We have developed solid relationships, fostered connections and become imbedded with a variety of stakeholders including but not limited to: the courts, social services providers, businesses, neighborhoods, schools and the faith-based community which has resulted in breaking down barriers to success for children.

When a child or family in our community experiences crisis, we provide services, resources, education and support, with care, empathy and understanding. As the lead child welfare agency in Pasco and Pinellas counties, and in partnership with community-based organizations, we improve the circumstances and outcomes for families, provide safe homes for abused and/or neglected children and teens through foster care, and find forever families for children

Thank you for your interest in FSS and for the opportunity to be a part of your community.

through adoption. FSS is responsible for administering, outsourcing and managing its services to the community, both directly and indirectly, in partnership with local case management organizations (CMOs) and community partners. Together, we provide a comprehensive system of care to keep children safely in their homes. We mobilize to stabilize families without the need of intrusive and costly interventions. In Pasco County we collaborate with Camelot Community Care, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services and Youth and Family Alternatives. In Pinellas County, our FSS CMO provides direct services to local children and families, and in partnership with Camelot Community Care, Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) and SailFuture. Diversion programs are provided through Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services and the LSF Connecting Family Paths program.

We work to support and strengthen families so children can stay safely at home; provide training and resources so families in crisis can be reunified; provide quality foster families for children who cannot live at home temporarily, and; find forever families for children who are hoping to be adopted.

**Grant Purpose (one paragraph)**

Family Support Services of Suncoast (FSS), the lead agency for child welfare in circuit 6 (Pasco, Pinellas Counties), focuses on unifying families, keeping kids connected to their roots and providing quality foster parents, by collaborating with community-based partner agencies to provide intervention and family preservation, foster care, and adoption services. Often happening in the middle of the night, a child removed from his or her home due to abuse or neglect, has nothing more than the clothes they are wearing and a few belongings. FSS Rooms of Hope, strategically located across the two counties for easy access in emergency situations, are filled with shoes, hygiene items, diapers, blankets, school supplies and uniforms, and other necessities, providing sheriff's office child protective investigators, kinship and/or foster families and the children, those necessity items needed at time of removal or in a crisis. There are currently 999 children in out-of-home care in Pasco County and 1,703 in Pinellas County, an overall increase of 9.0% from this time last year. FSS is requesting funding to purchase emergency and comfort items for children in foster care and to build upon the infrastructure of our community partners to ensure the manpower needed to sustain the program.

**Annual Project/Program Budget (if request is for a specific project)** \$75,000.00

**Annual Organization Budget** \$65,000,000.00