


## The White Family Foundation

Grant Request: #754

Life-Skills, Empowerment, and Development Services

March 31, 2022

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<b>Date of grant proposal submission</b>	Thursday, March 31, 2022
<b>Are you an IRS compliant 501(c)3 public charity/nonprofit?</b>	Yes
<b>Legal name of organization</b>	Life-skills, Empowerment and Development Services (LEADS)
<b>Address</b>	 535 Central Ave. Suite 409 St. Petersburg, FL 33701 United States
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leadsfloida.org">http://www.leadsfloida.org</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	727-258-7707
<b>Fax</b>	N/A
<b>Organization Director/Title</b>	Marlaina Satcher/CEO
<b>Contact Person/Title</b>	Vicki Draeger/Training and Development Coordinator
<b>Contact Person's Telephone</b>	808-218-5396
<b>Contact Person's Email</b>	<a href="mailto:leadsfloidaorg@gmail.com">leadsfloidaorg@gmail.com</a>
<b>Grant Request Amount</b>	\$20,000.00
<b>Please provide us with a brief description of your organization (no more than 500 words).</b>	

Founded in 2017, LEADS is devoted to family strengthening. The agency offers FREE programs in the Tampa Bay area. Our programs are designed to work jointly to promote physical, emotional, social, and academic competence and to prevent, reduce, and treat behavioral and emotional problems and risk-taking behaviors, problems that if addressed properly can improve a life's trajectory. Our mission is: To Educate Children, Empower Families, Enable Equitable Communities, and Embrace Diversity. LEADS is currently working with black churches, recreation centers, schools, and other programs that primarily work to support the African American community. At the present time, our programs are focused on helping middle school and high school youth learn to recognize, enter, and maintain, healthy relationships. Sadly, many have not even had an opportunity to observe a healthy relationship within their family. LEADS has served over 500 youth in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties in the past year as well as 200 parents. We hire from the communities we serve, and our Board of Directors is 70% African American. LEADS employees 35 people. We engage the community by attending community events, such as the recent Collard Green Festival in St. Petersburg where one of our former youth participants engaged with the new mayor of St. Petersburg, telling him about our programs. We have also partnered with the R Club of St. Petersburg to offer a nutrition workshop for their families, and we partnered with the Tampa Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers philanthropic motorcycle club to help Ridgecrest celebrate Juneteenth.

LEADS healthy relationships programs use two evidence-based curricula, LOVE NOTES SRA EBP, an abstinence-based program focused on helping youth make wise decisions. It protects their hearts as well as their bodies. And the Effective Black Parenting Program, the only parenting program designed uniquely for parents of black children. These programs are funded by three federal grants, two of the grants are from the Family and Youth Services Bureau, and one is from the Office of Population Affairs. We report on our finances and performance measures quarterly for each grant. In fact, we have just closed out our first federal grant, received in 2019, and we met all of our performance measures on time and within budget. However, after more than three years of providing these services, we see the need for another service that will support our efforts with youth, and that is a program that is directed exclusively toward fathers.

Our current grants fund our youth programs, but our budgets have limited funds to support families. We do not have the funds necessary to support a quality fatherhood program for the families in our community. Our annual budget is over \$300,000, but all funds are restricted and we cannot implement our proposed program without support from the White Family Foundation, added to what we have, we can put together a quality program with a budget of \$50,000 that will help us support fathers connecting and engaging with their children. We hope to implement the Steady, Trusted, Engaged, Participating, and Understanding Parent (STEP UP) Project for fathers in Tampa Bay.

### **Grant Purpose (one paragraph)**

The STEP-UP project will provide fathers ages 18 and over in the high poverty and high unemployment areas of S. St. Petersburg and Downtown Tampa, access to 24/7 DAD, an evidence-based fatherhood program, so they can acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become better and more engaged fathers. The program purpose is to support fathers in resolving barriers that impact their ability to be actively involved with their children. The program is structured to work with fathers faced with barriers that affect their abilities to support their children emotionally and financially. The STEP UP Project design includes input from local black churches and other non-profit agencies working with this same population. The initiative focuses on high need diverse fathers. The target population will include married and non-custodial fathers and will also support single parents, fathers living in poverty or at-risk of poverty, and those receiving social services. STEP-UP will assist fathers in building healthy parent-child relationships so it is closely aligned with the mission of LEADS.

<b>Annual Project/Program Budget (if request is for a specific project)</b>	\$50,000.00
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<b>Annual Organization Budget</b>	\$983,000.00
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