



## PROGRAM INFORMATION

**1. Program Summary:** Provide an overview of proposed program services (3-5 sentences).

### **EPIC, Palm Beach**

The proposed 4KIDS Palm Beach program will offer EPIC trauma-informed care to children and young adults who have experienced abuse, abandonment, or neglect. EPIC will provide trauma-focused therapy using evidence-based therapeutic modalities to promote healing, while also equipping parents and caregivers with training and resources to support their children's emotional, physical, and psychological well-being. With a holistic, wrap-around approach, the program aims to break the cycle of trauma and help children thrive in safe, nurturing environments.

## LETF CATEGORY/STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

(Check box to the left of **one** program area for which you Intend to Apply):

- 1. Crime Prevention**
- 2. Safe Neighborhood**
- 3. Drug Abuse Education and Prevention**

### **Crime Prevention**

**2. How do you feel your proposed project addresses the LETF Criteria?**

Our proposed project directly aligns with the LETF criteria by addressing the root causes of crime and contributing to crime prevention through the 4KIDS Palm Beach EPIC program, a trauma-informed therapeutic program designed to support and stabilize children in foster care. The foster care system faces a crisis in terms of placement instability, which, as studies show, significantly increases the likelihood of these children engaging in behaviors that strain law enforcement resources and contribute to cycles of societal instability. EPIC provides comprehensive therapeutic interventions that address the emotional, physical, intellectual, and character development needs of children who have experienced complex trauma. By helping them heal from the long-term effects of abuse and neglect, EPIC reduces their risk of future interactions with the justice system.

In alignment with LETF's focus on crime reduction, EPIC goes beyond healing past trauma – it actively reduces the likelihood of delinquent behavior by fostering emotional resilience, stability, and well-being. This proactive approach not only benefits the children in our program, but also strengthens the broader community by alleviating the strain on law enforcement and reducing future crime.

By investing in trauma-informed, stable, and supportive care through EPIC, our project directly contributes to crime prevention in a meaningful way, fully supporting both the spirit and requirements of the LETF criteria.

## STATEMENT OF NEED

**3. Why is this program needed (What community problem does it address)? What data suggests that this program should be implemented with this population or in this geographical location? (USE RECENT, RELEVANT DATA)**

Last year, an average of 47 children per month were removed from their homes and placed into foster care in Palm Beach County, underscoring the ongoing foster care crisis in our community. Studies show that more than 80% of children and youth in foster care experience significant challenges, including behavioral, emotional, or developmental problems (Kang-Yi & Adams, 2015; Schmidt et al., 2013; Ellerman, 2007).

These challenges are further compounded by frequent moves between foster placements, which disrupt children's ability to form secure attachments and contribute to additional trauma. The statewide stability goal for foster care placements is set at 4.12 moves per 1000 days, but the current stability rate is 5.65, indicating that children in foster care typically experience multiple placements. This instability significantly undermines their emotional and psychological well-being, exacerbating their trauma. In contrast, children placed with 4KIDS foster families experience significantly more stability, moving an average of five times less than the state's average, with a stability rate of just 1.10 between July 2023 and June 2024. This lower rate of movement reflects the consistent and supportive environments that 4KIDS foster families provide, greatly reducing the additional trauma associated with placement instability. In fact, 90% of youth with five or more foster placements will eventually enter the justice system (The Crisis for Others & AFCARS Report).

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the trauma of abuse and neglect has severe, lasting effects—not only on the individual child but also on the community. Without proper intervention, these children are statistically more likely to engage in behaviors that strain law enforcement resources, perpetuate cycles of societal instability, and heighten concerns about public safety (Reducing Justice System Inequality - Future of Children, Vol. 28, Issue 1). Furthermore, the realities for young adults aging out of foster care are stark. For example, 97% of young adults who age out of foster care without stable housing face chronic poverty. Without the stability of a home or strong support network, these individuals are at significant risk for engaging in negative outcomes that affect their personal well-being and society at large. (The Crisis for Others & AFCARS Report)

For young women, the challenges are especially pronounced. 71% of those aging out of foster care without a stable living situation experience a pregnancy before turning 21, and half of these babies will eventually enter foster care themselves, continuing the cycle of trauma and instability. The picture is equally concerning for young men, as 81% of those who age out of foster care without stable housing end up incarcerated. These young individuals, already suffering from the long-term effects of abuse and neglect, often turn to survival mechanisms that place them in conflict with the law, exacerbating societal challenges. (The Crisis for Others & AFCARS Report)

Additionally, children in foster care are 3.5 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than veterans of war, underscoring the deep and lasting scars that trauma leaves on these individuals. Approximately 90% of kids in the foster care system have experienced severe trauma, which only compounds their struggles in adulthood. Considering these troubling statistics, it is critical to provide not only safe, loving, and stable homes, but also to address the trauma experienced by children entering foster care. Effective intervention is essential to promoting healing and reducing future challenges. 4KIDS Palm Beach is uniquely qualified to deliver the therapeutic support these children and their caregivers need to heal and thrive.

- 4. Describe the program in detail and how it will be implemented: (Describe Who, What, Where, and When) All programs must address a specific population and the narrative should indicate the number of clients served, services provided, etc.**

### **Program Description and Implementation Plan**

4KIDS Palm Beach provides children in crisis with loving, stable homes, but it does not end there. In 2014, 4KIDS developed a model of therapeutic care that responds to the needs of children in foster care, while empowering caregivers with the tools needed to create lasting change in their children's lives. Our client-centered therapeutic model, EPIC, focuses on the Emotional (E), Physical (P), Intellectual (I), and Character (C) needs of children who have experienced trauma because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and extends to the adoptive and biological children of caregivers.

EPIC is based on cutting-edge, evidence-based research in the field of child development, as well as the Trust-Based Relational Intervention® Model (TBRI) developed by Texas Christian University's Institute of Child Development. EPIC utilizes methods that assist children holistically and address root issues of attachment, social competency with peers, language, and self-regulation. The goal of the EPIC program is to create loving and healthy environments where children can heal and thrive while receiving placement services.

### **Who Benefits, Where, and How**

The EPIC program serves children and families across Palm Beach County. Children who are placed in 4KIDS foster homes will experience stability, love, and support, helping them recover from complex trauma. The wraparound therapeutic services provided through EPIC will further assist in the emotional healing of these children, with families receiving additional support as they work toward stability.

The biological children in foster families will also benefit from the wraparound trauma-informed therapy services provided by EPIC. When therapy is indicated, biological and adoptive children of foster parents can receive support. If they have insurance, it is utilized, and if they do not, they fall into our exception category and receive services at no cost. Foster parents gain valuable tools and training through EPIC to create a stable and healing environment for the entire family.

The broader community will experience positive impacts as well. By providing early intervention and ongoing wraparound support for children in crisis, we are not just reducing the likelihood of children engaging in behaviors that could strain law enforcement resources or perpetuate cycles of social instability – we are giving them a chance at a brighter future. Every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and hopeful about what lies ahead. When we step in early with care and guidance, we are not just preventing challenges; we are nurturing dreams, restoring confidence, and helping children build a path toward a stable, meaningful life. Additionally, we offer free EPIC training for the community at large so they can better support children who have experienced trauma. This training helps foster a compassionate and resilient community, ensuring children in foster care are met with understanding, encouragement, and the opportunity to thrive.

### **Plan of Action and Timeline**

The plan of action for these programs is ongoing, with no specific end date, ensuring continuous support for children and families throughout Palm Beach County. 4KIDS' fiscal year is July 1 – June 30, however, the EPIC program is designed to provide consistent, long-term services. This allows for flexibility in meeting the evolving needs of the community and maintaining stability for the children and families we serve.

The EPIC program aims to provide 2,100 hours of trauma-informed therapy to 100 clients during the current fiscal year. Therapy sessions will be scheduled as needed, and progress will be tracked via functional and behavioral assessments. EPIC’s community training sessions will also be held monthly, offering tools and strategies for local caregivers, educators, and community members.

EPIC is designed to create measurable improvements in the lives of children and families. After 26 weeks of therapy, we anticipate that 95% of clients will demonstrate significant progress toward their therapeutic goals, showing an average three-point improvement in functional and behavioral assessments (CFARS/FARS). In addition to therapy, EPIC offers monthly trauma-informed training to the broader community, providing caregivers, educators, and others with the tools to interact compassionately with children who have experienced trauma.

EPIC will be implemented and overseen by our dedicated executive team, ensuring that all activities align with 4KIDS Palm Beach's mission and community needs. The team includes the Senior VP of Programs and Quality, VP of Clinical Services, Director of Clinical Services, VP Palm Beach, Director of Clinical Services, Manager of EPIC Services, a Lead Therapist, and master's level clinicians, who work closely to ensure successful implementation. Regular reviews of goals, budgets, and financial operations take place on a quarterly basis by the 4KIDS board of directors to ensure effective and transparent management of the programs. This oversight guarantees that the programs remain responsive to the needs of the community and are delivered efficiently and effectively.

**Conclusion**

EPIC functions seamlessly to address the critical needs of vulnerable children and families in Palm Beach County. By providing stable homes, wraparound trauma-informed care, and community-wide training, 4KIDS Palm Beach is helping to create lasting, positive outcomes for both the individuals served and the broader community. The requested funding will ensure the continued success of this vital program, ultimately fostering a safer, healthier, and more resilient Palm Beach County.

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**PROJECT BUDGET**

Project budget should ONLY include costs related to your funding request. Other match funds should NOT be included.

LEFT Line-Item Budget	Calculation	Total Amount
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Personal Costs/Salaries	\$ 10,000	<b>\$10,000</b>
Fringe Benefits	\$	\$
Travel	\$	\$
Equipment	\$	\$
Supplies	\$	\$
Printing and Copying	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$
	Total LEFT Request:	<b>\$10,000</b>

**BUDGET NARRATIVE** (Required for ALL applications. Provide a detailed narrative explanation of what the budget will include and its relevance to the project in #4. Please explain any anomalies in the budget above.)

The requested funding will be used to support the critical salaries associated with the implementation and continuation of the EPIC program. These funds will ensure that our dedicated staff—who are integral to the success of the program—receive the necessary compensation to provide the best care for children and families. This includes skilled professionals who offer trauma-informed care, as well as our master's level clinicians, case managers, and support staff who implement the EPIC model. By supporting the salaries of these key individuals, the program can maintain its high standards and continue delivering holistic, evidence-based care that helps children heal, grow, and thrive. This funding will ensure that our staff can provide the emotional, physical, intellectual, and character development support needed to create lasting positive outcomes for vulnerable children and families in Palm Beach County.

## SIGNATURE/CERTIFICATION

**CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES** (Please initial next to each in blue ink. By initialing and signing this application for funding the applicant agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions if awarded LETF Funding.

### PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

Initial TP APPLICANT shall commence services as soon as practical and reasonable under the circumstances. All program activities must be completed by the end of the calendar year in which they were awarded.

### REPORTS AND DELIVERABLES

Initial TP APPLICANT will keep clear and accurate records throughout the Program period so that the progress of the services rendered may be readily evaluated by the DBPD at mutually agreed upon times.

Initial TP A final report of activities and expenditures documented by receipts or other financial proof of expenditure of the Program shall be submitted by the applicant to DBPD within 30 days after the funds have been exhausted or no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>. All costs and expenses in generating and delivery of such documentation shall be burdened by APPLICANT and the documents shall be delivered in a format acceptable to DBPD. Failure to comply with the reporting requirements shall result in APPLICANT having to return LETF.

### RETURN OF FUNDS

Initial TP If APPLICANT fails to perform; or is determined later to not be qualified to receive LETF; or if there was an untruthful statement made by APPLICANT within its Request for Funding Application (Application); or fails to provide the necessary reporting documents to DBPD, then all LETF disbursed to the APPLICANT shall be returned to DBPD within ten (10) business days of DBPD's written demand for the same and APPLICANT may be ineligible for any future LETF disbursements.

### SPECIAL PROVISIONS

All services should be provided exclusively in Delray Beach to Delray Beach residents.

Initial TP APPLICANT will not qualify for subsequent year funding from DBPD and will not be able to receive subsequent year funding until a complete report, approved by DBPD has been obtained for prior year activities that were funded by LETF award. Notwithstanding the foregoing, DBPD shall not be obligated to award any subsequent funding unless and until the APPLICANT reapplies for the same and is approved for disbursements, at the discretion of DBPD.

Initial TP Failure to spend awarded funds in accordance with the approved project budget will result in return of funds to DBPD.

Initial TP Failure of the APPLICANT to submit a complete report with backup documentation to DBPD, at no cost to DBPD, will result in immediate return of funds to DBPD.

Initial TP APPLICANT understands that if funds are awarded to APPLICANT, APPLICANT will be required to execute a funding agreement, which outlines the terms and conditions of the award.

False statements or claims made in connection with this LETF Funding Application may result in fines, imprisonment, and/or any other remedy available by law. I certify that the assurances provided are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

APPLICANT AGENCY NAME: 4KIDS Palm Beach \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN AND BIND APPLICANT AGENCY TO APPLICATION:

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 1/27/25

Tim Putman Sr Vice President of Programs: Quality

(Printed Name & Title)

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF PALM  
BEACH

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of  physical presence or  online notarization, this 27th day of February, 2025, by Jessica Wayner (name of person), as notary (type of authority) for 4KIDS (name of party on behalf of whom instrument was executed).

Personally known  OR Produced Identification \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_



JESSICA WAYNER  
Commission # HH 181940  
Expires October 5, 2025  
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services

Jessica Wayner, [Handwritten Signature]

Notary Public – State of Florida

**DISCLOSURE OF BUSINESS OR EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CITY**

The City requires agencies requesting charitable contributions to disclose any business or employment relationships with the City, and research agency disclosures and corporate information prior to approving the agency's application for payment to prevent potential conflicts of interest.

Use the space below to disclose any business relationship with the City.

**Disclosure of business relationship - NA**

Use space below for the names of any of your employees who serve as agents, principals, subcontractors, employees or consultants and are currently employed or have been employed by the City of Delray Beach within the last two (2) years. Please list the employee(s) position(s) within your company.

**Disclosure of employment relationship - NA**

I certify that the information supplied herein is correct to the best of my knowledge. This application should be signed by an authorized officer of the applicant.

  
Authorized Signature

1/27/25  
Date

Travis Putman  
Print Name

## **Attachments**

Attachment A - Florida Division of Corporations  
Certificate of Status

Attachment B - IRS Form 501(C)(3)

Attachment C - IRS Form W-9

Attachment D - Program Location Letter

# *State of Florida*

## *Department of State*

I certify from the records of this office that 4KIDS OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, filed on February 14, 2002.

The document number of this corporation is N02000001232.

I further certify that said corporation has paid all fees due this office through December 31, 2025, that its most recent annual report/uniform business report was filed on January 2, 2025, and that its status is active.

I further certify that said corporation has not filed Articles of Dissolution.

*Given under my hand and the  
Great Seal of the State of Florida  
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this  
the Twenty-fourth day of  
February, 2025*



  
Secretary of State

Tracking Number: 8168458520CU

To authenticate this certificate, visit the following site, enter this number, and then follow the instructions displayed.

<https://services.sunbiz.org/Filings/CertificateOfStatus/CertificateAuthentication>



## Consumer's Certificate of Exemption

**DR-14**  
**R. 01/18**

**Issued Pursuant to Chapter 212, Florida Statutes**

85-8012837027C-5	05/31/2023	05/31/2028	501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION
Certificate Number	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Exemption Category

This certifies that

4 KIDS OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC.  
2717 W CYPRESS CREEK RD  
FT LAUDERDALE FL 33309-1703

is exempt from the payment of Florida sales and use tax on real property rented, transient rental property rented, tangible personal property purchased or rented, or services purchased.



## Important Information for Exempt Organizations

**DR-14**  
**R. 01/18**

1. You must provide all vendors and suppliers with an exemption certificate before making tax-exempt purchases. See Rule 12A-1.038, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).
2. Your *Consumer's Certificate of Exemption* is to be used solely by your organization for your organization's customary nonprofit activities.
3. Purchases made by an individual on behalf of the organization are taxable, even if the individual will be reimbursed by the organization.
4. This exemption applies only to purchases your organization makes. The sale or lease to others of tangible personal property, sleeping accommodations, or other real property is taxable. Your organization must register, and collect and remit sales and use tax on such taxable transactions. Note: Churches are exempt from this requirement except when they are the lessor of real property (Rule 12A-1.070, F.A.C.).
5. It is a criminal offense to fraudulently present this certificate to evade the payment of sales tax. Under no circumstances should this certificate be used for the personal benefit of any individual. Violators will be liable for payment of the sales tax plus a penalty of 200% of the tax, and may be subject to conviction of a third-degree felony. Any violation will require the revocation of this certificate.
6. If you have questions about your exemption certificate, please call Taxpayer Services at 850-488-6800. The mailing address is PO Box 6480, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6480.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date NOV 07 2006

4 KIDS OF SOUTH FLORIDA INC  
2401 W CYPRESS CREEK RD  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309

Employer Identification Number:  
.61-1416525

DLN:  
17053273781016

Contact Person:  
ERIC J BERTELSEN ID# 31323

Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500

Public Charity Status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated January 2003, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity, rather than as a private foundation, during an advance ruling period.

Based on the information you submitted, you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter. Since your exempt status was not under consideration, you continue to be classified as an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely yours,



Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 1050 (DO/CG)





**HOPE | HOMES | HEALING**

City of Delray Beach Police Department  
Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETf)  
300 West Atlantic Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33444

February 27, 2025

Subject: Program Location Letter

Dear LETf Committee,

On behalf of 4KIDS Palm Beach, I am pleased to confirm that all funding received from LETf for our EPIC trauma-informed therapy program will be used exclusively in Delray Beach for Delray Beach residents. All EPIC program activities funded by LETf will be hosted at our Delray Beach location: 1690 S. Congress Ave., Ste 200, Delray Beach, FL 33445.

We appreciate the Delray Beach Police Department's commitment to strengthening families and enhancing community well-being and safety. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Putman", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tim Putman  
Sr. Vice President - Programs & Quality Assurance  
772-485-3587

**4KIDS Broward (Headquarters) | 2717 W Cypress Creek Road | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309**

**4KIDS Palm Beach | 1690 S. Congress Ave., Suite 200 | Delray Beach, FL 33445**

**4KIDS Southwest Florida | 4983 Royal Gulf Circle | Fort Myers, FL 33966**

**4KIDS Treasure Coast | 50 NE Dixie Hwy., Unit A4 | Stuart, FL 34994**

**4KIDS Miami | 17801 NW 2nd Ave., Suite 202 | Miami Gardens, FL 33169**