



Today's Date: June 14, 2023
Earmark Sponsor: Rep. Wendell Gilliard
Project/Event Name: Residential and Support Services for Pregnant Teens
Amount: \$500,000
Recipient: Florence Crittenton Programs of SC
Recipient Type: Non-Profit Organization
W-9 Form/Tax ID: 57-0342030
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The requested earmark would support the general operations of Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina's (FCP) Residential Program. Our Residential Program has a 125 year history of providing services to address the unique health needs of pregnant and parenting teens and to support their journey toward becoming self-sufficient parents. We are open 365 days a year, providing 24-hour trauma-informed support and supervision for pregnant and parenting teens between the ages of 10-21, and their infants up to 2 years of age. Our Residential Program starts by meeting their basic need for safe and secure housing. In our congregate-care home, they are provided a bed, linens, and toiletries, as well as three meals and snacks daily. We maintain a well-stocked inventory of clothing, hygiene products, baby furniture, and other essentials for young mothers and infants.

With their immediate needs met, we are able to engage them in case management, educational services, health services, career readiness support, social and emotional well-being activities, and parenting education. Our social workers conduct assessments to determine the needs and strengths of each resident to develop an Individual Care Plan. The care plan identifies each resident's goals, how the resident and staff will work together to achieve goals, and identifies referrals for additional services.

An on-site nurse oversees their primary and prenatal care, coordinates infant checkups and immunizations, and administers prescriptions. Residents meet with the nurse for individual and group education related to pregnancy, childbirth, parenting, and personal growth. We currently use the Nurturing Parent Program for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers, and will soon be adding Parents as Teachers, both evidence-based curricula designed to prevent child abuse and neglect

Residents who have not completed high school are enrolled in school or a GED program and have the option of attending classes in person or utilizing our on-site classroom and technology for virtual learning. This allows them to continue their education uninterrupted by the crisis of teenage pregnancy. College and other postsecondary education are also promoted and explored.

Each resident develops a career readiness plan, and participates in workforce development education, including creating a resume and cover letter, finding and keeping jobs, and accepting responsibilities and criticism. We help them find jobs and assist them in executing a transportation plan to get to and from work safely. We also assist in securing childcare vouchers and affordable child care prior to starting employment.

We offer life skills training in the areas of maintaining healthy relationships, improving work and study habits, planning and goal-setting, using community resources, managing daily living activities, budgeting and paying bills, enhancing computer literacy, and establishing permanent connections to caring adults. We provide many structured activities so that residents have a space to learn and grow.

Through these interventions, each young mother gains the skills and resources needed for a healthy pregnancy, delivery, and start to life. We have a proven track record of successfully preparing pregnant and parenting youth for a life of independence. Last year, 90% of our youth made educational improvements, 100% improved employment readiness skills, and 96% improved parenting skills.

The FY23-24 budget included \$500,000 in funding for Florence Crittenton to provide residential care and support services for pregnant and parenting youth and their infants.

Safe, Stable, and Appropriate Shelter

- FCP will screen all referrals for eligibility, need for, and willingness/ability to participate in program services. A pre-admission interview will obtain the youth's educational status, medical concerns, and reason for referral; and screen for preliminary eligibility for the program, including: 1) Pregnancy or Parenting Status: must be able to provide proof of pregnancy or have physical custody of a child under the age of 1; 2) Age: must be between the ages of 10-20, infant must be under two years of age; 3) Gender: only female youth (infants of any gender); and 4) not in the custody of the SC Departments of Social Services or Juvenile Justice.

- In the event FCP cannot appropriately serve a prospective resident, we will work with partner agencies to connect the youth to appropriate services.
- FCP will provide each young woman her own room equipped with a twin bed, dresser, night table, and closet, as well as a new crib for her infant.
- FCP will provide for all basic needs of the young woman and her infant, including three meals and three snacks per day; linens, towels, baby bathtubs, and personal hygiene equipment/care products for themselves and their infants; and diapers, baby formula and food, baby clothing, and other infant essentials.
- FCP will maintain adequate staffing 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to oversee the safety and security of all residents in its care.

Support Services and Referrals

- The FCP Nurse will conduct a medical assessment, provide health and pregnancy education, and coordinate all medical (including prenatal, postpartum, and pediatric), dental, and vision appointments and prescriptions.
- An FCP case manager will meet with residents a minimum of once per week to develop and work towards 1) physical, emotional, and mental health goals, 2) peer, family, and authority figure relationships, 3) education and employment goals, 4) independent living skills, 5) parenting skills and 6) stable housing or family reunification.
- FCP will provide computers, internet access, and tutoring to help residents pursue their education.
- FCP will offer workforce development assistance, including helping youth obtain their birth certificate, Social Security and identification cards; completing job searches; preparing for interviews; and securing child care.
- FCP will offer age-appropriate educational programming to develop independent living skills .
- FCP will provide transportation to/from medical appointments, school, work, childcare, and educational or social activities.
- For young women not receiving residential services, Florence Crittenton will provide information and referrals to assist with their needs.