



FASD Social Laboratory

Program Summary

Launch a **FASD Social Laboratory pilot project** in partnership with Lanakila Pacific, Salvation Army Family Treatment Services, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and other committed nonprofit agencies (in negotiation) to identify and support people with disabilities who may have an FASD

Laboratory will launch FASD training programs for partner's designated staff to utilize and conduct FASD screening leading to:

- a. increased awareness of FASD
- b. identify youth and adults in Hawaii that may have an FASD disability
- c. identify the needs of individuals with a FASD for sustained employment
- d. develop FASD-informed services in Hawai'i
- e. ensure that people with FASD seeking employment are provided with proper supports that enhance and maximize employment outcomes
- f. improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, particularly those with an FASD, through informed services

The public purpose and need to be served;

FASD encompasses a range of effects on the brain and body of individuals prenatally exposed to alcohol. FASD is a lifelong disability. Individuals affected by FASD display various challenges in their daily living and are often misdiagnosed and misunderstood. FASD-informed education and interventions are critical for individuals and their families. With full support and education, individuals with an FASD will achieve their full potential and lead productive lives.

Currently there are no programs or services available for individuals with a FASD or their families and caregivers in Hawai'i. Of the 17,000 babies born annually in Hawai'i, as many as 840 are estimated to have a FASD and of the 174,000 students in Hawai'i's schools, as many as 8,700 may have a FASD, yet far fewer are diagnosed or provided services and support afforded most individuals with a disability. Today, many students with a FASD won't qualify for DD services, even with a diagnosis.

Older youth and adults with a FASD struggle with independent living and employment and face high rates of incarceration and recidivism. The estimated



annual cost to Hawai'i for FASD is over \$876 million, while raising a child with a FASD costs 30X more than the cost of successful prevention efforts.

The FASD Social Lab is a new program concept that incorporates innovative multidisciplinary and multi-level interventions that support the individual with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to move towards gainful employment and greater independence. These interventions will be coordinated, ethical, adequately funded, and client-centered with input from individuals with a FASD and their families. Lanakila Pacific, HIFASDAG and partner agencies will jointly collect data from this Social Laboratory pilot project to better understand the experiences, processes, and systems needed for individuals with a FASD to pursue and achieve successful employment and interdependent living and to develop meaningful programs of support and service in Hawaii.

Types of services:

People with a FASD disability should be entitled to the same informed services and support as any child or adult with a disability are entitled to. This is not the case in Hawaii. They are most often misdiagnosed and provided services, support, and therapies that doesn't positively impact their emotional or physical wellbeing.

The FASD Social Laboratory is designed as a pilot project to begin to address this need and collaborate with the wider social service sector to identify, train, and provide the support throughout the nonprofit sector.

For the purpose of this program pilot, the geographic coverage will be the City and County of Honolulu, Island of Oahu.

The services and support will be provided to identified clients at the participating nonprofit agency with convenience in mind for the clients and their families.



GIA Request \$380,000.

Inclusive of a project leader/administrator, case manager, FASD Specialist, Life Health Screening (LHS) Trainer and an experienced Evaluator for one year.

\$300,000. awarded by State of Hawai'i, Grant in Aid 2022-23 awards.

Contract signed with [Office of Community Services \(OCS\)](#) , contract effective date May 1, 2023.

GIA request was for each participating nonprofit agency to receive a realignment stipend of \$10,000. to cover and defray their costs. OCS disallowed this line item in the budget.

FASDHawaii.org is seeking \$50,000. in match funds to cover the cost of 4 stipends plus \$10,000. in administration costs.

Partner nonprofit agencies will sign a nonbinding memorandum of understanding (MOU)