



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1143

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Mobility Training Studio - Lighthouse Vision Loss Education Center intends to build a new, state of the art facility to house a Mobility Training Studio to provide Orientation & Mobility (O&M) and White Cane training to blind and visually impaired residents of all ages. The new Mobility Studio will serve as a statewide model as there is no other facility providing comprehensive services in Florida. With a new Mobility Studio built next to our existing Independent Living and Technology Training Center, the campus creates a one stop model for integrated vision rehabilitation services. In FY 22/23, Lighthouse provided O&M training to about 200 clients. A new Mobility Studio will allow Lighthouse to provide this vital training to more people in an indoor, comfortable and safe environment.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	43%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,000,000	57%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,500,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Lighthouse was awarded \$228,700 from the Paycheck Protection Program established by the CARES Act. The funds were applied for in order to offset salary costs and alleviate financial pressures associated with the community shutdown and subsequent decrease in philanthropic dollars. All staff were maintained and the loan was forgiven.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Manasota Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	A new 5,000 square foot, state of the art facility to house a Mobility Training Studio to provide Orientation & Mobility (O&M) and White Cane training to blind and visually impaired residents of all ages residing in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, DeSoto and Highlands Counties. The Studio will serve as a statewide model as there is no other facility of its kind providing these comprehensive services in Florida. The balance of needed funds will come from local philanthropic support for construction	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000



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14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

Lighthouse Vision Loss Education Center intends to build a new, state of the art facility to house a Mobility Training Studio to provide Orientation & Mobility (O&M) and White Cane training to blind and visually impaired residents of all ages. The new Mobility Studio will serve as a statewide model as there is no other facility providing these comprehensive services in Florida. With a new Mobility Studio built next to our existing Independent Living and Technology Training Center, the campus creates a one stop model for integrated vision rehabilitation services.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The funding will be used for construction of a state of the art facility providing full service Orientation & Mobility training to blind and visually impaired residents. The one of a kind facility will be built on adjacent property to our existing facility, making it a one stop shop for all services related to vision rehabilitation.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) is training specific to blindness and low vision that teaches safe, efficient, and effective travel skills to people of all ages with vision loss. "Orientation" refers to knowing where you are and where you want to go, and "Mobility" refers to the ability to move safely from one place to another, such as crossing streets or using public transportation. Orientation & Mobility Specialists are certified instructors who have received specialized training in teaching people who are blind or visually impaired to travel safely and to navigate their environments independently. Lighthouse is the only source for these special services in our area.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Lighthouse serves people of all ages who are blind or have low vision, which is vision loss that cannot be corrected with glasses, medications or surgery. Our services are available to residents of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, DeSoto and Highlands Counties, as well as the state of Florida. With this project, we anticipate serving 400 to 500 individuals.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

This project provides blind and visually impaired individuals the tools they need to live independently, maintain a job or start a new job, travel safely to work or school, finish school and go to college, participate and contribute to their community, continue to do the activities they love and enjoy an improved quality of life.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

In the highly unlikely chance that Lighthouse would not move forward with building the Mobility Studio, Lighthouse would return the funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number