



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1414

1. Title of Project: Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

2. Senate Sponsor: Anitere Flores

3. Date of Submission: 01/22/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

The objective of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, is to provide comprehensive eye examinations with dilation and prescription eyeglasses, when required, for eligible children throughout the State of Florida to help them succeed academically and improve their overall quality of life. Services are provided at no cost to the families.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Health

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

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

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	68.18%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local	700,000	31.82%
Other		0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	2,200,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19	750,000	250,000	451	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$750,000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
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Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Prorated portion of Executive salary and benefits	19,565
Other Salary and Benefits	Prorated portion of Administrative staff	115,435
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	21,522
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Prorated portion of facilities	39,130
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Salary and Benefits	456,417
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	141,188
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Mainly Optometrists and Opticians	706,743
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The goal of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is to assure that all financially disadvantaged schoolchildren have access to a comprehensive eye examination including dilation and glasses, if required, to ensure academic success. Following the Florida Statutes which sets standards of care, the Program provides an eye examination with dilation so that underlying medical conditions can be diagnosed and appropriate medical referrals made. Prescription glasses are provided. These free services are offered statewide either on-site at schools via our four mobile eye clinics or by our network of nearly 1,073 participating optometrists.

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

The Heiken Children's Vision Fund was created in 1992 by the Dade County Optometric Association, and merged with the Miami Lighthouse in 2007. In 2010, the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, LLC, a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., was registered with the State of Florida, expanding vision health services to low-income children statewide. The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program will provide a total of over 15,000 eye exams Statewide leveraging Florida Department of Health funding. Although Heiken has more than doubled the number of eye exams performed, unmet need quadrupled within the 1st six months of this 2018-2019 school year, when compared to the same period during the prior 2017-2018 school year, and by February of 2019 all FDOH monies will be spent.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

With current year Florida Department of Health funding, our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program will continue its eye wellness program statewide and will provide over 5,883 comprehensive diagnostic eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses to disadvantaged children at no cost to the child. At this funding level, approximately 4,000 schoolchildren will not receive a requested comprehensive eye exam and prescription eyeglasses.



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

Combined with local support for the Heiken Program during the 2017-2018 school year, the number of referrals received was 13,942; number of eye exams performed: 10,571; number of eyeglasses provided: 7,821; and number of medical referrals for further evaluation: 631. Based on research funded by the Health Foundation of South Florida, 74% of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program participant's parents who responded reported academic improvement after their children received eyeglasses from our eye wellness program at their school. In addition, we frequently receive letters and testimonials from grateful children and school personnel, documenting our program's impact on individual lives. The projection in the coming contract year would be to provide comprehensive dilated eye exams to approximately 15,000 Florida public school students who are in need of vision services.

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

The Florida Heiken Childrens Vision Program has been audited for the past 9 years by the Florida Department of Health without any significant findings. The 2017-2018 measures used are as follows: Results included Mobile visit Satisfaction Survey requested from every Site Coordinator, questions included: •Did you have any difficulty scheduling your school visit? No: 37/38 = 97% • Were you satisfied with the overall scheduling process? Yes: 37/38 = 97% •Did the IVP team arrive at your school by the scheduled time? Yes: 34/38 = 89% • Did the exams begin within one hour from arrival? Yes: 38/38 = 100% •Were the exams finished by the end of the school day? Yes: 38/38 = 100% •Were all the students in attendance able to be seen? Yes: 36/38 = 95%

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 in the contract?

Contracting agency will not bill State for ineligible services provided. FDOH Monitoring has found no issues.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Virginia A. Jacko
- b. **Organization:** Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program
- c. **E-mail Address:** vjacko@miamilighthouse.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)856-4176

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program
- b. **County:** Miami-Dade
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)



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- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: Virginia A. Jacko

e. E-mail Address: vjacko@miamilighthouse.org

f. Phone Number: (305)856-4176

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name: Jose Diaz

b. Firm Name: Robert M Levy and Associates

c. E-mail Address: jdiazj@aol.com

d. Phone Number: (850)681-0254