



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1054

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

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**

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

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

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)	1,000,000	41%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	750,000	31%
Local	696,602	28%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	2,446,602	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	750,000	1,000,000	458	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

State funding is leveraged by \$696,602 primarily made up of grants and other fundraising activities such as events and requests for private donations. Major funders that support Heiken are The Children's Trust, Lions Club International Foundation, Batchelor Foundation, AD Henderson Foundation, and Dunspaugh Dalton Foundation.

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.

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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Prorated portion of Executive salary and benefits	13,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Prorated portion of Administrative staff	76,960
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	General Insurance, Audit Fees, General Office Supplies, Computers, etc.	14,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Prorated portion of facilities and public relations	27,040
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Full Time Equivalents plus benefits (20%) including Director of Heiken Program, Assistant Manager Optometric Technicians, Program Coordinators, and Data Entry Staff.	325,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Mobile Unit expenses and Vision Examination Supplies	98,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Optometrists and Contracted Opticians	446,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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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 Statute 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 services are offered at no cost Statewide on-site at schools via our four mobile eye clinics.

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

In 2010, the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program was registered with the State of Florida, expanding vision health services to low-income children Statewide. In 2022-2023, leveraging FDOH funding with other private funding, 18,061 low-income schoolchildren received a dilated exam and 11,578 received prescription glasses.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation 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 9,700 comprehensive diagnostic eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses to disadvantaged children at no cost to the child. Replacement glasses are provided under warranty for 6 months to all eligible students as well.

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

Our Florida Heiken Program serves the economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth, homeless, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, preschool students, grade school students and high school students.

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

Based on research funded by the Health Foundation of South Florida, 77% 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. The Heiken Program has developed a Best Practices approach for the delivery of eye care to uninsured schoolchildren. 1,500 families were contacted in a 2020 market research survey to measure the impact of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program glasses on the child's education and the question was asked, "Did you find this program to be valuable?" and again 96% answered "Yes".

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?

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

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

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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- 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