



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1248

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Help Me Grow® Florida (HMGF) system is designed to help states and communities within states leverage existing resources to ensure communities identify vulnerable children, link families to community-based services, and empower families to support their children’s healthy development through the implementation of four core components. The four core components include the centralized access point, family and community outreach, child health provider outreach, and data collection and analysis. In short, HMGF promotes early identification of developmental, behavioral, or educational concerns, then links children and families to community-based services and supports at no cost to parents and caregivers.

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	5,051,787
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,051,787</b>

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)	5,051,787	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>5,051,787</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	1,808,957	2,691,043	76	No

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.

Currently, Help Me Grow® Florida (HMGF) is funded through state general revenue. CCDF quality dollars are a funding option for HMGF.

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



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Yes

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

Received \$188,000 from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) from September 1, 2020-August 31, 2022, to implement the Act Early Response Teams grant. This grant no longer offered as a funding opportunity.

## 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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Allocated share of administrative personnel expenses in accordance with agency's approved cost allocation plan.	774
Other Salary and Benefits	Allocated share of administrative personnel expenses in accordance with agency's approved cost allocation plan.	21,671
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Allocated share of administrative personnel expenses in accordance with agency's approved cost allocation plan.	3,510
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Administrative costs for subcontracted HMG Affiliates	249,600
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Expenses for State Coordinating Office Personnel in accordance with the agency's approved cost allocation plan.	135,183
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Includes public awareness materials/campaign, STAR referral and tracking system database for all affiliates, and Ages and Stages Enterprise account for all affiliates.	155,649
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Help Me Grow Florida Affiliate funding	4,485,400
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>5,051,787</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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Help Me Grow® Florida (HMGF) connects children and families to the services they need and provides support for families to navigate a complex system of resources. With increased funding, this will allow more children and families to access these resources. Currently, 94% of children and families are successfully connected to at least one health, social, or educational service. 89% of children are served by HMGF before entering kindergarten, increasing opportunities for early intervention.

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

HMGF care coordinators answer questions that parents and caregivers have about their child's development (ages birth-8) and provide follow up to ensure children receive necessary services. Care coordinators average 5 direct follow-ups per family. Care coordinators provide ongoing communication with physicians working with children and families who access HMGF and maintain partnerships with 26 physician champions advocating for HMGF services throughout the state. Developmental and behavioral screenings are offered to all children and families within HMGF service areas, currently 41 counties. Last year, 7,195 screenings were completed. With the requested funding, we expect to complete 24,000 screenings for children.

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

Maintaining a centralized access point that links families of young children with sources of support and services to address concerns about their child's health, development, behavior and learning. Providing developmental screenings and comprehensive care coordination with follow-up services to caregivers and child healthcare providers. Conducting child healthcare and early education provider outreach trainings to educate and raise awareness about child development and the importance of early detection and intervention. Conducting community outreach to promote the use of HMGF and to provide networking opportunities for the community. Data collection to understand all aspects of the HMGF system, including the identification of gaps and barriers.

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

The target population is children aged birth through 8 and their caregivers. Last year, 4,390 new children were served through HMGF. With the requested funding, HMGF is expected to reach 19,150 new children and families annually. HMGF's ability to screen out children who do not need costly additional services directly reduces Medicaid costs. Currently, seventy-eight percent (78%) of children screened are Medicaid enrollees. Fifty-one percent (51%) of children served did not attend an early learning program and might not have otherwise received the necessary supports. Identifying issues early in life prevents costly interventions in the future, prioritizes limited state resources, and enhances self-reliance.

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

Providing access to developmental and behavioral screenings for early identification of early childhood and infant mental health concerns that may result in an immediate referral for services, thus reducing the need for costly intervention later. This will be measured by keeping track of the percent of successful connections to services, percent of parents/caregivers reporting their child's development, behavior and/or mental health has improved, percent of parents/caregivers reporting that they have access to people they can talk to for advice and emotional support and percent of healthcare providers referring to HMGF.

**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?**

Payments shall be delayed for deliverables not satisfactorily completed until all deficiencies are corrected and accepted by the Division of Early Learning. A corrective action plan will be imposed requiring the contractor to address all performance deficiencies. Failure to comply will result in a breach of contract. Financial consequences are also imposed including withholding of payment, a request to redo the work or reduced payment.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**



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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)
- 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