



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1024

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

Roots and Wings Project Uplift is a free, small-group, after-school literacy program which serves over 1000 Palm Beach County students across 13 Title I elementary schools. Having grown exponentially since it was launched in 2017, Project Uplift is designed to infuse our area’s most at-risk students with the intensive, on-site, after-school reading enrichment and guidance they need from their home school’s certified teachers. Elementary illiteracy is a crisis: only 53% of Florida’s 3rd graders are reading at grade level (and 43% nationally), after which they fall further behind. By contrast, 94% of Project Uplift students made gains on their iReady reading achievement goals for the 2022-23 school year, and 63% met their growth goals, despite being at least 1-2 grade levels below their peers. If funded, this appropriation will allow Roots and Wings to expand Project Uplift into four additional Title I schools and serve an additional 280 students.

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	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>200,000</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)	200,000	20%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	793,180	80%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>993,180</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

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

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**  No

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

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



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Roots and Wings engages in private fundraising from foundation grants and individual donors, along with an endowment with healthy reserves, all of which will be utilized in future years to support the additional students served by this appropriation.

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

Yes

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

Roots and Wings received \$2336 from the Payroll Protection Program to partially pay our Director of Operations.

## 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Costs to operate Project UpLift at each school include one Certified Teacher for each 10 students and a Project Coordinator at each school.	176,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Costs to cover student incentives, teacher resources and supplies, program materials, travel expense, and parent engagement events.	24,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<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>200,000</b>



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

This appropriation, if funded, will allow for expanding Project Uplift into 4 additional Title I elementary schools, serving an additional 280 students across Palm Beach County (approximately 70 students per school). Project UpLift's program is designed to provide small-group, intense, after school reading enrichment to elementary students, who are reading a grade-level or more below state standards. From pre-K through 3rd grade, children must learn to read, so later they can read to learn; otherwise, they simply are doomed to fall further and further behind.

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

Certified teachers from the students' home schools will provide at least 54 hours of free, on-site, intensive, small group reading tutorials over a period of 18 weeks. Proven remedial reading techniques and resources are individualized to meet each student's challenges. Project UpLift also provides personal incentives to challenged readers, rewarding attendance and improvements in iReady test scores.

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

Project UpLift creates economic opportunity through literacy. The program serves over 1000 disadvantaged elementary school students at Title I Elementary Schools in Palm Beach County, who are reading a grade or more below grade level. The program cost to Roots and Wings is very low -- less than \$600 per student -- all of which is covered by private grants and donations. In other words, the program is provided at no charge to the participating students' families. The Project UpLift model enables teachers to address components not included in the regular school day, such as foundational phonics for students beyond 2nd grade.

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

Project UpLift targets disadvantaged elementary students reading a grade or more below grade level. Participants are students at local Title I schools with large numbers of under-resourced children, many from families living below the poverty level. Currently Roots and Wings serves over 1000 students in 13 schools. If funded, this appropriation will allow the program to expand to 4 additional schools and 280 more students.

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

With Project UpLift's program, the goal is to provide early intervention for our poorest elementary students who are reading a grade-level or more below state standards. 94% of Project Uplift students made gains on their iReady achievement goals for the 2022-23 school year, and 63% met their growth goals, despite being at least 1-2 grade levels below their peers.

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables without notification of good reasoning will result in financial penalties as described in contract.

#### 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**



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#### 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