



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1345

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

United Against Poverty proposes to implement a Mobile Prosperity Unit to address food insecurity and its root causes. The units will be stationed in underserved areas within the Treasure Coast and Central Florida weekly, and will operate under the philosophy of United Against Poverty’s “hand up, not hand out” model with a three-pronged path out of poverty. First, to address immediate food insecurity in hard hit neighborhoods the units will provide food products for a minor handling fee, encouraging independence rather than dependence on a free handout. Second, residents will have access to crisis navigation services referrals for basic needs. And third, the unit will share enrollment information about its Success Training Employment Program (STEP), which is an ongoing workforce development program built around emotional intelligence, workplace skills, and job acquisition. The project includes the cost of the truck and the annual operation of these units, including staffing.

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	193,187
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	193,187

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)	193,187	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	193,187	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	386,374	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.



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There is no other resource for this type and value of this funding. The agency typically accesses operational funding from United Way funding in Indian River, St. Lucie and Orange Counties; local governments; and private foundations such as John's Island Foundation and Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, corporations such as Walmart, Bank of America, Advent Health, and Publix Charities, and individual donations. Additionally, the grocery program generates funds for basic operations.

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.

Funds were used for agency operations. In 2020, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners (through United Way) provided CARES act funding of \$142K for coolers and shelving for grocery program; the Indian River Board of County Commissioners (through United Way) \$200K; and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, 106K for a refrigerated truck for the Mobile Market, and Orange County CDBG-CV \$190K for program operations and \$392K, with City of Orlando \$130,958 for cooler and freezer. UP received Paycheck Protection Program funding of \$1,012,100.

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		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	Purchase of refrigerated truck in transporting food.	193,187
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0



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Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		193,187

14. Program Performance

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

The specific purpose is to address food insecurity in Florida's low-income neighborhoods and support those struggling financially to develop a permanent track/plan to prosperity through crisis stabilization and workforce development solutions. The UP Mobile Prosperity Unit will deliver fresh produce, proteins and other nutritional necessities from area farmers and corporate product partners to families in need at mobile sites identified throughout the Treasure Coast and Central Florida. UP's current grocery program has locations in Indian River, St. Lucie, and Orange Counties. During 2023, the past 8 months, has already served 29,847 families from 49 Florida counties (38 Senate and 107 House Districts). The goal is to ensure that citizens are free from food insecurity and begin moving toward permanent economic prosperity.

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

Funds will be used to purchase distribution equipment, a portion of salaries, and operating costs directly associated with the rural mobile delivery of food and support services. Activities and services to be provided include immediate access for low-income families to:

- (1.) easily accessible food products they select weekly to address immediate food insecurity,
- (2.) navigation support services to address immediate issues by identifying barriers, developing goals, and obtaining referrals to local and community-based partner providers,
- (3.) long term economic solutions with workforce development support through UP's effective Success Training Employment Program (STEP), including one-on one success coaching to achieve economic self-sufficiency and a pathway to permanent prosperity

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

This program provides direct services to citizens in the form of easily accessible grocery centers in accessible locations. The intent is to stop food insecurity and help low-income Florida families remove barriers to economic self-sufficiency. In addition to rural access to groceries, this Mobile UP Prosperity unit will serve as the introduction to UP resources including crisis stabilization and navigation, employment training and workforce development and on-site collaboration with multiple service providers, including the Department of Children and Families (DCF) ACCESS offices. On-site wraparound continuum of services directly align with the 2030 goals of the Florida Chamber of Commerce Scorecard focus on improving employment, housing access, and adult and childhood poverty. Additionally, United Against Poverty (UP) services align so closely with First Lady Casey DeSantis' Hope Florida program, UP's CEO and Program Director were included in its 2021 launch in Central Florida.

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

The target population served by this project is low- to no-income Floridians. To ensure access to food security, each Mobile UP Prosperity Unit will accept the (DCF) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit card. By the end of program year 2024 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025), UP expects to serve approximately-3,600 unique households (x 2.57 average fly size = 9,252 residents) through with this project.

1. 3,600 unique households will achieve food security through weekly access to food products.
2. 2,400 households will receive onsite referral for crisis stabilization and navigation services such as homelessness diversion, healthcare, childcare, transportation, mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence survivors.
3. 1,800 Individuals will receive referrals for UP's workforce development program, STEP for a permanent path out of poverty. Primary locations include Indian River, Orange, and St. Lucie Counties.

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

This will be documented by the number of people who receive grocery rack cards distributed for low-income families to participate in bricks and mortar grocery. Those who sign up for crisis and workforce development services will be documented with the number who follow through on those appointments. Combined with UP's bricks and mortar locations in Vero Beach, Orlando, and Fort Pierce, the grocery distribution will benefit approximately 22,000 unique Florida households and increase the number of resources they are able to retain for other household necessities such as rent, childcare, and healthcare by \$10M.



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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?

If UP is unable to meet deliverables or performance measures, funding will be returned.

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)
- 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