



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2608

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Through the School to Work program, we partner with corporations and other organizations to open doors of hope and opportunity for students. Each month, youth meet with a volunteer mentor at their job site, where they experience first-hand the world of work from the perspective of, and with encouragement from someone who is already employed on the job. Educational workshops providing information about employment and expectations of a workplace are also part of each monthly meeting to develop employment skills for youth in the program.

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	950,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	950,000

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)	950,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	950,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	750,000	1264	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.

We are not aware of other available funds.

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.

Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funds in the amount of \$55,256 were received as a loan in May 2020. The full amount of the PPP loan was forgiven by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The PPP funding was used to retain employees during the period of economic uncertainty caused by the COVID crisis.

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	Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits for the Chief Executive Officer allocated based on the amount of time of direct involvement in monitoring the project, communicating with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) local agencies regarding project goals and objectives, as well as maintaining contact with the funding agency to ensure contract goals are met along with compliance with contract terms.	5,505
Other Salary and Benefits	Salary, payroll taxes and benefits for Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida (BBBSAF) staff providing direct services and hours worked in the School to Work project. Effort is dedicated to monitoring BBBS local agency compliance with the School to Work contract, preparation of monthly reporting to the FloridaCommerce formerly known as the Department of Economic Opportunity, invoicing and payments to BBBS local agencies for support of the School to Work mentor program.	38,320
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies and communications and mileage reimbursement for travel to support the School to Work program. The expenses are allocated in proportion to the project needs for management and administration.	1,750
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	An annual audit is performed by an independent auditor with a portion of the expense for the audit allocated to the School to Work project. The allocation of the expense is in proportion of the project to the overall operation of BBBSAF. Additional contracted services for on-line services, technology and website support for the Big Brothers Blg Sisters Association of Florida, FloridaCommerce project.	1,925
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contract services for STW mentoring support through BBBS local agencies serving youth in Florida. The expenses incurred by the local agencies include the cost for recruitment of volunteers and youth, assessment for eligibility to participate, background screening, and professional support staff who are monitoring and supporting the program operations at corporate partner locations.	902,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		950,000

14. Program Performance

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

The School-to-Work program goal is to help students improve their chances of graduating and transitioning to the workplace. This allows them to meet with and shadow volunteer employee mentors in the workplace each month during the school year. This exposure to the workplace and encouragement from volunteer mentors makes a world of difference as students improve their grades, gain in self-esteem, and graduate high school with plans for a career. The immediate benefit of the School-to-Work Program is that students will be trained by corporate partners who will serve as teachers and mentors to prepare students to fulfill the growing need of a highly skilled and educated workforce in Florida.

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

The School-to-Work program goal is to help students improve their chances of graduating and transitioning to the workplace. Our corporate partners open doors of hope and opportunity for students by allowing them to meet with and shadow volunteer employee mentors in the workplace each month during the school year. This exposure to the workplace and encouragement from volunteer mentors makes a world of difference as students improve their grades, gain in self-esteem, and graduate high school with plans for a career. In our one-to-one mentoring model, each mentor works with only one youth during their meeting times.

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

Facilitated through our statewide BBBS local agencies, BBBSAF will match approximately five hundred eighty eight students, identified as at-risk youth, with mentors who are employed in corporate workplace partners of Big Brothers Big Sisters local agencies. Each month, youth in STW meet with and shadow a volunteer mentor at his or her job, where youth experience first-hand the world of work from the perspective of and with encouragement from someone who is already doing the job. Workplace partners facilitate workshops on topics, such as work-readiness, preparing for post-secondary education and/or employment, resume writing, business etiquette, and interview skills. BBBS staff provides support to workplace partners regarding the youth and mentoring strategies.

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

Students across the state of Florida often lack the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for success in school or in jobs. Unfortunately, this skills gap affects some of the state's most vulnerable youth disproportionately: rates of college attendance, unemployment and underemployment tend to be higher for at risk and/or low-income youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters local agencies identify at-risk youth for participation in the STW program. The program is expected to provide one-to-one mentoring for approximately five hundred eighty eight students (588) who are in high school. Students and mentors are encouraged to commit to the STW program for two years.

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

In addition to the benefits of youth having a caring adult mentor who is a successful role model, the STW program offers opportunities for youth to learn valuable career skills. In the corporate environment, youth shadow the work of their mentor in an opportunity to learn about their field of career interest. Workplace partners facilitate workshops on topics, such as work-readiness, preparing for post-secondary education and/or employment, resume writing, business etiquette, and interview skills. BBBS staff provides support to workplace partners regarding the youth and mentoring strategies. Our mentoring services provide experiences that assist youth to immediately enter the workforce.



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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?

Financial consequences for failure to meet the deliverables are charged on at a fixed price per unit of youth matched with a mentor in the School to Work (STW) program. If the contract number of youth do not receive one-to-one mentoring services at a corporate partner site, the funding will be reduced on a per youth basis during the budget period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

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