



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2758

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Community Literacy Fund will serve low-skilled adults in Florida, especially those in the most vulnerable populations. This initiative will support community-based education providers that have shown a unique ability to reach—and effectively serve—underserved populations. Through a competitive grant application process, this program will support the expanded use of trained volunteers and paraprofessionals to teach adults reading, writing, math, English language, digital literacy and workforce readiness skills.

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                         | 1,250,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0                |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>1,250,000</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)       | 1,250,000        | 68%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local  | 0                | 0%          |
| Other  | 598,000          | 32%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> | <b>1,848,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  No

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
|                          |           |              |                             |        |

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.

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

No



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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           |
|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Administrative Costs:</b>   |  |                  |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits                    | Executive Director   | 7,945            |
| Other Salary and Benefits  | Bookkeeper (\$660)<br>Payroll taxes & benefits (\$1,040)   | 1,700            |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                |  | 0                |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  |  | 0                |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>  |  |                  |
| Salary and Benefits  | Grant Program Coordinator (30 hrs week) \$34,320 Payroll taxes and benefits \$4,120  | 38,440           |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Equipment, Travel, Audit and Indirect costs  | 4,915            |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Contract services in support of the project \$1,000.<br>Grants to local non-profit and library-based adult education and literacy programs \$1,196,000 | 1,197,000        |
| <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>1,250,000</b> |

### 14. Program Performance

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



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Community-based adult literacy programs provide the first rung on the skills development ladder with a focus on helping underserved adult learners to develop fundamental reading, writing, math, English language and workforce readiness skills. This initiative will support trained volunteers to provide instruction to Florida's low-literate adults, by awarding 20-40 grants to non-profit and library-based literacy programs through a competitive application process.

Existing Florida statute (Title XLVIII, Chapter 1004.94) already provides for funding such community-based literacy programs. This statute, which has never been funded, provides for local grant awards of up to \$50,000. Priority is given to "paying expenses related to the instruction of volunteer tutors, including materials and the salary of the program coordinator."

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

The Florida Literacy Coalition will manage a competitive grant application and distribution process to make 20-40 grants available to non-profit and library-based literacy programs throughout Florida. Funds will be used to support and expand local adult literacy, ESL and family literacy instruction.

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

Funds will be used to provide direct one-on-one and group instruction to adult learners who need to develop fundamental reading, writing, math, English language, digital literacy and workforce readiness skills.

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

Approximately one in four adults in Florida cannot read and write above a third-grade level. This project will serve adults and families who need to develop and/or improve their English language and literacy skills. Our goal is to serve at least 2,700 students for the year.

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

The majority of participating adult students (provided with at least 25 hours of instruction) will achieve a measurable educational gain and/or achievement toward a personal educational goal. This project will use established adult education assessment tools.

**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?**

Funds administered through this grant program will be used for the stated purpose or refunded. Grant funded organizations who don't meet performance measures may be subject to loss of funding and eligibility for future funding.

**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



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- 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