



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2057

1. Title of Project: Title I Vision Screening Pilot Program

2. Senate Sponsor: Kathleen Passidomo

3. Date of Submission: 02/26/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

The purpose of this pilot program is to improve the academic and social success of children attending Title I schools by identifying significant vision deficiencies that impede a child's academic performance. Vision screening teams will evaluate the vision of all students attending Title I schools in grades 7-12, in the following counties: Orange, Volusia, Seminole, Lake, Polk, Osceola, & Collier. Total target population: approx. 90,000 students in 85 Title I Schools across 7 counties. State-of-the-art vision screening technology will be utilized that enhances accuracy and efficiency. This allows for more time to be spent learning in classrooms and less disruption to schools as children are vision screened within seconds. Vision screening data will be analyzed and results provided for each school. This project strives to demonstrate the value of investing minimal dollars to achieve higher graduation rates, lower drop-out rates, improved academic performance, and improved school grades

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Education

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	453,120
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	453,120

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	453,120	83.48%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	54,000	9.95%
Other	35,639	6.57%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	542,759	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$453,120

10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Operational costs for program director: responsible for scheduling school vision screenings, facilitating screening teams, providing comprehensive analysis, and screening reports to schools and school district as well as maintaining screening protocols.	39,520
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Purchase of 5 additional vision screening equipment devices (\$7,800/device), and one annual maintenance/calibration per device (\$500/device). This state-of-the-art vision screening technology will be utilized that enhances accuracy and efficiency. This allows for more time to be spent learning in classrooms and less disruption to schools as children are vision screened within seconds. Office supplies and travel to each school location will be expensed (estimated at \$22,000).	63,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Vision screening teams will evaluate the vision of all students attending Title I schools in grades 7-12 in the following counties: Orange, Volusia, Seminole, Lake, Polk, Osceola, and Collier. Total target population: approx. 90,000 students in 85+ Title I Schools across 7 counties (Approx. \$3.89/student). Vision Reports will be provided for each school and school district, and year-end program outcomes will be shared with the Florida Legislature.	350,100
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		453,120

11. Program Performance:

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

The purpose of the program is to improve the academic and social success of children attending Title I schools by identifying significant vision deficiencies that, without this program, would impede a child's academic



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performance in school. A tremendous amount (80%) of learning happens visually. Proper vision care is crucial to helping students reach their full potential. Seeing clearly (“20/20”) is just one of 17 visual skills critical to academic success. One out of four children struggle with reading and learning because of undiagnosed vision problems. It is estimated that over 60% of problem learners have undiagnosed vision problems. This program will help identify vision deficiencies to children (grades 7th-12th) attending Title I schools in 7 Florida counties to ensure children can see the text and board clearly and perform to their full potential in school.

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

Twenty-five percent of school-aged children in the United States have undiagnosed vision problems significant enough to affect their school performance. Among Title I students & academically & behaviorally at-risk children, research indicates that 85% have vision problems that are either undetected or untreated. In a recent study of over 40,000 students in grades 7-12 attending Title I Florida schools, over 41% were found to have undiagnosed vision impairments. Furthermore, a University of Minnesota research study of the Florida Vision Quest (FVQ) program in 2012 confirms robust improvement in academic student outcomes following the FVQ vision intervention. This program will collaborate with school districts, Title I schools, and school personnel to schedule and evaluate the vision of all students attending Title I schools in grades 7-12 in 7 Florida counties. Comprehensive screening analysis and reports will be provided to schools and school districts.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Our agency has become the vision screening entity for several school districts for State mandated grades (K,1,3, and 6). In addition, our agency has had great support from the community and foundations to help fund vision screening for at-risk children in all grades. School districts have requested our screening services but lack of funding prohibits serving them. This funding is essential to serving the need and identifying underlying vision issues that can result in poor academic performance. Vision screenings will be provided to children in grades 7th-12th, attending Title I schools in 7 Florida counties: Orange, Volusia, Seminole, Lake, Polk, Osceola, and Collier, to help identify vision deficiencies that significantly impair a child's social and academic performance. Comprehensive vision screening reports will be provided to the schools, district, and a year-end program impact report will be shared with the Florida Legislature.

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

Currently, the State of Florida mandates vision screening in only grades K, 1, 3, and 6, yet the vision deficiencies in children in critical grades 7th-12th, are ignored and fail to be identified. Vision screening teams will evaluate the vision of all students attending Title I schools in grades 7-12, in the following counties: Orange, Volusia, Seminole, Lake, Polk, Osceola, and Collier. Total target population: approx. 90,000 students in 85+ Title I Schools across 7 counties. State-of-the-art vision screening technology will be utilized that enhances accuracy and efficiency. This allows for more time to be spent learning in classrooms and less disruption to schools as children are vision screened within seconds. Vision screening data will be analyzed and results provided for each school. Students who fail the screening will be referred for help, and low-income uninsured students will be provided vision exams/glasses by FVQ through a current DOH contract.

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

Outcomes from this program will demonstrate the value of investing minimal dollars to achieve higher graduation rates, lower drop-out rates, improved academic performance, & improved school grades. “Return



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on Investment Analysis," conducted by the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, determined that all vision screening programs have the highest ROI as every dollar spent on childhood visual acuity screenings saves up to \$162.20. This project strives to track failure rates over 3 years. Comprehensive records will be kept on each child screened which will note the following: total number of students screened by school and grade; total number of students screened; number of students who fail and have not previously been identified; number of students who have been previously identified but do not have eyeglasses indicating lost/broken eyewear; and number of students who are currently wearing glasses.

- 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 in the contract?**

Standard State contract penalties.

12. **The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

N/A

13. **Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Kelly Haynes
- b. **Organization:** Florida's Vision Quest, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** KELLY@FLVQ.ORG
- d. **Phone Number:** (386)917-1001 Ext. 243

14. **Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Florida's Vision Quest, Inc.
- b. **County:** Collier, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, Volusia
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Kelly Haynes
- e. **E-mail Address:** KELLY@FLVQ.ORG
- f. **Phone Number:** (386)917-1001 Ext. 243

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. **Name:** Dean Cannon
- b. **Firm Name:** Gray Robinson



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d. Phone Number: (850)577-9090