



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1302

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The objective of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, is to provide comprehensive eye examinations with dilation and prescription eyeglasses, when required, for eligible children throughout the State of Florida to help them succeed academically and improve their overall quality of life. Services are provided at no cost to the families.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

| Type of Funding                    | Amount           |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operations                         | 1,000,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0                |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>1,000,000</b> |

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

| Type of Funding                                      | Amount           | Percentage  |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)       | 1,000,000        | 56%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local  | 795,000          | 44%         |
| Other  | 0                | 0%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b> | <b>1,795,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
| 2021-22                  | 750,000   | 125,000      | 444                         | 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.

State funding is leveraged by \$795,000 primarily made up of grants and other fundraising activities such as events and requests for private donations. Major funders that support Heiken are The Children's Trust, Batchelor Foundation, Thomas Foundation and JT McDonald Foundation.

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



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Yes

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

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind applied for and received a PPP Loan on April 22, 2020 to pay for payroll expenses not reimbursed by other funders. The amount used for the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program was approximately \$8,000. This loan was forgiven on 8/2/2021.

**11. 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                    | Prorated portion of Executive salary and benefits  | 13,000           |
| Other Salary and Benefits  | Prorated portion of Administrative staff   | 76,960           |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | General Insurance, Audit Fees, General Office Supplies, Computers, etc.  | 14,000           |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Prorated portion of facilities   | 27,040           |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>  |  |                  |
| Salary and Benefits  | 5.6 Full Time Equivalents plus benefits (20%) including Manager of Heiken Program, Optometric Technicians, Program Coordinators, and Data Entry Staff. | 325,000          |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Mobile Unit expenses, Vision Examination Supplies  | 98,000           |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Optometrists and Opticians   | 446,000          |
| <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>1,000,000</b> |

**12. Program Performance**

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

The goal of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is to assure that all financially disadvantaged schoolchildren have access to a comprehensive eye examination including dilation and glasses, if required, to ensure academic success. Following the Florida Statute which sets standards of care, the Program provides an eye examination with dilation so that underlying medical conditions can be diagnosed and appropriate medical referrals made. Prescription glasses are provided. These services are offered at no cost Statewide on-site at schools via our four mobile eye clinics.

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

The Heiken Children's Vision Fund was created in 1992 by the Dade County Optometric Association, and merged with the Miami Lighthouse in 2007. In 2010, the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, LLC, a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., was registered with the State of Florida, expanding vision health services to low-income children Statewide. The Heiken Program will provide a total of 12,611 eye exams Statewide in 2021-2022, leveraging Florida Department of Health funding. In the 2021-2022 school year, Heiken expects to receive about 40,000 requests for services, since we are the only approved vendor for vision services. However, we only have funding to provide services to 12,611 students, leaving over 27,389 students' needs unmet.

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



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With current year Florida Department of Health funding only increased by 17%, our Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program will continue its eye wellness program Statewide and will provide nearly 5,833 comprehensive diagnostic eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses to disadvantaged children at no cost to the child. Restoring funding to at least \$1,000,000 is needed for the Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program to help mitigate the unmet need for Florida’s disadvantaged schoolchildren. Replacement glasses are provided under warranty for 6 months to all eligible students as well.

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

Combined with leveraged funding, the Heiken Program in the 2021-2022 school year is expected to provide 12,611 low-income schoolchildren with a dilated exam; 8,800 of them are expected to receive prescription glasses. In 2022-2023, with the requested \$1,000,000, Florida Heiken would be able to provide approximately 13,278 exams with leveraged funding. Florida Heiken frequently receives letters and testimonials from grateful children and school personnel, documenting our program’s impact on individual lives.

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

The Florida Heiken Childrens Vision Program has been audited for the past 11 years by the Florida Department of Health without any significant findings. The 2020-2021 measures used are as follows: Results included Mobile visit Satisfaction Survey requested from every Site Coordinator, questions included: •Did you have any difficulty scheduling your school visit? No: 43/44 = 98% • Were you satisfied with the overall scheduling process? Yes: 44/44 = 100% •Did the IVP team arrive at your school by the scheduled time? Yes: 41/44 = 93% • Did the exams begin within one hour from arrival? Yes:44/44 = 100% •Were the exams finished by the end of the school day? Yes: 43/44 = 98% •Were all the students in attendance able to be seen? Yes: 43/44 = 98%. Of the 1,500 families contacted in a 2020 market research survey:• Have you noticed any improvements in how your child is doing with school? Yes 77% • Did you find this program to be valuable? Yes 96%

**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?**

Contracting agency will not bill State for ineligible services provided. FDOH Monitoring has found no issues.

**13. 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.**

N/A



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#### 14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 15. 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

#### 16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number