



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1844

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Pediatric Vision Center is a partnership with the USF Eye Institute and Lions Eye Institute that will provide vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, treatments and surgical interventions, dispense glasses as needed, at no cost to children who are uninsured. Vision disorders that affect early learning have the best outcomes if treated by the age of 8. The PVC will provide this region with early intervention, follow-up care, STEM education, eye anatomy and eye health education.

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	671,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	79,275
Total State Funds Requested	750,275

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)	750,275	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	787,000	51%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	1,537,275	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.

Public private partnership including individual and corporate gifts, contributions from program partners, and special event fundraising.

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.

On April 10, 2020, Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research Inc received a loan of \$1,525,900 to fund payroll, rent, and utilities through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This loan was forgiven in January 2021.

On February 1, 2021, the organization received a second loan of \$1,729,233 to fund payroll, rent, and utilities, which was forgiven on August 2021.

11. 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	Two ophthalmology technicians who will perform admittance exams such as eye pressure tests and tests to determine an individual's near and distance vision. Three vision screeners to travel to schools to conduct screenings. One case worker to assist families with follow-up care.	332,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Vision screening certification for each screener, level II background check, membership to Nat. Assoc. of School Nurses, four SPOT autorefractors, four blinq screeners, surgical equipment, clinical and ocular supplies, travel.	329,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	One creative consultant and one vision specialist teacher to develop a lesson plan and health content for age-appropriate STEM curriculum.	10,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Build out exam rooms for screening, and education space. Replace carpet with laminate flooring, paint, update electrical, replace awning for vision screening area.	79,275
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,275

12. Program Performance

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

This will be the first facility in the region dedicated to pediatric vision care. It will provide vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, treatment or surgical intervention, glasses if needed as well as age-appropriate STEM educational curricula to teach students about how eyes work and how to care for them, including general hygiene practices.

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

The Pediatric Vision Center will become a new treatment and learning destination for students. Children will receive vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, early intervention through dispensing glasses, and treatments/surgical care. We will also provide public health education for students, caregivers, school nurses, community centers, etc. regarding ocular health and prevention. Screenings and education services are provided by Lions Eye Institute while clinical exams and surgeries are provided by USF pediatric ophthalmologists.

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



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Vision screening services, eye anatomy 101, hygiene practices, education to prevent avoidable blindness, STEM curriculum at age-appropriate levels, comprehensive eye exams and surgical intervention if needed.

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

Economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, preschool, grade school and high school students. If we understand that vision problems result in skill deficiencies, difficulty in reading and learning, and poor academic performances - which, in turn, create feelings of failure, low self-esteem, and lack of interest in academics - then the connection between vision problems and life problems becomes clear. Hillsborough County Public Schools is in the 8th largest school district in the country, serving 214,386 students at 304 schools. According to Plan Hillsborough, 40% of Hillsborough County residents are living below the poverty line. A large portion of our children cannot receive the comprehensive eye care that they need and deserve. This impacts their ability to achieve success academically and has a domino affect after they leave school.ent patients.

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

In its study "Abandoned in the Back Row: New Lessons in Education and Delinquency Prevention," the Coalition for Juvenile Justice reported, "The biggest finding is that school failure is one of the earliest and best predictors for future delinquent and criminal behavior." The expected outcome is that children in the Tampa Bay region are given the best opportunity for success in schools and in life. We will track the children who are screened and who receive comprehensive eye exams and treatments through the program, follow-up with school nurses, parents/caregivers to ensure the children receive the follow-up care and early intervention that they need.

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?

The equipment and all assets would be liquidated and funding returned to its original source.

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.

The owner of the vision screening facility and the applying entity are the same. We have a programmatic partnership with USF Health Eye Institute where they will provide comprehensive eye exams at their facility and surgical procedures would take place at Tampa General Hospital facilities.



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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