



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1157

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The Mustard Seed of Central Florida (TMS) is a non-profit furniture and clothing bank, serving Orange, Seminole, and Osceola county families by providing basic household necessities. Furnishing Basic Stability for Families ensures that transitioning out of homelessness, personal tragedy, or natural disaster have necessary furniture pieces to make their living space feel like home. TMS qualifies families for service through case management, and following qualification, families set an appointment to select and receive their furniture pieces. Typically, families are leaving with 15-20 pieces of furniture, as well as needed household items, such as dishes and linens. TMS served 1,227 families in the 2021-22 fiscal year, and 100% of families served fell below the federal poverty line.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	50,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	50,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	50,000	5%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	20,000	2%
Other	868,794	93%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	938,794	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.**
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10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**



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No

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

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	The agency's Director of Operations supervises the furniture program administrative and operational staff, and coordinates large scale furniture donations to adequately provide out the volume necessary needed to serve families.	5,000
Other Salary and Benefits	They agency employs three administrative staff members to coordinate the agency's furniture program, Staff members include the client intake specialist, who coordinates client scheduling and maintenance of intake documents, the office coordinator, who facilitates day to day scheduling of furniture pick up service to ensure inventory, and the case manager, who qualifies families for services.	20,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	The agency employs six operational employees for the furniture program. This includes a four-person trucking department, who retrieve furniture pieces from various pick-up locations to ensure inventory for the families served, and a two-person warehouse staff, who inventory and organize the furniture pieces, and document furniture pieces being received by the clients.	25,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		50,000

14. Program Performance

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

The goal of the funding request is to provide 107 families in need in the central Florida area achieve basic stability through providing basic household furnishings. The Mustard Seed is serving an increased volume of families due to Hurricane Ian and with the potential threat of damage from future storms, the agency remains prepared to serve the need.

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

The funding request specifically covers staffing costs associated with serving 107 families in need. This includes partial compensation for 10 staff members associated directly with the agency's furniture program. This includes warehouse staff (2), who sort, organize, and document incoming and outgoing furniture pieces, transportation staff (4), who bring in furniture pieces as donations to provide to families, administrative program staff (3), who serve as case management, administrative support, and client intake for documentation retention, and the Director of Operations, who oversees the 9 staff members and handles large scale furniture donation projects.

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

Families receiving services will be provided with an average of 15-20 pieces of furniture, as well as additional ancillary items such as dishes, linens, and home decor. This direct service aims to ensure stability for families in transition from situations of crisis.

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

The program's target population includes those who are economically disadvantages, and the program serves a wide variety of at-risk demographics, including single parents with children, veterans, the elderly, as well as those with physical and mental disabilities. Total, the program aims to serve 1200 families annually, equating to roughly 3000 individuals. Funding provide by the State of Florida will provide furniture to 300 total individuals in the Central Florida region.

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

The Mustard Seed's furniture program aims to provide stability to families after they have experienced crisis. The agency conducts a pre/post survey with families to measure the "before" and "after" affects of receiving service. 83% of families served report an improvement in their children's grades in school, and 85% report that their children have better quality of sleep after their children received a bed from the agency.

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 Mustard Seed of Central Florida consistently serves 1200 families each year. The Mustard Seed does not anticipate failing to meet deliverables or incurring penalties. The Mustard Seed delivers a pre/post survey with clients to measure organizational performance, and data from the survey is aggregated regularly.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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