



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1349

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Florida Early Learning Corps combines the people power of AmeriCorps with evidence-based practices to fill the opportunity gap in Florida through individualized literacy and numeracy intervention support to PreK students. The program will recruit, train and place Americorps members in the highest need zip codes to deliver a data-based, problem-solving model of literacy instruction to children age 3 to 5.

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	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 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	28%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	1,485,525	43%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	29%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>3,485,525</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	600,000	82	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.

Will use funding from private and/or federal sources.

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

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



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### 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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director will spend 40% of their time working on this program and funding is to cover 43% of the annual salary at \$45,679. The Director of FL Programs will spend 25% of their time on this program and funding will cover 26% of the annual salary at \$19,127.	64,806
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salary to cover a percentage of three (3) Program Managers salary that totals to \$62,640. One (1) Program Specialist that will spend 29% of their time on this project and funding will cover \$13,089 of their salary. Four (4) Coaching Specialists that spend 30-80% of their time on this project for a total of \$169,705 and will work directly with 30 tutors each.	245,434
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	120 AmeriCorps Tutors at a rate of \$5,748 each. Funding will be used as bi-weekly stipends (living allowances, FICA and health benefits).	689,760
<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>

**14. Program Performance**

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



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Funding will expand Florida Early Learning Corps' geographic reach and impact on the early literacy and numeracy skill-building of our state's youngest learners. An appropriation amount of \$1M will facilitate Florida Early Learning Corps' expansion from 90 to 120 tutors who will serve more than 1700 at-risk students, ensuring they are prepared for success in Kindergarten.

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

Early Learning Corps is a proven model that accelerates literacy skills and Kindergarten readiness for high-need preschoolers. Full-time tutors work with PreK teachers to implement evidence-based interventions, individualized tutoring plans, formative assessments at least three times per year to ensure growth, extensive data systems that provide quality assurance, and multi-layer coaching.

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

The instructional model focuses on integrating the "Big Five" Essential Early Literacy Predictors outlined by the National Early Literacy Panel (2008) into all aspects of the daily classroom routine. The program includes an immersive "push-in" component, where tutors provide 1) whole-class literacy enrichment for all students, 2) targeted small group experiences, and 3) one-on-one interventions.

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

In a state where more than 18% of children live in poverty, Florida Early Learning Corps serves those who are among the most at risk: 96% of Florida Early Learning Corps students are eligible to receive free and reduced price lunch, an indicator of poverty. This is higher than the average of Florida students overall (56.6%) (M-DCPS Statistical Highlights, 2021- 2022). Our 120 tutors will each serve 15 students resulting in more than 1,800 students receiving individualized tutoring support during the 2023-24 school year.

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

We expect the following outcomes for student by the end of the 2022-23 school year:  
 -90% of 4-5 year olds will meet or exceed their target growth in literacy and early numeracy skills needed for Kindergarten  
 -80% of children will complete family literacy and numeracy activities at home with a parent or guardian  
 -70% of all children will meet or exceed their age-level benchmarks for each skill.  
 Student outcomes are measured through the use of the PELI (Preschool Early Learning Indicators) assessment tool as well the EMI (Early Math Indicators) assessment tool, which are both administered to students in the fall, winter and spring.

**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 suggested penalties if deliverables or performance measures are not met are loss of funding and impact on 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



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- 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**