



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2181

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

4. Project/Program Description

Through 12 different Blind Service Lighthouses we offer Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) instruction to children ages 5-13 who are blind or visually impaired. Our year-round program takes place at facilities and at community sites throughout the state on Saturdays, and summer months. We use the nationally recognized, evidence-based curriculum to secure academic success and the “real life experience” that is essential to future employability. This ECC goes beyond what is available in public schools and also addresses the inherent social isolation in public schools by bringing the children from an entire county together in one place. An important piece of the ECC is geared towards parents and it offers support, advocacy and idea-driven solutions to child-rearing challenges that may come up.

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	1,700,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,700,000

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)	1,700,000	73%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	500,000	22%
Local	125,000	5%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	2,325,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	500,000	44	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.**

Local fundraising throughout the state, by Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind Lighthouses.

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.

From CARES Act, for Payroll Protection Program: \$5,600 for FY2021-2022 only.

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	For monitoring (travel, accommodations, staff time), invoicing, management.	100,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment and supplies for children served.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	For services to Blind Children by teams of Certified Professionals in Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind Lighthouses.	1,500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,700,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Blind and visually impaired children in this program attain the braille, technology and personal skills to keep pace academically and socially with their sighted peers in school. Specific blindness-related social, personal and pre-vocational skills are learned from a team of certified professionals. This funding would also assist children with needed specialty equipment to navigate, live independently and strive in school; increase services for a specific state wide art program; and increase salaries for certified specialty counselors and teachers to the children.

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

1. Academic success skills including braille/magnifiers 2. Safe travel skills with a white cane; 3. Social interaction; 4. Recreation/healthy living; 5. Cooking, hygiene, cleaning, money and budgeting, time management; 6. Assistive technology—screen readers/ magnification for computers; 7. Experiential introduction to various careers 8. Self-advocacy, making choices, planning for adulthood; 9. Sensory efficiency skills (touch, hearing, smell, taste, balance). 10. Individual and group classes, summer, school holidays, weekends.

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

Instruction of blind/visually impaired children at member agencies, their homes, and at community sites in specific skills to compensate for effects of blindness on academic achievement, social integration and making vocational goals; counseling of parents in rearing their blind children.

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

Children ages 5-14 who are blind or visually impaired in the State of Florida and their parents/primary caregivers.

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

Academic achievement, acquisition of social and pre-vocational skills. Assessment through Pre- and Post- tests normed for blind/visually impaired children in academic, independent living, technology and other skills in the 9 Expanded Core Curriculum skills (See b. above).

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?

Penalties for failure to meet deliverables are allotted by reducing payments. In previous years, all deliverables have been met.

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

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- 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