



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1100

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Grace Christian School of Ocala has constructed a new classroom building on our campus that replaces 12 aging, leased portables housing the Lower School. The school has successfully raised \$4,156,265 to-date toward the total \$4,500,000 cost of the building, and as construction completion nears, we are seeking assistance with the cost of critical security equipment and measures for the building. By prioritizing security in our new construction, Grace Christian School of Ocala can continue to uphold our commitment to nurturing a safe, supportive, and enriching environment for all students.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	60,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>260,000</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	260,000	6%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	4,240,000	94%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>4,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year 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.

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**10. Status of Construction**

**a. What is the current phase of the project?**

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction    
  N/A

**b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?** Yes

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?** 4/10/2024

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?** 2/28/2025

**e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?**

Annual operations, including facilities, are budgeted and fully covered by student tuition and fee income. Additional capital income is raised via special fundraising events and contributions from private donors.

**11. 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.**

Grace Christian School is the sole owner of the facility and will be the recipient of the funds.

**12. 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	N/A	0
Other Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Full-time contracted Security Resource Officer via Marion County Sheriff Office	60,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Security fencing extension to enclose new classroom building- \$14,000 Sonitrol security alarm system equipment and door key FOBs- \$16,000 Low voltage system for Wi-Fi access points, cameras, and phone system- \$151,000 1-way reflective window tinting on all exterior windows- \$19,000	200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>260,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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This request is for crucial security measures due to the recent expansion of the facility. The goal is to ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors, essential for creating a conducive learning environment. Given the increasing concerns regarding safety in schools, it has become imperative that we implement advanced security measures, including fencing, surveillance cameras and other necessary precautions. It is vital that we take proactive steps to safeguard our community.

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

Fencing and one-way window tinting provide a secure environment, ensuring the safety of students and staff, and increasing the confidence level of parents and community. Surveillance cameras and Sheriff Resource Officer on site act as a deterrent to criminal activities such as theft, trespassing, and intruders. Improved security measures allow for an effective and coordinated response in case of emergencies.

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

These measures will enhance the safety and security of the school, creating an environment conducive to learning and personal growth. These measures will result in a safer, resilient school, creating a healthy learning environment for children and youth in our care. Improved security and safety measures will prevent unauthorized access, deter criminal activity and support students and staff.

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

On an annual basis, approximately 400 students and 45 staff members across grades PK3 - 8th campus-wide will benefit from the completed security project. The new classroom building specifically will house grades PK3 - 4th, which includes 240 students, and 30 faculty and staff members. Additional population served includes school parents and families, and the hundreds of visitors/guests the school receives annually, including prospective families touring the facilities.

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

Enhanced security measures are a deterrent for threats and actions against the school, and provide a tranquil learning environment where students can focus on their education. Anonymous surveys of stakeholders (parents and staff) will be conducted to assess perception of safety, satisfaction with security measures and incident response. A system for ongoing assessment will include meeting security standards set forth from the accrediting organization, and meeting security recommendations and response plan from the Marion County Sheriff Office, including ensuring that 100% of staff are trained annually in emergency response procedures.

**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 in the contract?**

Grace Christian School will return any unused funds in the unlikely event that the full amount is not needed to complete the project.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied



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- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

**17. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**18. 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



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Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*