



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1150

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Women of Tomorrow (WOT) empowers 2,800 at-risk students across more than 125 public high schools in South Florida each year, breaking the cycles of poverty and improving graduation rates through mentorship and scholarships. With an impressive 98% high school graduation rate and 95% continuing to higher education, WOT has awarded nearly \$9 million in college scholarships to date.

WOT now plans to expand its programming to focus on personal safety, violence prevention, and career development in these critical fields. The curriculum will cover vital topics such as human trafficking and cyber security, while also offering career pathways in public safety. Students will explore future educational and professional opportunities through mentorship, guest speakers, videos, field trips, alumnae meetings, and expert-led panels and summits. Additionally, WOT will expand on its permanent digital content library, ensuring ongoing access to valuable resources.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	660,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	660,000

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)	660,000	28%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,730,000	72%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,390,000	100%

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	666,548	100	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No

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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

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.

12. 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		
Salary and Benefits	Executive Director (30% allocated), Program Director (30% allocated) 3 Program Coordinators (30% allocated), Alumnae Director (20% allocated)	145,192
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Educational summits and engagements, travel, transportation, buses, video library resources and computers/equipment. Direct program costs to purchase welcome kits, training videos, printed materials, public safety resources, and supplies.	314,808
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contractor services to develop and administer new program-wide curriculum and field trips, upgrade workforce development initiatives, and build new video library channel. Technology enhancements to upgrade and enhance the app/portal used by mentees, mentors and school coordinators.	200,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		660,000



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13. Program Performance

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

Funding will support the development of new programming focused on personal security, violence prevention, and careers in public safety. WOT mentees are identified as at risk of high school dropout due to challenges such as lack of opportunity, domestic abuse, and addiction. These students are particularly vulnerable to life-threatening situations, making prevention efforts not only transformative but potentially lifesaving. This foundational content will be paired with career exploration in public safety, helping mentees navigate their next steps and plan for continued education after high school.

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

Through expertly designed mentoring sessions, field trips, and summits, mentees will engage with critical issues such as human trafficking, self-defense, substance abuse, bullying, and cybersecurity—vital topics for the at-risk students in the program. Combined with career exploration in public safety, this initiative will equip mentees with the tools to chart their futures and educational paths. Exposure to transformative career opportunities in the military, law enforcement, intelligence, law and emergency management will introduce them to life-changing possibilities they may never have considered. By incorporating impactful educational videos and expanding the job board with targeted career opportunities, this program will provide mentees with the professional skills needed to achieve personal empowerment, financial independence, and make a lasting impact on their communities.

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

2,800 mentees will engage in carefully crafted safety and violence prevention curriculum and participate in field trips that explore careers in law enforcement and the armed forces. They will attend summits featuring expert panels, and new educational videos will be incorporated into mentoring sessions. The annual career fair will showcase opportunities in public safety, offering mentees direct connections with professionals in the field. Additionally, the WOT job board—accessible to over 20,000 alumnae and current mentees—will be expanded to highlight a range of public safety career paths, providing guidance and networking opportunities for future success. The WOT Portal/App, utilized by mentors, mentees, and school coordinators, will house a permanent, updated curriculum library, ensuring this essential content remains accessible for years to come.

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

WOT serves 2,800 at-risk students annually across more than 125 public high schools in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Among the mentees, 94% are minorities, nearly half are the first in their families to graduate high school, and 43% are first-generation college students. Students are selected based on criteria such as exposure to abuse, risk of dropping out, involvement in criminal activity, and academic challenges. The new WOT alumnae network, open to all 20,000 program graduates, offers access to job opportunities, networking, and ongoing personal and professional development.

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

WOT empowers students to transform obstacles into opportunities by providing exposure, motivation, and the confidence to create a brighter future for themselves, their families, and society. Equipped with the tools to avoid risky behaviors, students achieve a 98% high school graduation rate, with 95% continuing their education. The program will be closely monitored for engagement, and surveys will be conducted to evaluate its effectiveness. Metrics are continuously tracked through mentee surveys, graduation rates, year-end data from school districts, college attendance rates, and alumnae data.

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?

Women of Tomorrow will return any unspent funds to the state.

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)



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- 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
- 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



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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 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.