



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1171

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Florida Agencies Serving the Blind, through local Blind Service Lighthouses across the state, provides Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) instruction for children ages 5-13 who are blind or visually impaired. This year-round program operates at agency and community sites statewide, seven days a week, including holidays. The evidence-based ECC ensures academic success and delivers essential real-life experiences that prepare children for future employment—going beyond what public schools offer. By bringing children from entire counties together, the program also addresses the social isolation often experienced in school settings. Additionally, the ECC includes a critical parent component, offering support, advocacy, and practical solutions to child-rearing challenges, empowering families to help their children thrive.

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

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)	1,700,000	94%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	110,000	6%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,810,000	100%

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		
2024-25	0	1,700,000	46	No

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.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1171

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	The Executive Director ensures financial stability for the agency, with a focus on advancing the organization's mission. The Executive Director will be responsible for overseeing programs, fundraising, and community engagement initiatives. Duties will also include contract management, invoicing and general oversight. Cost is inclusive of salary and benefits.	70,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	To support blind or visually impaired children effectively, funding will include the hiring, training, and retention of professional staff through local FAASB member agencies who specialize in providing tailored education and support services.	500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	To ensure blind and visually impaired children can access education, develop life skills, and achieve independence, investments will be made in specialized equipment and supplies. These tools are tailored to their unique needs and enable them to learn, participate, and succeed on equal footing with their peers.	430,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	For contracted services to local FAASB member agencies to provide targeted, personalized instruction to blind and visually impaired children.	700,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,700,000



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1171

13. Program Performance

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

The program ensures that blind and visually impaired children gain the technical and personal skills necessary to thrive academically and socially alongside their sighted peers. Additionally, children acquire blindness-specific social, academic and pre-vocational skills through the expertise and collaboration of a dedicated team of professionals tailored through local FAASB member agencies to the unique make-up of the children in the program.

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

Academic success skills--braille/magnifiers; safe travel skills w/white cane; social interaction; recreation/healthy living; cooking, hygiene, money/budgeting, time management, technology, experiential introduction to careers; self-advocacy, making choices, planning for adulthood; sensory skills (hearing, touch, taste, smell, balance). Individual & group classes, summer, school holidays, weekends.

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

The program provides targeted, personalized instruction to blind and visually impaired children at local FAASB member agency offices, in their homes, and at community sites to equip them with essential skills that address the unique challenges of blindness. The instruction focuses on helping children compensate for the effects of blindness on their academic achievement, social integration, and vocational goals.

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

Children ages 5-13 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 in the contract?

Penalties for failure to meet deliverables (hours of service and number of children served) are allotted by reducing payments. In previous years, all deliverables have been met.

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
- Yes, Received
- No



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1171

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
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1171

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.