



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1174

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Since 2012, Miami Youth Garden (MYG) has provided summer and after school academic programming for 5- to 18-year-olds within faith centers situated in the poorest neighborhoods of Miami-Dade County. Our outcomes prove our work has a positive impact on the academic achievement of our children. But, we understand true transformation requires we not only focus on our students, but also our students' families and communities where they reside. As a result, we are leveraging our partnerships with Collective Empowerment Group of South Florida, Inc., Miami-based faith centers, Carrie Meek Foundation, Enterprise Collective Partners, and Miami-Dade County School Board to expand our target population to all children and families living in high-poverty, Miami neighborhoods. WCI's mission is to revitalize every neighborhood we serve by creating human resource hubs that will empower all neighborhood residents to transform their housing, health, education, employment, and nutritional needs.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	61%
Matching Funds		
Federal	250,000	30%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	65,000	8%
Other	10,000	1%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	825,000	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		

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.**



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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	The executive director will continue to serve as the face of the program and provide representation and leadership of the program on a daily basis along with oversight of program activities. A significant portion of her time and a commensurate portion of her salary will be assigned to WCI.	25,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	travel, mileage, computers, internet services, presentation supplies, computer software	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Accountant auditor, IT consultant, college and high school interns	25,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Direct services necessary to maintain employed staff, including professional development trainings and employee orientations. As for each WCI site: operations director to manage all sites, 6 part time teachers, 4 case managers, 4 site directors, and 3 master gardeners.	300,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Lease, utilities, office equipment, computers, computer software, janitorial services, reusable grow bags, hydroponic systems, and gardening equipment for four WCI human resource hubs.	70,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Reading specialist, mental health counselor, food distribution service, event planning, security, trainers for CEG homeownership and financial management courses, child care and food service during workshops.	70,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance



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

WCI creates human resource hubs in high-poverty neighborhoods where children and families can access rigorous year-long academic programming through our summer and after school academies that center the curricula around the cultivation of a community garden, workforce job training, food distribution, mental health counseling, home buyer and financial management workshops, and affordable housing available to purchase. Our goal is to maximize our community partnerships to scale our approach to four total sites.

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

The funds will specifically empower residents of each neighborhood to access social services provided by our community partners, emergency food assistance, academic enrichment and tutoring, mental health counseling, coordinated care and case management, and health screening services, at little to no cost.

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

Citizens will receive the following direct services: access to social services provided by community partners, emergency food assistance, academic enrichment and tutoring, mental health counseling, coordinated care and case management, and health screening services. All services will be provided at little to no cost to residents.

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

The target population are children and families who reside in high-poverty zip codes. A WCI resource hub will be located in each high-poverty neighborhood where the average educational attainment is a high school diploma with low homeownership rates. Approximately 1,000 Miami-Dade residents will be impacted annually.

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

In the short run, expected outcomes include increased reading and STEM proficiencies in disadvantaged students, increasing the number of community gardens in Miami-Dade, increase in affordable housing placements, and access to free or affordable health and counseling services. In the long run, expected outcomes include an increase in college graduation rates, homeownership rates, employment, and nutritional foods among the residents of the neighborhood, ultimately resulting in the closing of the wealth, health, and academic gaps.

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?

Repayment of funds to the state on a pro-rated basis, after being given a notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure.

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



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- 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
- Other (please specify)



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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.