



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1197

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This Project will provide a range of drowning prevention services to help children with autism have the skills they need to stay alive in the water; provide families with emergency CPR knowledge; swim instructors with information on how to teach kids with autism to swim; door alarms and life vests to families; and ensure that the community is aware of the significance of drowning in those with autism. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of children with autism in Florida who die from drowning. It will also prevent nonfatal drowning, which costs the the state millions of dollars in medical fees as the person experiences brain damage from the water related incident.

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	100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	100,000

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)	100,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	100,000	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	Project Coordinator \$2,500 Management of Coordinator by President of Autism Society of Florida who is a volunteer with no salary. No benefits provided	2,500
Other Salary and Benefits	No benefits provided 1099 filing \$2,500	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Fund water safety/swimming instruction to 250 children with autism - each student receiving benefit of \$350 to be paid directly to a duly certified Water Safety instructor. (Red Cross WSI)	87,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Informational brochures, flyers and marketing materials, applications, travel for consultant. PSAs on dangers and connection of wandering to drowning (91% of drowning deaths in autism is a result of wandering)	5,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultant/trainer on autism spectrum disorder to provide training on autism to water safety instructors, parents, pediatricians and emergency room staff (in each of the 5 counties with the highest rates of childhood drowning - @ \$500 each) - estimate 2 trainings per county. An online course will also be provided to water safety instructors.	5,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		100,000



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13. Program Performance

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

Florida will see a reduced number of children with autism who die from drowning. In 2024, 61% of 4-18 year old children who died from drowning had autism. Children with autism drown at a rate 160 times greater than non-autistic children. Through this program, more autistic children will have access to swim lessons, parents will have door alarms, life vests and CPR classes. Swim instructors will be trained in how to teach kids with autism.

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

Swim scholarships for lessons for 250 children with autism. Training of swim instructors on autism and how to teach ASD children. Create and distribute PSA water safety information to the public. Provide outreach and information to emergency room staff encouraging them to report fatal and nonfatal drowning. Door alarms and CPR training to parents.

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

250 children with autism will receive water safety/swimming instruction through a scholarship system (paid directly to Red Cross approved water safety instructors) so that family finances do not prevent a child from receiving greatly needed swimming instruction. CPR lessons to parents, door alarms to families, training to swim instructors on autism to build capacity.

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

Children with autism
Economically disadvantaged persons
At-risk youth
Developmentally disabled
Preschool children
Grade school aged children
500 children with autism directly, however through the training of swim instructors and representation on drowning prevention committees and public services announcements, possibly 60,000. (There are 55,000 children with autism in the Florida public school system)

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

Number of children with autism who die from drowning in Florida will decrease. In 2024, 61% of children ages 4-18 who died from drowning had an autism diagnosis. Data will be gathered from DCF and the Florida CHARTS reports. Children with autism will be more physically fit and able to survive in water through water safety competency assessments by swim schools. Swim instructors will learn how to teach children with autism to swim and be safe in and around water. This will build capacity in our communities. Parents will become knowledgeable about CPR and what to do in an emergency. Door alarms will be provided and instruction on how to use them will be provided.

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?

- 1) Written report highlighting areas of immediate need for improvement, followed by corrective action plan to be submitted within 30 days of receipt.
- 2) Continued failure should follow by withheld of funds until all action plans are met with satisfaction.
- 3) Repeat failure of same infractions should be met with contract suspension.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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

c. Organization Type



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- 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.