



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1241

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Think Big for Kids mission is to break the cycle of poverty by preparing kids for today's workforce. We partner with companies, such as ReliaQuest and A-LIGN, from diverse industries to support our unique "Three Pillars" approach incorporating career exploration, mentorship, and job readiness and placement. The requested funds will be used for mentor training, paid internships, apprenticeships, scholarships, software applications and support staff to prepare youth for the workforce.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	975,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>975,000</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)	975,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>975,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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	800,000	86	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?  Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Our fundraising is supported by multi-year and annual corporate donations, individual donors and grants.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1241

### 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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Job Readiness Training in workshop settings to include interactive materials for hands-on training sessions with facilitators. On-site travel and immersive experiences at work-place sites, including program supplies and materials.	60,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Project lead resources and staff to execute the programs.	175,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Scholarships for students ranging from \$2,000 - \$15,000 each for a total of \$300,000, Training & Systems at \$100,000; Software Application for students to provide a communication platform with mentors and career exploration - \$250,000; Paid Internships for 50+ students - \$90,000	740,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>975,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

**LFIR # 1241**

Think Big for Kids mission is to break the cycle of poverty by preparing kids for today's workforce. We partner with companies, such as ReliaQuest and A-LIGN, from diverse industries to support our unique "Three Pillars" approach incorporating career exploration, mentorship, and job readiness and placement. The requested funds will be used for mentor training, paid internships, apprenticeships, scholarships, software applications and training materials to prepare youth for the workforce.

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

In alignment with our mission, the funds will be used to prepare and place youth in the Florida workplace. Specifically, career exploration, mentorship and job readiness & placement. We will provide students with job shadowing, internships, skill-building workshops, apprenticeships, software application and mentors to prepare them for post-graduation and enter the workforce.

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

Think Big will offer monthly mentor and volunteer training, paid internships to students working in regional businesses, apprenticeship programs, scholarships, job readiness workshops and job shadow opportunities. The software application will allow students, mentors and employers the ability to find resources, collaborate and as a communication tool to access our program.

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

Think Big for Kids serves kids that are living near, at or under the poverty level. Through our partnerships we truly help kids in need that likely do not have these types of career exploration resources, with nearly 90% of the kids coming from households with low income. We serve kids beginning in the 6th grade all the way through high school and post-graduation to the workforce. We expect to serve 1,000 kids.

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

Our program measurements are based on a number of different metrics, including attendance tracking, number of kids in the program, survey assessments, number of mentees, number of internships, scholarships awarded, job placement and more. We track kids through their journey beginning in the 6th grade, post-graduation and through to their first job. Mentors are tracking progress through career development plans. Our partner companies will train and hire our kids. We believe that kids who participate in our program will break their cycle of poverty by earning a livable wage and have the ability to meet or exceed their basic needs.

**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?**

Should the deliverables outlined in the MOU not be met, unused funds will be returned.

**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)
- 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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1241

- 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)



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1241

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.*