



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1385

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Over the period of one year, the Sowing SEEDS Project equips students for life, post high school education. Students attend a total of 15 workshops which equate to 40-hours of instructor-led training. After successful completion of the training and development segment, students complete a part-time internship experience where they receive hands-on experience, an adult mentor, and a paycheck. At the end of this experience, students document the knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired during both the training and development segment as well as the internship experience. SEEDS is an acronym which stands for Striving for Excellence through Education, Development, and Service.

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	158,720
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	158,720

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)	158,720	43%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	130,000	35%
Other	80,000	22%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	368,720	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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1385

The AnnieRuth Foundation has funding sources which include: city of Jacksonville, local corporations, and private funding. Together, such funding equals approximately \$210,000 annually. If State funding is provided, funding from these entities will be used to fund additional student internship experiences, facility rental fees, consultant fees, and additional program supplies.

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	Program Coordinator (part time) = \$30K	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will be used to purchase 30 tablets @\$300/unit (for students to use during business seminars) = \$9,000; 6 computers \$2,500/unit = \$15,000; a printer = 400; supplies such as paper, 3-ring binders, journals, books, and ink pens = \$3,000; uniforms = \$4,320. Funding will be used for facility leasing = \$10K	41,720
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Services (\$500 x 2/session = 1,000 x 15 sessions = \$15K Program Participant stipends (96 hrs x \$15 hr = 1,440 x 50 students = \$72K)	87,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		158,720



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1385

13. Program Performance

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

The goals of the workforce development are to equip participants with valuable knowledge and skills, positioning them for a successful future; foster a sense of empowerment and confidence in participants as they matriculate to higher levels of learning; expose participants to diverse career options and professional environments, and provide high-quality internship experiences so that youth are able to get hands-on experience, and adult mentor, and a paycheck (to assist with college expenses).

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

The program includes 10 months of training and development focused on personal, academic, and workforce development. Workshops are facilitated by experts in the designated field. Additionally, program participants are able to practice newly learned skills during their six-week, internship experience (which is completed in a safe, professional environment that directly aligns with their career aspiration).

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

Direct services that the Sowing SEEDS Project provides citizens on the First Coast include training and development in the areas of: effective communication skills (verbal and nonverbal), effective writing skills, resume building skills, effective interview skills, networking skills, financial management skills, and time management skills. Additionally, the program focuses on health & wellness, time management skills, and mental health awareness.

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

The targeted population are high school students who reside in Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau, and Baker counties. Such students are economically disadvantaged, at-risk, as well as those from the 'general' population.

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

The Sowing SEEDS Project is designed to equip youth with personal, academic, and workforce development skills. Participants graduate from the program with hands-on experience and an adult mentor. Having both increases the likelihood of individuals becoming gainfully employed thus reducing Florida's unemployment and underemployment rates. The methodology by which this outcome is measured is through the AnnieRuth Foundation's alumni program where direct interaction with former graduates, including completion of surveys, will take place.

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?

Suggested penalties include withholding funding until said requirements (e.g., deliverables and performance measures) are fully 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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1385

- 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

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1385

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.