



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1423

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

4. Project/Program Description

The objectives of the program are A). provide models for advancing entrepreneur education in high school and college programming by testing with existing businesses and B). capacity building and to increase taxable sales revenue for the region and increase utilization of local vendors. There are 3 components to the program: (1) technology leading entrepreneur education to prepare small business owners, (2) assist in educating procurement professionals and enterprises in implementing Know Your Business protocols and (3) assist entrepreneurs in leveraging artificial intelligence and agentic networks to make Florida a model for educating and supporting small business communities.

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	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

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)	350,000	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	350,000	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	300,000	125	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.**
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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	Capture/publish use cases; Identify, market, and contact participants, mentors, & suppliers; Identify technologies & venue for program; provide training for vendors, suppliers, and facilitators; and Lead technology solutions for virtual operations: learning management systems, online databases, and forms.	35,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies, travel and computers for remote work for consultants and team members.	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Work with enterprise leadership and regional corporations/entities to facilitate educate, procurement, financial management, plan and perform ramp-up activities, coordinate venues and logistics, simulation exercises, lead communications, and post activities for participants and community awareness.	125,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Databases; Curriculum, licenses, and books; Learning Management Systems; Venues, Technology related tracking systems & online forms; Marketing & Advertising; Training, travel & supplies.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Training, facilitation, and mentorship for vendors/participants.	65,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		350,000

13. Program Performance



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

A). advancing entrepreneur education in high school/college programming by testing with existing businesses B). capacity building to increase taxable sales revenue for the region and increase utilization of local vendors. 3 components to the program: (1) technology leading entrepreneur education to prepare business owners, (2) educating procurement professionals/enterprises in implementing Know Your Business protocols and (3) assist entrepreneurs in leveraging artificial intelligence to make Florida a model for entrepreneur education.

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

Apply remote work and established AI strategies to assist small businesses; Management and practice of remote customer service by electronic or other means; Any other relevant business practices as companies evolve to a hybrid workplace model; Online/in-person training registrations, simulation event completions and customer development plans. Applying agentic AI teams to upskill participants and employees of non-entrepreneur organizations which allows us to scale support.

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

Entrepreneur education and simulation activities toward business growth. Online/In person training registrations, simulation event completions, customer development plans, and business model validation submissions. Pitch contest with opportunities, Supplier/vendor contract opportunity, Access to capital showcase (loan applications, pitches, and loans) to grow small business activity. Asset building and financial management. Modeling entrepreneur paths at the community level. Workshops, seminars, learning strategies, business strategy.

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

The target population served by this project are aspiring entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas, jobless persons, economically disadvantaged persons, University/College students, and currently or formerly incarcerated persons. We average over 300 applications per cohort every six months.

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

Business growth + entrepreneur participation. Online/In person training registers, simulation event completions, customer development plans, and business model submissions. Established entrepreneurial curriculum, assessments, and proven learning strategies. Cohort programming has been best way to scale small business participation. Pitch opportunities w/suppliers, The vertical integration of AI allows a State-Compute-Prescribe model to accelerate education, formation, strategy, planning, and commerce opportunities

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?

Return of funds.

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



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- 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



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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.