



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1444

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Smart Horizons Career Online Education (SHCOE), Florida-based, Cognia/SACS/NCA/NWAC accredited online school district, partners with public libraries across Florida to offer a career-based, adult high school diploma program designed to prepare adults for transition into the workplace. The program employs a prerequisite screening model to enroll only those students with a high probability of success. SHCOE sponsors several such programs across the US.

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	1,200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,200,000</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)	1,200,000	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>1,200,000</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	700,005	119	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.

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	926 high school scholarships for adult high school dropouts	1,200,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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>1,200,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The specific purpose of the program will be to serve individuals within Florida's adult drop out population that are considered unemployed or underemployed. The intent of the program is to improve their employment and earning prospects by providing them with the opportunity to obtain high school and career credentials through the Florida Public Library System.

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

The activities & services provided will consist of the following: a customized portal, 92 semester courses (academic and career training), transcript analysis, academic coaches (certified teachers), learning management system, student services support, issuance of high school diplomas and career certificates.



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

The direct services will be as follows: a customized portal, 92 semester courses (academic and career training), transcript analysis, academic coaches (certified teachers), learning management system, student services support, issuance of high school diplomas and career certificates.

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

According to the US Census (2021), over 2.534 million Florida's adults age 25 and older lack a high school diploma or its equivalent. \$1,200,000 will provide approximately 926 scholarships for the State of Florida Library System to use in providing services to this population.

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

In addition to the adult dropouts, the Florida taxpayers will benefit. The typical lifetime cost of each high school dropout to taxpayers is approximately \$292,000. A high school diploma and a career certificate opens up eligibility for matriculation into post-secondary education programs, and assists high school dropouts in joining the ranks of taxpaying citizens. Program performance is reported to the Florida Department of State and the Division of Library and Information Services on a monthly basis. This data includes the number of credits earned towards high school graduation by each student; the number of high school diplomas and career certificates awarded to students who complete the program.

**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?**

The vendor's online program shall be available from 7 AM through 10 PM (EST), Monday through Friday. The program shall be available 95% of each month, as verified by an independent monitoring company and reported monthly. Financial consequences in the amount of \$5,000 will be imposed for each month that the vendor's program availability (as reported by the independent monitoring company) drops below 95%; and \$10,000 each month that availability drops below 90%.

**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
- 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:**



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**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)

**d. First Name**  **Last Name**

**e. E-mail Address**

**f. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**



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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.*