



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1461

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Project is a workforce development initiative to create entry-level (contact center) positions for Floridians who are blind and visually impaired. It is known that 7/10 Americans who are blind or visually impaired are not participating in the workforce. Lighthouse Works' expertise in process, technology and training created over 50 percent of ALL new blind jobs created in 2023. This initiative seeks to create a supplemental training program for individuals not quite ready for workforce yet demonstrate potential for employability.

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	153,700
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	153,700

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)	153,700	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	153,700	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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1461

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	Laptops, software and connectivity	83,700
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Assistive Technology Instructor	70,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		153,700

13. Program Performance

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

Program will provide supplementary technology training to equip blind and visually impaired job candidates with the requisite skills to qualify for a guaranteed job with Lighthouse Works, based in Orlando, Florida. This work can be performed from home for these candidates who face a 70 percent unemployment statistic and are heretofore relying on our community and economy, rather than contributing.

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



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1461

Services to include provision of laptop (with accessibility software required), connectivity and a work-from-home 4-week training program wherein candidates who achieve successful completion of program are guaranteed a contact center job at competitive pay rate at Lighthouse Works. Accessible technology skill achievement is a major barrier to employment among people who are blind.

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

Qualifying candidates will be Floridians who are blind and visually impaired who seek customer service-focused employment through contact center (call center) services. Work can be performed from home (remote) or on premise (Orlando, FL). Once employed by Lighthouse Works, candidates will have access to upward mobility, benefits (401k, health, life insurance, etc.) and opportunities to enhance their skills to strengthen their employability, with Lighthouse Works or in the open market.

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

This project targets roughly At Least 60 Floridians who are living with blindness and visual impairment and who have been unsuccessful (to-date) in gaining sustainable employment.

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

Success in this program looks like 60+ blind and visually impaired citizens who have struggled to gain competitive employment completing our 4 week training (home based - technology provided) and earning a competitively compensated contact center agent position at Lighthouse Works. This program can be replicated and the results compounded, once we've a proven model.

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?

Financial reconciliation/reimbursement.

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
- 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:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1461

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1461

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.