



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1466

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Destination Graduation program, a ten-year partnership between Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) and Seminole State College, is seeking \$636,241 in state funding. This funding will maintain current program operations and expand its capacity to serve more students in the coming year. The program plays a critical role in supporting student success by addressing financial barriers and connecting students to essential resources for academic achievement. Destination Graduation is a proven model that not only supports students in achieving their academic goals but also strengthens Florida's workforce and economy. By increasing graduation rates, the program contributes to a stronger workforce pipeline, benefiting the broader state economy. HFUW believes that this program and the requested funding strongly align with the state's efforts to fill the workforce pipeline and ensure a robust workforce for Florida's economy.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	636,241
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	636,241

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)	636,241	66%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	329,080	34%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	965,321	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No
- 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? No
- 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Portion of expenses for Finance, IT, HR (Administrative Costs, using 11 percent de minimus rate)	63,051
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Two (2) Case Managers (100 percent of time for each); Financial Stability Manager (25 percent of time) College Completion Coach (100 percent of time)	205,690
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Student Ambassador Stipends, Leadership Training; Reality Store Events; Financial Literacy Workshops; Book Scholarships; Student Emergency Support; Student Laptops; Financial Education Software; Texting Platform for Group Communications; High School Outreach Presentations; Education Planning for Workforce Readiness Workshops; Local Travel Mileage; Program Supplies.	355,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	UpliftED College Access Consultant	12,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		636,241

13. Program Performance

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



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The purpose of this proposed project is to expand the program's capacity to serve more students and demonstrate a greater impact by contributing to a stronger workforce pipeline that will benefit the broader state economy going forward. The overall purpose of the Destination Graduation program is threefold: 1) Ensure that every student has the same opportunity to graduate and attain a high- quality degree or industry certification; 2) Increase the graduation rates of low-income, first-generation and veteran students; 3) Improve the financial literacy/financial stability skills of students at risk of dropping out of college.

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

Expand the program's reach to serve additional students, providing more comprehensive support and resources to help them succeed academically.

Provide Financial Education Programming: Implement financial literacy workshops and resources for students utilizing the program, empowering them with the knowledge to manage their finances and reduce economic stress.

Create a Student Ambassador Stipend Program: Establish a program to compensate student ambassadors who will assist with program outreach, peer mentoring, and community engagement.

Direct Assistance: Provide financial support for eligible students in need, ensuring they can stay enrolled and focused on their studies.

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

Navigation services will direct students to internal Seminole State resources (e.g. – financial aid, academic services, technology resources, etc.)
Students will be connected with external community resources (e.g. – food pantries, childcare referrals, transportation services, and more).

Students will be assessed and provided case management services to support the students' unique needs (e.g. – financial assistance, financial education/budgeting, connections to health/mental health services).

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

Low-income, first-generation and/or military veteran college students who are at risk of dropping out of classes due to financial issues that may prevent them from continuing their education to graduate with their cohort. The projected number of individuals to be served during the project year is a minimum of 400, an increase of 50 percent.

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

Increase Capacity to Serve More Students: Measured by program records, and college registration reports, compared to FY 2024.
Outcome 1: Increase program enrollment by 25% within the next 12 months.
Outcome 2: Increase rate of students remaining in classes within the next 12 months by 10%.

Financial Education Programming: Measured by log-in records and pre- / post- surveys.
Outcome 1: Conduct 12 financial literacy workshops annually, with at least 80% of participants reporting increased knowledge of personal finance topics (budgeting, credit management, student loan repayment).

Create a Student Ambassador Program: Measured by pre- and post- surveys and participation records.
Outcome 1: Recruit and train 10 student ambassadors within first year to assist with outreach, peer mentoring, community engagement.
Outcome 2: Achieve a 15% increase in program activity through ambassador-led activities.

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?

Heart of Florida United Way will create and implement an action plan describing the steps we will take that will ensure HFUW meets deliverables and performance measures.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?



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- 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:

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



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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

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.