



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1540

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Human trafficking affects 77% of children in reported cases, with Central Florida ranking third in the U.S. for human trafficking reports. Despite 88% of victims seeking medical care, only 6% are identified. This project will develop an interactive screening tool using 2D art, puppetry, and digital storytelling to help children safely communicate their experiences. The tool will enhance screening processes, train hospital staff, and improve early detection. The project includes digital production, content creation, and puppetry integration. This innovative approach aims to increase identification and intervention rates, offering a scalable model for healthcare institutions nationwide.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	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	500,000	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		

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Testing concepts and delivering layouts with actual content from the real world of trafficked victims.	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	In-state travel to encourage the healthcare industry to adapt to using this tool. Travel and equipment to educate and train the licensees(healthcare providers) on how to use and interpret the results of the tool	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Coding and programming of the tool up to 500 hours of development-\$175,000 Writing of scripts and developing the appropriate puppetry to present the messages to children up to 18 years old. 250 hours--\$175,000 Hire a sales team to entice the hospital chains to utilize this tool-\$50,000	400,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
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)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Develop and Implement a Digital Screening Tool: Create an interactive, age-appropriate system that helps children disclose potential trafficking situations in a safe and engaging manner.
Train Healthcare Providers: Equip medical professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to signs of child trafficking.
Enhance Victim Identification Rates: Improve early detection of trafficking victims through structured, research-backed screening methods.
Provide Trauma-Informed Support: Ensure that identified victims receive immediate and appropriate psychological and medical assistance.
Strengthen Community Awareness: Educate hospitals, social services, and law enforcement on best practices for trafficking prevention and intervention.
Improve Data Collection and Analysis: Use feedback and case studies to refine screening techniques and enhance future trafficking prevention strategies.

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

Development of an Interactive Screening Tool:
Design and develop a digital platform with 2D animation and puppetry storytelling.
Integrate interactive features that engage children safely and informatively.
Customize for different age groups for maximum effectiveness.
Training for Hospital Staff:
Conduct workshops on trafficking identification and response strategies.
Develop training materials, including videos and case studies.
Implement certification programs to ensure staff proficiency.
Content and Story Development:
Collaborate with child psychology experts to create engaging, educational narratives.
Produce age-appropriate, trauma-informed storytelling materials.
Community Outreach:
Implement awareness campaigns for healthcare providers and the public.
Collaborate with law enforcement and child protection agencies.
Distribute informational materials to hospitals and community organizations.
Research and Evaluation:
Conduct baseline and follow-up studies on tool ef

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

Screening and Identification of Trafficked Children:
Hospitals and healthcare facilities will use the interactive tool to detect potential victims.
Children will have a safe platform to disclose exploitation through engaging digital storytelling.
Medical and Psychological Support:
Immediate referral services for victims identified through the screening process.
Access to trauma-informed care and counseling services for affected children.
Educational and Awareness Programs:
Training for healthcare providers and first responders on trafficking indicators and intervention strategies.
Community awareness campaigns to educate parents, educators, and children on recognizing trafficking risks.
Law Enforcement and Social Services Collaboration:
Strengthening partnerships between hospitals, law enforcement, and child welfare agencies.
Providing real-time data and case referrals to ensure timely intervention and victim support.

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

Primary Target: Children who are at risk or victims of human trafficking and brought to a medical facility for various reasons.
Secondary Target: Healthcare providers, social workers, and law enforcement professionals who interact with vulnerable children.
Expected Reach:
Direct Impact: 1000+ children will be screened annually through participating hospitals and healthcare institutions.
Indirect Impact: Training and awareness programs will educate over 500 healthcare professionals, first responders, and community members.
Community-Wide Benefit: Enhanced public safety and a stronger, more coordinated response to trafficking cases.

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



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Increased Victim Identification: More trafficked children will be recognized and referred to appropriate support services.
 Improved Healthcare Response: Medical professionals will be better equipped to identify and assist trafficking victims.
 Enhanced Psychological and Physical Well-being: Trauma-informed care will improve long-term recovery for victims.
 Stronger Community Awareness: Hospitals, law enforcement, and the public will gain knowledge to prevent trafficking and support victims.
 Improved Law Enforcement Coordination: Strengthened partnerships with social services will enable timely interventions.

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?

If the agency fails to meet deliverables or performance measures outlined in the contract, the following penalties may be considered:
 Withhold Funding: Delay or reduce payments until deliverables are met.
 Corrective Action Plans: Require a plan to address deficiencies.
 Activity Suspension: Pause program components until compliance.
 Reimbursement: Recover funds for unmet deliverables.

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:

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



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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

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.