



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1561

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Rural Digital Literacy Program (FRDLP) provides educators in rural and low economic regions of Florida with the curriculum and professional development necessary to prepare their students for an increasingly digital world by ensuring they receive the critical digital literacy skills necessary for college and career readiness. This program will close the "digital divide" these student often experience, providing participating districts access to a comprehensive, on-line, K-12 curriculum that teach skills including keyboarding, online safety and digital citizenship, visual mapping, computational thinking and coding.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	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	1,500,000	100%

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		
2024-25	0	1,500,000	100	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.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) or other federal and/or state broadband expansion funding, as the Digital Equity Act, which is a part of IIJA requires digital literacy skills instruction to under served communities.



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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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contract Administrative Fee (5%)	75,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Curriculum Licensing, Training and Support	1,425,000
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)		1,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The Florida Rural Digital Literacy Program (FRDLP) provides educators in rural and low economic regions of Florida with the curriculum and professional development necessary to prepare students for an increasingly digital world, by ensuring they receive the opportunity to learn the critical digital literacy skills they need to be successful in school, college, and careers - closing the "digital divide" between these students and their peers in other areas of Florida.

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



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FRDLP provides participating districts access to a comprehensive, on-line, K-12 curriculum that teach critical digital literacy skills including Information Technology Fundamentals, Keyboarding, Online Safety and Digital Citizenship, Internet Usage and Online Communication, Visual Mapping, Multimedia, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Databases, Presentations, Computational Thinking, and Coding. The FRDLP includes professional development and educator support.

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

FRDLP will serve all public schools in counties with 15,000 or fewer students, which includes 34 of the total 67 counties (~185,000 K-12 students). The curricula includes rigorous instruction, projects, applications, and other interactive and engaging content that help students build the digital literacy skills that are foundational to STEM and CTE programs. Teachers will receive training and support.

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

FRDLP will serve all public schools in counties with 15,000 or fewer students, which includes 34 of the total 67 counties (~185,000 K-12 students).

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

The benefits and outcome measured by FRDLP include; teacher utilization, student engagement, and student outcome and growth across each digital skill area being taught. In the first year of the program (2023-2024 school year), students saw an average overall improvement of 49% in digital skills within the Florida schools participating in the FRDLP.

FRDLP will measure teacher and student usage and content launches monthly, which are indicators of adoption and engagement. Student performance can be measured using the scores on lessons, quizzes, application exercise, etc. To measure student growth in each skill area, FRDLP will use pre- and post-skill checks that measure the impact of instructional content on student understanding.

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?

Should the deliverables or performance measures associated with FRDLP not meet those outlined in the contract, the Department of Education (DOE) shall provide notification within 30-days of recognition of issue(s). DOE will provide a 90-day cure period for identified issue(s). The contract period will be extended on a day-for-day basis until the deliverables or performance measures are satisfied. If resolution is still not achieved, the contract can be canceled by the DOE.

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



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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
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.



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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.