



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1681

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Amidst rising antisemitism and threats of violence, many students feel unsafe participating in any activity that expresses their Jewish identity. FL has invested significantly to bolster security at Jewish schools and community centers but college campuses remain vulnerable. This initiative will support USF Hillel in launching a data-driven approach to reinforce physical and cultural safety, dispel misinformation regarding Israel and American Jews, and foster relationships on and near campus.

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	490,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	160,000
Total State Funds Requested	650,000

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)	650,000	81%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	150,000	19%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	800,000	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.

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	1.5 FTE to lead initiatives with the goal of educating both the campus and broader community about Jewish culture, values, and history. This role would also emphasize the shared values of democracy and freedom that form the foundation of both Israel and America, fostering greater understanding and connection; serve as primary point of contact for issues that impact Jewish community arise	100,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Computer upgrades to support security, printing and mailing for community events	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	2 FTE contracted security	100,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	0.75 FTE contracted mental health professional with trauma-informed expertise, specifically skilled in supporting Jewish students facing antisemitism. This role would provide individual counseling sessions and, when needed, facilitate group sessions to create a safe and supportive space for healing and resilience.	40,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will support an array of initiatives including flagship events like Hillelpalooza and Unity Shabbat, inter- and intra-campus collaborations, hosting of guest speakers, community workshops, and the development of a curated curriculum. Also includes staff registration in specialized seminars focusing on security measures and strategies to combat antisemitism	190,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Data collection and analysis; Program evaluation; Formal reporting to Legislature regarding (a) Program utilization and attendance, (b) Changes pre- and post-program within campus, (c) Differences in sentiment post-program between test campus and non-test campuses, (d) Antisemitic incident tracking, (e) Best practices to combat antisemitism on and from college campuses	50,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	Building hardening including bulletproof glass films, property fence, built-in permanent security system with access hardware, fixed lighting, cameras, and communications systems	160,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		650,000

13. Program Performance

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

Amidst rising antisemitism and threats of violence, many students feel unsafe participating in any activity that expresses their Jewish identity. FL has invested significantly to bolster security at Jewish schools and community centers but college campuses remain vulnerable. This initiative will support USF Hillel in launching a data-driven approach to reinforce physical and cultural safety, dispel misinformation regarding Israel and American Jews, and foster relationships on and near campus.

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

Educational and cultural programming, including workshops to counter misinformation and antisemitic rhetoric, cultural programming to highlight Jewish heritage, values, and traditions, fostering understanding across diverse student and community populations. Wider community outreach to include interfaith events, to build stronger ties and understanding between Jewish and non-Jewish residents.

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

Access to community events, trainings, and workshops in a secure, data-monitored context. Pre- and post-program data collection, including surveys, will gauge improvement within the USF campus and compare against data from other campuses without such a program.

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

University/College students; University/College faculty and staff; Victims of crime; General public

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

Increased physical safety of students, staff, and community members; Significantly expanded and visible cultural programming, celebrations, and interfaith exposure; Increased access by USF faculty to curriculum regarding antisemitism and the dispelling of misinformation; Improved community outreach and counter misinformation both on campus in in broader community, with greater understanding diminishing threats of violence. Measurement: formal program monitoring and evaluation including pre- and post- data at USF and as a comparison between USF and other campuses without this intervention including utilization, perceived safety, enrollment, and incident tracking

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 deliverables or performance measures are not met, the contracting agency may consider issuing a formal warning and requiring the implementation of a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) within a specified timeframe to address deficiencies. Failure to comply with the PIP or continued non-performance could result in penalties such as withholding payments, contract renegotiation, or termination.

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):



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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

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- 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.