



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1725

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Florida's future depends on healthy and happy children, and their journey starts in nurturing environments that support learning. The Future of Early Learning Initiative seeks to address financial, operational, and educational obstacles facing Florida's childcare providers that limit or prevent children's access to quality early education. Lift Orlando will work with LIFT Jax, Northend RISE, and South City Foundation to provide educators, families, and children with access to critical support needed to ensure that early education is accessible to local families, regardless of income or geography.

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	2,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

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)	2,500,000	77%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	750,000	23%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	3,250,000	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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1725

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		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Direct services listed in this request depend on the dedicated efforts of staff to engage with, build, and maintain relationships with early learning providers and families, while also identifying, developing, and delivering essential resources based on identified needs.	700,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Team travel to collaborate with peer Florida organizations (Lift Orlando, LIFT Jax, Northend RISE, and South City Foundation), partners, and early learning providers; supplies, resources, tools, technology, materials, intervention services, operational support, etc. for early learning providers; and supplies, resources, services, etc. that provide wraparound support for families.	1,800,000
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)		2,500,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1725

Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature have made education a top state priority, aiming to provide students with the best options for success. However, early learning providers statewide are grappling with financial challenges, which limit families' access to essential early education, contributing to lower FAST Kindergarten-readiness scores in Orange, Duval, Leon, and Palm Beach in 2023.

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

This initiative aims to improve the quality of early education in Orlando's 32805 ZIP Code (Lift Orlando), Jacksonville's East Side (LIFT Jax), the North End of West Palm Beach (Northend RISE), and South City in Tallahassee (South City Foundation). It highlights the critical role of consistent, high-quality early childhood education as a foundation for long-term academic success. This strong start is essential for thriving in elementary school and beyond, directly supporting the goals of Florida's K-12 education agenda.

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

Direct services provided to early learning centers will be customized to each community's needs, including identifying early learning centers and building relationships with educators; resources such as evidence-based curricula, educational tools/supplies, intervention services, and operational support; and wraparound support for families that offer essential conditions for a child's well-being.

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

Lift Orlando, LIFT Jax, Northend RISE, and South City Foundation's missions focus on specific low-income neighborhoods including Orlando's 32805 ZIP Code (Lift Orlando), Jacksonville's East Side (LIFT Jax), the North End of West Palm Beach (Northend RISE), and South City in Tallahassee (South City Foundation). When combined, these nonprofits impact approximately 27,000 residents, with an average of 76% of the population classified as Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI).

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

Project outcomes include developing early learning networks, providing early learning operators with access to resources, and providing wraparound support for families. Methods to measure outcomes vary and are determined by each nonprofit based on the needs of each community. Shared measurements will include the percentage of early learning providers engaged in the project, the number of children impacted by project services, and connections facilitated with resources from public and private sectors.

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?

Lift Orlando will serve as the entity to receive and disburse funds. If the organization fails to meet deliverables or performance measures, they will be subject to submitting a performance improvement plan with measurable outcomes bound by timelines and a formal review.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1725

- 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)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1725

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.