



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1743

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

This operational Local Funding Initiative Request for \$1.5 million is to provide a long-standing nonprofit food bank, in business since 1991, the ability to operate at maximum capacity in its newly constructed, double-the-size building with increased operating expenses, and to recover from donor fatigue on the heels of a first-ever capital campaign, with a need to rebound for being a first responder in two back-to-back 2024 Florida storm events and to hire additional staff to expand services and implement new systems and logistics protocols--including implementing newly purchased PantrySoft software (with assistance from Gordon Food Service) and other cost-saving applications to meet the needs of a 10-community service area, predominately in East Hillsborough County and with some services in South Hillsborough County.

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	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	12%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	11,350,000	88%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	12,850,000	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	United Food Bank salaries, excluding the executive director, needed to run United Food Bank and Services of Plant City (serving 10 communities of Plant City, Brandon, Seffner, Thonotosassa, Valrico, Dover, Bealsville, Lithia, Riverview, and Wimauma) operations, warehouse, vehicle fleet, and programs.	546,800
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Food bank vehicle expense, warehouse supplies, building repairs and maintenance, utilities, printing and copying, postage, building insurance, lawn care, pest control, advertising, mileage, accounting fees, and fundraising expense.	905,700
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Fundraising through grant writing consultant as contracted annually.	47,500
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)		1,500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The goal of this Local Funding Initiative Request for \$1.5 million is to provide operational support to a nonprofit food bank with nearly 35 years in business that has worked nonstop during natural disasters, including two 2024 storm events, to keep the low-income, marginalized individuals and families in its 10-community service area (East and South County) stronger and more prepared to overcome adversity, including food insecurity and poor health, than if this comprehensive agency were not in operation. The funding will give this agency an ability to recover from its first-ever capital campaign in which it raised funding for a near doubling of size in a new building in Plant City's Community Redevelopment Area and whose donors are experiencing temporary fatigue due to their recent capital support. The funding provides the necessary bridge to hire three new staff, implement PantrySoft logistics software, with coaching from Gordon Food Service, and open two new community access points.

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

United Food Bank will put a strategy in place to get loyal donors over the fatigue of a recent capital campaign, spend one year getting these donors back on track for consistent operational support, work hand-in-hand with a professional firm-- via a grant from Driscoll's distributors, for Board Member training to enforce sustainability, will hire three new staff, and launch PantrySoft systems. The food bank will provide an increase in emergency and supplemental food distribution and access points, along with existing financial and health literacy instruction, to 10 communities, including Plant City, Brandon, Seffner, Thonotosassa, Valrico, Dover, Bealsville, Lithia, Riverview, and Wimauma, with funding to allow for an increase to the current 42,795 individuals served.

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

Services include emergency and supplemental food supply delivery, on-site food distribution, assessments of needs for community referrals, classroom instruction, outreach, food service delivery to those who are transportation disadvantaged, benefit enrollment assistance, computer lab and Wi-Fi access, partnership and collaboration to strengthen families and children, and focus on health equity.

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

The target population served by this operational funding project (LFIR) includes very low income individuals, seniors, children, and families who are food insecure and live in one of the following 10 communities served by United Food Bank: Plant City, Seffner, Thonotosassa, Historic Bealsville, Dover, Valrico, Brandon, Lithia, Riverview, and Wimauma. The ALICE rate in Hillsborough County is at 31 percent for people who are Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed, and the rate for Plant City ALICE is 52 percent (County Health Assessment). Hillsborough's 2050 Long Term Transportation Plan Equity Assessment has Plant City and other served communities in East and South Hillsborough included in its Transportation Disadvantaged Target Areas due to percents of low-income, unemployed, limited English speaking, less-than-high-school-education, and people of color factored into the determination. Plan Hillsborough cites high concentrations of poverty in Plant City and surrounding areas.

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

United Food Bank will improve physical health by adding two new off-site locations for emergency food distribution, looking at Dover, Brandon, or Lithia by example, within the 2025-26 Fiscal Year to increase access for those with limited transportation and/or to decrease local residents' drive-time, as part of United Food Bank's expansion efforts. United Food Bank will decrease the stress level of those served by increasing capacity in a new building (recently successful capital campaign) and with new staff and materials and supplies to meet an increased demand for services by accepting five new families a day, a minimum of 1,300 new families over the course of the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. And United Food Bank will increase its volume in Fiscal Year 2025-26 to accept 20 percent more donated or purchased pounds of foods due to increased efficiencies and improved, increased storage with new staff to manage it, as mentored in use of the software and improved logistics by Gordon Food Service.

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?

United Food Bank and Services of Plant City, Inc., will adhere to standard state (statute-directed) penalties, bonding requirements, and local/state/federal license requirements for this project, and has worked under contract with its local county government, including for equipment and construction in years past, and has worked with the State of Florida to meet all necessary performance measure obligations. This agency is in good standing with the local municipalities and the State of Florida.

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



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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

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



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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.