



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1751

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Funding will support staffing and program costs to meet the growing demand for services. Thousands of youth experiencing chronic absenteeism due to the compounded challenges of poverty, violence, trauma, and mental health struggles will receive services. This investment will remove operational barriers and allow us to provide critical support for students experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Poverty is a silent epidemic that haunts the halls of our schools and needs our immediate address. The mission of the Giving Closet Project (GCP) is to provide clothing and hygiene products to students experiencing chronic and situational poverty. In today's challenging landscape, where unstable environments, homelessness, and limited access to vital resources cast shadows on the educational journey, students are facing unprecedented struggles stemming from situational poverty.

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	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	43%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	405,595	57%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	705,595	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.**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1751

Private foundations.

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	Executive Director	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Care Package Specialist; Clothing Distribution Assistant, Site Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator & Leader, Development Specialist	180,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program Supplies: School Uniforms, undergarments, uline bins, bags for care packages, gas, uhaul rentals, 4 tablets, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies/bags, marketing materials, Expenses associated with Back-to-School Giveback, Learn More and Tours, Training for Clients,	60,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Website Maintenance; Student Referral Portal Maintenance; consultants	10,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

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 # 1751

Funding will support staffing and program costs to meet the growing demand for services. Thousands of youth experience chronic absenteeism due to the compounded challenges of poverty, violence, trauma, and mental health struggles will receive services. This investment will remove operational barriers. The effects of chronic absenteeism are weakened social and academic outcomes, including decreased literacy and increased dropout rates, an increased likelihood of persistent poverty, diminished health, and increased involvement with the criminal justice system throughout their lifetime. Further, students that cannot read at grade level by the end of third grade are four times more likely than proficient readers to drop out of high school. In today's challenging landscape, where unstable environments, homelessness, and limited access to vital resources cast shadows on the educational journey, students are facing unprecedented struggles stemming from situational poverty.

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

Schedule appointments pick up/deliveries of donations, intake & distribution tracking. Volunteer oversight and training. Break down shipments/donations Determine consignment quality pieces; upcycle and/or send inventory into processing (sort, size, label; preferred display, pack) Restock Hub - Hang, stage items, replenish low/empty overflow bins. Fill care packages based on client referral needs.

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

Provide a minimum of 2,000 students with a week's worth of outfits, new socks/underwear, sneakers, and a month's worth of hygiene items. Online referrals come in daily from case managers, counselors, social workers from two large school districts and over seventy social service agencies. Train a minimum of 150 clients on new student referral dashboard. GCP has served over 16,000 students to date.

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

GCP has served over 16,000 students to date and expects to serve over 2,000 annually. Historically, 83% of all students GCP serves are chronically absent, five times the state average of 16.6%. In Duval County Public Schools, an all-time high of 31,223 students were chronically absent in 2021, representing 21.9% of all students, compared with a nationwide average of 16%. Further, it represents a sharp increase from pre-pandemic years of 14.6% - 15.9% (2017 – 2019) highlighting the deep need for intervention and supports.

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

GCP's specific role as part of a coalition of community partners is supported by studies on chronic absenteeism, its causes, and immediate and long-term implications. "The Importance of Being in School: A Report on Absenteeism in the Nation's Public Schools," conducted by the Johns Hopkins School of Education, exposed three categories of students, one category of which is students who will not go to school because they are actively avoiding certain situations. Students who will not go to school relayed, "they also stay away to avoid real and perceived embarrassment. [They] avoid school for lack of clean or appropriate clothes."

Goals will be measured through the collection of quantitative and qualitative data. GCP, through its online referral system, tracks the number of students served at each closet. The referral system also documents demographic information for each student including age, grade, gender, race, housing status, and zip code.

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?

Performance Improvement Plan (PIP): Require GCP to submit and adhere to a corrective action plan within a specific timeframe, with failure to comply leading to further penalties.
Reduction in Scope of Work: Reduce GCP's responsibilities, with corresponding payment reductions.

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)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1751

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

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1751

- 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.