



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1807

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

4. Project/Program Description

Development of a Jewish Student Center for Miami Dade College. The center will serve as a safe space for prayer, observe religious beliefs community activities, educational classes, fostering a welcoming environment to combat anti-Semitism. Additionally, it will feature a Kosher commissary lunch program, providing accessible Kosher meals to Jewish students 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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	650,000
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	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	650,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,300,000	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.**
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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?

The master permit for the Student Center has been approved, and the building has been developed. The interior sub-permit is currently pending approval. Operations and maintenance of the project will be funded by The Shul of Downtown Inc. through private donors. None of the funds from this appropriation will be used for ongoing operations or maintenance.

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.

The Shul of Downtown Inc. will be the operator of the Student Center.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	100% of the requested funds will be allocated toward the construction and build out of the Jewish Student Center for Miami Dade College. The center will include a Kosher café with a fully equipped kitchen, a student lounge, an educational facility for learning and programming, a hub for Jewish economic networking and a safe, dedicated space for prayer and spiritual reflection.	650,000
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?



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The funds being requested will support the development of a Jewish Student Center for Miami Dade College. The center will serve as a safe space for prayer, observe religious beliefs community activities, educational classes, fostering a welcoming environment to combat anti-Semitism. Additionally, it will feature a Kosher commissary lunch program, providing accessible Kosher meals to Jewish students near campus.

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

The Jewish Student Center will offer a Kosher café, a student lounge, educational programs, and a prayer space to support Jewish students at Miami Dade College. It will create a safe, inclusive environment while fostering cultural enrichment and spiritual growth. The center will also host initiatives to combat anti-Semitism and promote unity, understanding, and respect on campus.

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

The funding will establish a Jewish Student Center at Miami Dade College, offering direct services such as a Kosher café, a student lounge, an educational facility for cultural programs, and a designated prayer space. These services will provide Jewish students with a supportive environment, help combat anti-Semitism, and promote unity and respect on campus.

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

Jewish and non-Jewish students living in and commuting to the Miami area. The location will serve thousands of students annually, through educational seminars, meal programs, study hall, and prayer rooms.

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

The Jewish Student Center will support students' physical, mental, academic, and spiritual well-being. A Kosher café will provide nutritious meals, while a student lounge and prayer space will foster relaxation and connection. Educational programs, cultural workshops, and guest speakers will enrich academic life and promote inclusivity. Success will be measured through participation metrics, pre and post surveys, and student feedback assessments.

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?

The Shul of Downtown Inc. commits to executing its Jewish Student Center at Miami Dade College in compliance with the operational plan and performance metrics as outlined to the State of Florida. Failure to meet these standards may lead to both a suspension of funding reimbursements by the State of Florida and the return of funds already received.

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



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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
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**



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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.