



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1821

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The specific purpose of the funds being requested is to support the implementation and expansion of the Reach Out and Read program, which promotes early childhood literacy and language development by integrating books, anticipatory guidance, and shared reading into pediatric primary care well-child visits to support caregivers in fostering early literacy and healthy relationships. The funds will be used statewide, with a particular emphasis on reaching underserved and rural communities in Florida.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</b>

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)	500,000	25%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,215,000	60%
Other	310,500	15%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>2,025,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

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?**  Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

Given the limited funding options for rural areas in Florida, which often lack a Children's Services Council or Early Learning Coalitions, alternative sources are scarce. Fundraising private donations from residents may be the only option, though this presents challenges due to limited resources.



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### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The Executive Director/COO will provide strategic leadership and direction, overseeing fund administration and allocation, managing personnel, and driving statewide initiatives. This role will ensure operational efficiency, and the effective execution of programs to maximize impact.	17,250
Other Salary and Benefits	A portion of the funds will support a Finance Coordinator/Contract Manager, who will oversee project finances and assist in managing and processing program expenditures.	8,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Administrative costs include overhead expenses for program services, facility operations, technology, and other indirect costs essential for effective program delivery. These costs are allocated using a structured methodology to ensure financial transparency and efficient resource management.	14,600
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	(1.18 FTEs) dedicated to training, technical assistance, and site support for existing locations, plus expanding services to clinics in Northwest Florida and rural communities. Additionally, 18% of the salary covers logistical and technology support, including procurement and delivery of books, materials.	117,768
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Developmentally and linguistically appropriate children's books (birth to age 5) aligned with the Office of Early Learning are distributed during well-child visits to support parental guidance. Expenses include travel for site visits, meetings with clinics, educational materials for parents, and storage cabinets for books.	317,382



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### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

**LFIR # 1821**

Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services cover a portion of the Reach Out and Read Statewide Medical Director's time (Pediatrician) to provide training and support for medical professionals, as well as pediatric and family residency programs across the state, with a focus on rural communities in Florida.	25,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The specific purpose of the requested funds is to strengthen early childhood development by integrating the evidence-based Reach Out and Read model into pediatric care. This will be achieved by providing training to medical providers, and residency programs, developmentally appropriate books to children, offering parents guidance on shared reading, and using books for developmental surveillance during well-child visits, fostering improved literacy, relational health, and long-term well-being for children.

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

The funds will support the implementation of the evidence-based Reach Out and Read model. Activities and services include training clinicians to deliver literacy guidance, providing developmentally and culturally appropriate books during well-child visits, educating parents on the importance of shared reading, and using books for developmental surveillance. These services foster early literacy, strengthen parent-child relationships, and support healthy child development.

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

The appropriation project will provide direct services to families with children from birth to age 5 by integrating the evidence-based Reach Out and Read model into pediatric care. Clinicians will distribute developmentally appropriate books during well-child visits, educate parents on the importance of shared reading for early literacy and development, and use books to assess developmental milestones, fostering stronger family bonds and school readiness.

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

This project targets pediatric providers, residency programs, and families with children from birth to age 5, with a focus on under-resourced communities, high Medicaid populations, and rural areas. In Florida, it currently promotes early childhood development and literacy through pediatric care, reaching over 600,000 well-child visits and approximately 300,000 families annually. With strong community support, the program operates in 287 pediatric clinics across 41 counties, creating a meaningful statewide impact.

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

The project aims to improve early literacy, strengthen parent-child bonds, boost school readiness, and support healthy child development. It reduces toxic stress and fosters cognitive, social, and emotional well-being, particularly in rural areas. Outcomes will be tracked via clinician observations, parent-reported reading, milestone assessments, and evaluations of book distribution and literacy guidance. ROR is the only pediatric-based literacy model endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), validated by 20+ peer-reviewed studies.

**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?**

Suggested penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures may include requiring corrective action plans with specific timelines, or reducing future funding allocations.

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

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?



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### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1821

- 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**

**b. Municipality and County**



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#### 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.*