



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1875

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Bilingual Vocational Pilot Program for Special Needs Students will provide vocational education tailored to individuals with disabilities, aligning with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Participants will gain specific skills for employment or self-employment, receive biweekly therapy and physical exams to enhance health, engage in outdoor activities, foster social interaction, and complete internships through Joshua's House Foundation sponsors.

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	613,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	613,000

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)	613,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	613,000	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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

In lieu of state funding, we plan to seek out grant opportunities and engage in fundraising activities to support our initiatives. This includes applying for relevant grants offered by foundations or non-profit organizations that share our mission, as well as launching targeted fundraising campaigns and seeking partnerships with local businesses, individual donors, and philanthropic groups



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1875

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	Administrative Staff salary and benefits	60,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	These funds will be used for equipment expenses, rent, utilities, software, office supplies, cleaning services and the purchase of a vehicle to transport students.	60,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	To cover the operational costs of accountant services, legal services, and security.	30,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	To cover salary and benefits of Program Coordinator (to manage operations and participants), 1 social worker, 1 licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) or licensed clinical social worker.	250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	To cover costs for curriculum development, training materials, equipment for physical examinations, internship stipends, information sessions and data collection tools.	113,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	To cover salary and benefits of certified medical assistant to conduct physical exams for all participants and vocational instructors.	100,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		613,000

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 # 1875

Provide specially designed vocational education programs to students with special needs, according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for high schoolers and Americans with Disabilities Act for post-secondary participants, to prepare them in specific skills so they can be gainfully employed or self-employed with requisite skill.

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

We will design and provide three specialized vocational education programs for students with special needs: Veterinary Assistant (2 semesters), Information Technology (2 semesters), and Agricultural Assistant (4 semesters). These programs will include tailored coursework, hands-on training, and internships. We will also provide therapy, physical health evaluations, access to outdoor activities and job readiness support.

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

The appropriation project will provide direct services including vocational training programs in Veterinary Assistance, Information Technology, and Agricultural Assistance for individuals with special needs. Participants will receive hands-on training, internships, and certifications to prepare for employment. Additional services include biweekly mental health therapy, physical health evaluations every six months, and workshops to enhance social and job readiness skills.

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

At least 150 individuals will benefit from this project. The target populations include a) persons with poor mental health, b) persons with poor physical health, c) jobless individuals, d) developmentally disabled individuals, e) physically disabled individuals, f) high school students, g) bilingual individuals, and h) young adults with mental health and physical health diagnoses.

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

Our goal is to enhance employment readiness, improve physical and mental health, and promote independence for at least 150 individuals with disabilities. Employment outcomes will be measured through certification completion rates, with a target of 90%, and job placement statistics, aiming for 50% of graduates to secure internships or jobs. Physical health improvements will be tracked through biannual health evaluations, aiming for 70% of participants to show measurable progress. Mental health progress will be assessed using pre- and post-therapy surveys, with a goal of 40% reporting reduced symptoms.

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 contracting agency may consider reducing awarded funds if critical targets, such as certification completion or job placement rates, are not met. Additionally, the organization will develop and implement a mandatory corrective action plan with a specified deadline to address any deficiencies.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1875

- 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
- Other (please specify)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1875

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.