



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1933

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Persevere - Training, Access, and Careers through Technology (TACT) Program will expand a proven technology training and reentry program to two additional facilities in Florida, to be determined by the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC). The program is designed to equip incarcerated individuals with the technical skills and certifications to find long-term success in technology careers post-release. By offering full-stack coding education, industry certification, reentry support, Persevere has already achieved remarkable results, including a recidivism rate far below the national average and an impressive percentage of graduates securing sustainable employment as a direct result of their newfound skills. This expansion will further reduce recidivism, increase employment outcomes, and contribute to Florida's workforce needs by preparing formerly incarcerated individuals for careers in the high-demand tech sector.

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	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>500,000</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?**  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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Costs associated with accounting, measuring outcomes, reporting requirements, and other costs related to managing the project.	45,454
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Instructor 2.0 FTE (1 per site); Teacher Assistant 2.0 FTE (1 per site); Personnel Fringe (Instructor, Teaching Assistant); staff salary Program Manager, IT Staff, Director; associated staff salary and fringe for training.	334,546
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Costs associated with student workstations, staff laptops, circuit install and monthly cost, IT support, technology replacement, software and additional hardware; travel to and from facilities/partnership meetings; supplies; student manuals.	120,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<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?



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The requested funding will enable Persevere to expand its proven, life-changing technology training and reentry program to an additional two facilities in Florida. Persevere, a national 501(c)3 nonprofit, currently operates within Wakulla CI and Lowell CI in partnership with FDC. These funds will equip incarcerated individuals with the skills, tools, and opportunities needed to secure sustainable employment and successfully reintegrate into society upon release. Persevere has demonstrated its ability to reduce recidivism and increase employment outcomes for incarcerated individuals. Since 2019, over 70% of graduates have secured employment and maintained a 3% recidivism rate, far below the national average of 43% within the first-year post-release.

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

To provide a comprehensive program designed to equip incarcerated individuals with the technical skills, career readiness, and reentry support necessary for long-term success, the Persevere program implements a proven and comprehensive model of service delivery. The program is centered on technology education and includes computer coding training resulting in six industry standard certifications. Career readiness training is delivered alongside coding education to support a successful transition from incarceration to a career in tech, often an unfamiliar workplace for formerly incarcerated individuals.

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

This program will increase public safety and protect Floridians by providing meaningful technology and coding education to incarcerated individuals to jobs upon reentry and ultimately improve recidivism, expanding Persevere's evidence-based coding program into two more facilities to serve a larger pool of students, ensuring they gain the skills, support, and opportunities needed for successful reentry. The Persevere program is designed specifically to bring practical coding skills that are immediately marketable to participants as they transition out of incarceration. Participants will complete a 12-month full-stack software development program and earn six micro-certifications and two full certifications: front-end and full stack developer - preparing them for high-demand careers in technology. These skills and certifications represent the specific expressed needs of employers, allowing program graduates to fill the gaps in Florida's workforce.

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

Incarcerated individuals within FDC. As the program continues to scale and expand, hundreds of incarcerated individuals will benefit over multiple years. By expanding this program, Florida will reduce recidivism, increase employment rates for formerly incarcerated individuals, and support Florida's workforce needs by training individuals for high-demand technology careers, addressing critical labor shortages in the tech sector. This project will directly serve incarcerated individuals, but its impact will extend to Florida employers, families, and communities, creating a stronger, safer, and more economically viable state.  
The approximate number of individuals expected to be served is under 100 individuals; however, exact numbers will be determined by FDC and commensurate with the final funding amount.

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

The primary goal of this project is to equip incarcerated individuals with marketable technology skills, specifically six industry-recognized certifications. Florida employers will also benefit. Businesses in need of skilled technology professionals will gain access to a diverse, motivated talent pool. By lowering recidivism rates, this project will reduce incarceration costs and improve public safety for communities and taxpayers. To ensure accountability and measure impact, Persevere will implement a comprehensive performance tracking system, as has been utilized in the other FDC facilities in which Persevere operates. The use of data-driven tracking and continuous evaluation will ensure measurable, long-term success.

**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?**

Financial consequences may be imposed if performance measures are not achieved throughout the contract duration.

**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)



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- 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**

**c. Organization Type**



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- 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.*