



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1962

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA), an initiative of the Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Federation, will build on its success in fostering growth across Florida's key industries of hospitality, agriculture, and cybersecurity, by focusing on artificial intelligence (AI) in 2025. Partnering with top Israeli AI companies, FIBA will connect Israeli and Florida businesses and promote the integration of groundbreaking AI solutions, fueling innovation, improving operational efficiency, and establishing Florida as a leader in cutting-edge technology. FIBA has worked with 90+ companies, 35 now with a presence in Florida, creating 120+ high-skilled jobs and significantly strengthening Florida's economy. This project will drive the expansion of businesses, create a wide range of new job opportunities, and directly benefit the people of Florida by enhancing services, improving quality of life, and fostering economic growth across industries.

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
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>300,000</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)	300,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	100,000	17%
Other	200,000	33%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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		
2024-25	0	250,000	1509	No

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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Only half the project could be funded:  
 Hillsborough County - \$100,000  
 Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Federation, Inc. \$200,000

## 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	Salary for FIBA's Co-Executive Directors to represent and operate the Florida-Business Accelerator (FIBA) throughout the State of Florida.	180,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Administrative services, office equipment and supplies, and administrative travel.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Fees for various types of contracted services to enable FIBA to administer its programs throughout the State of Florida.	25,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Support for recruitment of Israeli and Florida companies, operational infrastructure, IT and program infrastructure, professional membership subscriptions, conference attendance, marketing, media and communications support, event design, promotion and operations, and event production. equipment.	40,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultants to assist with recruitment and advising of Israeli and Florida companies, professional service companies to provide expert guidance to Israeli companies and to assist with event management and operations, website management and media strategy.	35,000
<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>300,000</b>



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#### 13. Program Performance

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

FIBA will collaborate with Florida industry partners to identify their key technological challenges and then curate Israeli AI solutions that address these needs across all sectors, with a focus on hospitality, agriculture, and cybersecurity. FIBA will facilitate the deployment of these cutting-edge Israeli technologies to optimize operations, drive innovation, and enhance efficiency. This will positively impact Florida's economy by creating new jobs, expanding the presence of Israeli companies, and attracting investment dollars into the state. Introducing AI solutions to Florida's businesses is crucial for enhancing productivity, fostering innovation, and ensuring the state remains competitive in an increasingly technology-driven global economy.

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

FIBA will facilitate partnerships between Israeli AI companies and Florida businesses through industry-specific workshops, technology demonstrations, and pilot programs. The initiative will integrate Israeli AI solutions into key sectors like hospitality, agriculture, healthcare and cybersecurity, driving innovation, job creation, and economic growth. Activities will include identifying and connecting Israeli companies to Florida industry partners, fostering partnerships with local investors, and encouraging Israeli companies to open US subsidiaries in Florida. FIBA will also provide ongoing support, in collaboration with Florida's economic development organizations, to help Israeli companies relocate and grow their businesses in the state.

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

FIBA's activities will provide Florida citizens with access to advanced Israeli AI technologies in hospitality, healthcare, agriculture, cybersecurity, and other sectors, improving services like personalized medical care, efficient food production, and enhanced public safety. Through partnerships, job creation, and pilot programs, citizens will benefit from improved quality of life and economic opportunities.

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

Statewide, the population will benefit from the deployment of proven Israeli AI technologies that enhance operational efficiency, productivity, and service delivery across key sectors like hospitality, agriculture, cybersecurity, and healthcare. FIBA's initiative will address specific challenges AI can solve, including optimizing crop yields and resource use in agriculture, improving patient care and diagnosis in healthcare, streamlining operations and personalizing experiences in hospitality, and strengthening threat detection and response in cybersecurity, benefiting numerous Florida residents across these industries.

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

The expected benefits of this project include increased productivity, innovation, and job creation across Florida's key industries, driven by the integration of Israeli AI technologies. In agriculture, AI will optimize crop yields and resource usage; in healthcare, it will enhance diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes; in hospitality, it will improve customer experiences and operational efficiency; and in cybersecurity, it will strengthen threat detection and response. These benefits will be measured by tracking improvements in key performance indicators such as revenue growth, cost savings, efficiency gains, customer satisfaction, and job creation. Additionally, regular evaluations through industry feedback, data analytics, and performance assessments will ensure the continued impact of AI solutions across Florida.

##### 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?

Pro rata reimbursement of appropriated funds.

#### 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)



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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.*