



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2054

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funds will expand access to comprehensive autism evaluations for children aged 16 months to 3 years in Florida, ensuring early identification when intervention has the greatest impact on brain development. Early diagnosis improves outcomes, reducing lifetime care costs by up to \$1.2M per individual. This project addresses delays in diagnosis, which often exceed 2 years, ensuring children access life-changing intervention services at the earliest, most critical window.

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	600,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	600,000

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)	600,000	73%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	220,500	27%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	820,500	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.

Philanthropic support has been a primary funding source, but it is limited and unsustainable long-term. To date, the project has secured 300K, an additional 125K over five years from a committed donor, and varying contributions from several other supporters. While these generous contributions have launched and sustained the work thus far, they are not sufficient to meet the need.



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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
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	Each completed evaluation including all support services is billed at a rate of \$2,500.	600,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		600,000

13. Program Performance

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

Funds will expand access to comprehensive autism evaluations for children aged 16 months to 3 years in Florida, ensuring early identification when intervention has the greatest impact on brain development. Early diagnosis improves outcomes, reducing lifetime care costs by up to \$1.2M per individual. This project addresses delays in diagnosis, which often exceed 2 years, ensuring children access life-changing intervention services at the earliest, most critical window.

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



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The project will provide comprehensive autism evaluations for children aged 16 months to 3 years, including developmental screenings, diagnostic testing, and individualized reports. Families will receive care coordination to connect them with intervention services quickly. Funds will support staffing for evaluations, purchase of advanced diagnostic tools, and outreach to pediatricians and underserved communities to increase awareness and ensure timely referrals for early diagnosis.

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

The project will deliver direct, comprehensive autism evaluations for children aged 16 months to 3 years, including developmental screenings, standardized diagnostic assessments, and individualized reports. Families will receive personalized guidance and care coordination to access critical early intervention services without delay. These services ensure Florida's youngest citizens are identified early and connected to life-changing therapies during the most vital window of brain development.

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

The target population is children aged 16 months to 3 years across Florida, with a focus on underserved and at-risk communities experiencing barriers to early autism diagnosis. The project aims to serve at least 300 children annually, ensuring they receive comprehensive evaluations and timely referrals to intervention services. By prioritizing early identification, the project addresses developmental disparities and improves outcomes for Florida's youngest, most vulnerable citizens.

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 achieve earlier identification of autism in children aged 16 months to 3 years, ensuring timely access to intervention services during the most critical period for brain development. The expected benefits include improved developmental outcomes, reduced long-term care costs, and enhanced family support. Outcomes will be measured by tracking the number of children evaluated annually (target: 300), the average age at diagnosis (goal: under 3 years), and the time to intervention following evaluation.

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?

Our request for will be used as restricted funding, and there is no risk for nonperformance. Each evaluation is \$2,500, and we propose a fee for service billing structure where we do not bill until the service is provided using a unit cost model.

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
- No
- No, but intends to apply



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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

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.



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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.