



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2095

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

Prodigy Cultural Arts is a 25 year old juvenile delinquency prevention research-based program that utilizes the arts to teach life skills to 1,200 high risk youth ages 5-17 across 10 counties in west central Florida yearly. According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's statistics, over 99% of youth enrolled in Prodigy do not get into trouble with law enforcement thus lessening the burden on the state juvenile system, increasing public safety and saving the state millions of dollars. Prodigy classes are taught in person by professional artists where youth learn problem solving, anger management, communication, leadership and other life skills through various art disciplines. One year of Prodigy services cost below \$2,000 per youth enrolled, making it one of the most cost effective youth development programs.

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	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>750,000</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)	750,000	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>750,000</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	1,500,000	0		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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Prodigy has major partnerships with and support from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and a host of community groups including the University Area CDC, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA St. Petersburg, Girls Inc, Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation, Victory High School and HOST Programs in Hillsborough County.

## 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	Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer	23,333
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Program Staff, Data Analyst, Administration/Human Resources and Program Contractors	330,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program Materials, supplies, art and music equipment, field trips, and travel	196,667
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Direct program costs for Prodigy host organizations and instructors to implement Prodigy classes, community outreach, direct instruction, field trips, data collection, purchasing of supplies and equipment.	200,000
<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>750,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance



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

The funds will be used to support the implementation of the Prodigy Cultural Arts program across West Central Florida for 1,125 high risk youth. For 25 years, Prodigy has been providing life skills infused cultural arts programs to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system. The funds will support program development, classroom materials, professional instructors, art, music and dance supplies, data collection and reporting, field trips, and other program management tasks.

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

Prodigy Cultural Arts implements classes which are taught by professional artists. Classes consist of a variety of art disciplines which are infused with life skill activities. These activities include: anger management, leadership, problem solving, and communication skills. Activities such as field trips, educational workshops, mentoring sessions, community events and showcases are also included. Showcases consist of performances from Prodigy youths participating on stage while utilizing music productions at times composed by youths. At these events, youths and staff set up art exhibits to share with the audiences their art work and what they learned throughout the year.

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

Participants enrolled in Prodigy receive a life skills and risk assessment to gauge what type of services they need. This may include other services such as mentoring and tutoring. They also receive their choice of art classes or music, dance, photography, performance, among many others. Participants (and their parents) also receive workshops on parent/child communication, stress management techniques, crime/gun/violence prevention, career development, and other life skills all taught by professionals. Lastly, Prodigy staff maintain periodic communication with parents to help keep youths on track.

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

Prodigy is expected to serve an average of 1,125 youths ages 5-17 through west central Florida counties in a year. Prodigy targets communities in which law enforcement has deemed at risk for high levels of crime, truancy, and delinquency. Youth enrolled in the program are often those considered school drop outs and/or display delinquent behavior. Prodigy serves participants in communities from Pinellas to Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, and Orange Counties. Prodigy also serves rural communities such as East and West Pasco and Highlands Counties through our Prodigy Moves! mobile program.

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

The expectation of the Prodigy program is to keep youths out of the juvenile system by providing them with an safe arena to express themselves through various art disciplines. Prodigy participants receive risk assessments to determine need for services. They attend a minimum of 6 hours per week for a minimum of 6 weeks to learn new skills and establish mentoring relationships with professional art instructors. The lessons taught are infused with life skills to enable youths to use their creative thinking through visual and performing art forms. Prodigy is monitored by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice by undergoing annual reviews of monthly programming where participants data is collected and reported, to track performance and improvement. Improvement of mental health and quality of education, enrichment in cultural experience, while protecting youths from public harm and reducing recidivism are some of the outcomes expected from youth's participation in Prodigy.

**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?**

Failure by the Provider to promptly report and document deliverables as required, shall result in DJJ imposing a corrective action plan in which the agency and subcontracted organizations would work to make improvements within an allotted time frame. These improvements are documented in a system called PMM and is regularly checked by DJJ staff. Once the action plan is complete, there is a review by DJJ to determine if all corrective goals and deliverables were met. If not, penalties persist including a possible reduction of funds or termination of contract.

**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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- 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**



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**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.**

**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.*