



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2101

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

St. Petersburg Free Clinic (SPFC) Food Programs consist of our Jared S. Hechtkopf Community (Jared's) Food Bank, our We Help FRESH Pantry locations, and specialized programs serving children and seniors. Jared's Food Bank is the largest in Pinellas County, distributing over 20 million pounds of food to over 60 partner agencies across more than 100 sites. Visitors to the We Help Free Grocery receive a cart full of fresh, nutritious, food at no cost. SPFC's We Help FRESH Pantry Drive-Through location provides free groceries with an added layer of anonymity and convenience. SPFC's specialized programs meet people where they are, whether it's a child care center or senior congregate dining site, and provide nutritious food to all who need it.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	9%
Matching Funds		
Federal	82,422	1%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	4,871,050	88%
Other	86,174	2%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	5,539,646	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.



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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	For the direct purchase of fresh produce, meat, dairy, and bread through SPFC vendors to distribute free groceries to Pinellas County residents. Due to our vendor relationships and ability to purchase by the truckload, we can stretch our dollar and pay a fraction of retail costs. The return on a \$500,000 investment to SPFC food purchasing yields a value of over \$675,000 in free groceries	500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The goal of SPFC's Food Programs is to address food and nutrition insecurity by reducing barriers to accessing nutritious food for all Pinellas County residents. Additionally, SPFC's food programs lower monthly out of pocket expenditures, receiving free groceries often allows clients to reallocate income towards other essential bills. Due to our vendor relationships and bulk purchasing, the return on a \$500,000 investment to SPFC food purchasing yields a value of over \$675,000 in free groceries.

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

Back-end warehousing and food distribution provided out of SPFC's Food Bank to partner agencies across the county who collectively serve an average of 120,000 visitors monthly.
 Free groceries provided with a dignified market experience at SPFC's We Help FRESH Pantry.
 Free groceries provided with an added layer of anonymity and convenience through SPFC's Drive Through location.

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

Nutritious food free of cost.

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

The target population for SPFC Food Programs is food-insecure individuals and families of Pinellas County who experience barriers in accessing healthy, nutritious, foods. People we serve may be homeless, living in poverty, or Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE). ALICE includes our neighbors who are working, often more than one job, but due to the high cost of living, they are barely getting by. Families we serve are often presented with impossible choices, like whether to put groceries on the table or pay their rent. Any Pinellas County resident is eligible to receive services through our food programs. Last fiscal year, our We Help locations totaled 477,760 visits and our Jared's Food Bank partners reported a collective total of 1,456,999 visits to their locations.

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

This project in particular will offset \$675,000 worth of grocery costs for the residents of Pinellas County. SPFC Food Programs are unique in that we not only focus on the quantity of food distributed, but also on the quality and nutritional value. Therefore, we anticipate that one of the outcomes will be health benefits. Specifically, 65% or more of clients will report that utilizing the We Help FRESH Pantry has provided them with access to foods that are beneficial to their health and/or foods that they wouldn't have the ability to access without the pantry. Additionally, through receiving groceries free of cost, clients are able to reduce their out-of-pocket monthly expenditures, leading to the ability to reallocate funds that would be spent on groceries to other essential bills. Therefore, 85% of clients will moderately or significantly reduce their monthly expenses by utilizing the We Help FRESH Pantry.

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?

Return of funds.

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)
- 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



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- 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

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College



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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.