



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2108

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Arts Conservatory for Teens (ACT) uses research-based methods to foster academic, social, and emotional growth focusing on students ages 11-18 in Title 1 schools. ACT's programming serves as a catalyst to prepare students for high school graduation, higher education, and the workforce. Our quantitative and qualitative data show improved academic performance and attendance, high satisfaction rates, and enhanced social and emotional well-being. Since its founding in 2012, ACT has helped to change the lives of over 15,000 middle and high school students and their families with transformative outcomes including a 100% high school graduation rate and 90% college placement rate for participants. Requested funds would allow ACT to replicate and scale this highly successful program, expanding into Manatee and Sarasota counties.

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	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	40%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	200,000	13%
Other	700,000	47%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,500,000	100%

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Chief Executive Officer	45,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Support for: Director of Curriculum & Programs \$40,000 // Creative Futures Coordinator \$50,000 // Community Liaison \$35,000	125,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment and Supplies, including but not limited to: Sound Systems, Instruments, Visual Arts and Photography Supplies, IT Equipment, Transportation Support or Supplies.	230,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Teaching Artists, Independent Evaluator, Licensed Mental Health Clinician, Community Outreach	200,000
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?



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The Arts Conservatory for Teens (ACT) leverages technology and the arts as a catalyst to prepare students for high school graduation, higher education, and the workforce. With a 100% graduation rate for program participants, the proven success of the ACT program provides a model for an education and workforce development strategy designed for the rapidly growing arts, culture, and entertainment sector. The requested funds would allow ACT to replicate and scale this highly successful program, expanding into Manatee and Sarasota counties.

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

State support expands ACT's programming and curriculum to provide students with the opportunity to gain invaluable skills needed to thrive in high school and beyond including leadership, public speaking, critical thinking, entrepreneurship, creativity, and financial literacy. ACT has also developed a workforce development program that specifically seeks to help high school students gain hands on experience and provide pre-professional development so that they can enter their chosen career path ready for success.

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

ACT will expand its programming to reach 5,000 students on an annual basis, providing weekly core classes, academic support, master classes, internships and workshops in areas such as health and wellness, financial literacy, leadership, and entrepreneurship. ACT also incorporates character essentials into all of its instruction, which includes building important life skills essential for the workforce.

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

Economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, students ages 11-17, primarily from Title 1 schools with an expected 5,000 individuals to be served.

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

The program's impact will be measured by a third-party evaluator:
 Improve physical health--survey students, parents, and teachers about student's health and lifestyle improvements, stress reduction, and overall physical well-being.
 Improve mental health--Track mental health improvements and students' ability to manage everyday school stressors.
 Enhance specific individuals' economic self sufficiency--pre and post assessments on career path goals, longitudinal tracking of careers and outcomes for students in the long term.
 Divert from Criminal/Juvenile Justice System--track emotional regulation, reduced incidences of delinquent behavior, enhanced academic performance, and participant engagement using baseline, summative and formative assessment tools.

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?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met would be returned to the state.

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.