



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2113

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Pediatric Vision Health and Literacy Program provides essential eye care services and education to children ages 0-17, with a focus on those who are uninsured, enrolled in Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK), attending Title I schools, or living in low-socioeconomic communities. The program offers vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, prescription eyeglasses, and referrals for specialized or surgical care through community partnerships. In addition to clinical services, the program integrates STEM-based eye health education, empowering children with knowledge about vision science and the importance of eye health. By addressing vision-related barriers to learning, the program enhances school performance, literacy development, and graduation rates, while expanding healthcare access for underserved populations. All services are provided at no cost to families, ensuring that every child has the vision support needed for academic achievement and lifelong success.

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	442,625
Fixed Capital Outlay	307,375
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	48%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	826,276	52%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,576,276	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		
2024-25	0	375,000	546	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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Public private partnerships including individuals and corporate gifts, program partners and special event fundraising.

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/02/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

The ongoing operations and maintenance of the Vision Health Center will be supported through multiple funding streams, including market-rate rent paid by the clinical provider, philanthropic contributions, and endowment funds. This diversified funding approach ensures the sustainability of the center, balancing earned revenue with ongoing donor support and long-term financial stability.

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.

The Lions World Vision Institute (LWVI) will own the facility and will be the sole recipient of any fixed capital outlay funding. There are no other owners, and LWVI maintains full control over the facility's operations, ensuring alignment with its mission to provide vision health services and community programming.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	20% of Executive Director salary + benefits to manage and oversee the program deliverables, raise awareness in the community of program, and serve as point of contact for contract.	37,590
Other Salary and Benefits	50% of the Foundation Specialist's salary + benefits supports program management, including budget tracking, financial monitoring, grant compliance, reporting, and administrative support. Responsibilities include managing reports, tracking expenditures, and ensuring accurate documentation to maintain program sustainability and accountability.	35,197
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel for meetings and clinics for administrative staff above.	500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		



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Salary and Benefits	2 FTE/ 3 PTE positions: 1 FTE Program Manager (licensed OD) oversees operations, staff, patient care, compliance, and reporting, while supporting outreach and foundation initiatives (\$71,070). 1 FTE Community Outreach Coordinator manages clinic logistics, consent forms, data, and outreach (\$57,000). 1 PTE Optician fits, styles, and dispenses glasses (\$48,000). 2 PTE (\$9K each).+ benefits at 35.95%	263,838
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Medical equipment and supplies for screenings, exams, and mobile vision clinic operations, including maintenance, insurance, and EHR fees (\$35,000). Supplies for 2,000 pairs of glasses (\$17,500). Printing of educational materials (\$5,000). Mileage for travel to schools and community clinics (\$5,000).	62,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Ophthalmology fees of \$400 per clinic for exams (\$18,000 for 45 clinics). Creative/Marketing (\$25,000) for community outreach, patient follow-up materials, and STEM education resources to promote services and enhance engagement.	43,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Build-out of community screening, exam, and education rooms, including demolition, drywall, painting, flooring, furniture, AV equipment, signage, and necessary fixtures to create a fully functional space for vision care and education.	307,375
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will expand Lions World Vision Institute's Pediatric Vision Program, providing critical vision screenings, on-site exams, prescription glasses, and specialist referrals to underserved children across Florida. By increasing access to early detection and intervention, this initiative will improve academic success, reduce healthcare disparities, and ensure more children receive the vision care they need to thrive.

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

The funds will support vision screenings, on-site refraction exams, prescription glasses, and specialist referrals for underserved children in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties. Mobile vision units will provide same-day exams and glasses, while children requiring further care will be connected to clinical partners for comprehensive eye exams and treatment. Additionally, the program will deliver vision health education and outreach to families and schools, ensuring early detection and intervention to improve academic success and overall well-being.

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

The project will provide direct vision health services to children in Title I schools and underserved communities across Florida, ensuring early detection and intervention for vision problems. Services include comprehensive screenings using advanced technology like Rebin BLINQ and Welch Allyn SPOT to detect conditions such as amblyopia and refractive errors. For children needing corrective lenses, on-site refraction exams and same-day prescription glasses will be available through mobile vision units, ensuring immediate access to care. Those requiring further evaluation will be referred to clinical partners for comprehensive exams, specialized treatment, and surgical intervention if needed. The program will also provide vision health education and outreach to students, parents, and educators, emphasizing the importance of early eye care. By removing barriers like transportation and cost, this initiative will improve academic success, health outcomes, and long-term well-being.

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

This project serves children in Title I schools and underserved communities across Florida, particularly those from low-income, uninsured, or underinsured families. In FY24, Lions World Vision Institute provided vision services to 4,000 children, including screenings, exams, prescription glasses, and specialist referrals. With a new mobile vision unit in FY25-26, the program expects to double its reach to 8,000 children annually. By expanding access to essential vision care, this initiative will remove barriers, improve educational outcomes, and support long-term success for children in need.

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



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be measured?

The project is expected to improve academic performance, reduce healthcare disparities, and enhance long-term well-being by ensuring early detection and treatment of vision issues in underserved children. By providing screenings, on-site exams, prescription glasses, and specialist referrals, the initiative will help children see clearly, leading to better literacy rates, increased classroom engagement, and higher graduation rates. Outcomes will be measured through data tracking and impact assessments, including the number of children screened, glasses distributed, and referrals completed. Follow-up evaluations will assess improvements in academic performance and compliance with treatment plans. Partnerships with schools and healthcare providers will further support data collection to demonstrate the program's success in expanding access to essential vision care.

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?

If deliverables are not met, the contracting agency may consider requiring a corrective action plan with clear steps and timelines. Increased monitoring, such as additional progress reports or check-ins, may be implemented. A temporary withholding of non-essential funds until improvements are made could be applied. A performance improvement period may be granted before further action. Partial funding reductions in underperforming areas could also be considered.

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

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



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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.**

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.