



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2124

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Brandon Resource Center expansion will increase its capacity from 8,000 to 12,000 square feet to better serve residents of unincorporated Hillsborough County. In partnership with Hillsborough County Schools, ECHO will co-locate with school district social workers to provide critical services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. The center will offer emergency food, clothing, and job coaching, while social workers will provide case management to help individuals achieve long-term stability. Additional services include self-shop food and clothing pantries, financial assistance, and resource navigation, all designed to promote self-sufficiency and independence for those in need.

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	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	200,000
Total State Funds Requested	550,000

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)	550,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	550,000	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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

7/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

10/01/2025

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

Ongoing operations and maintenance will be funded through a combination of private donations, grants, and local government support. Additional funding sources include community partnerships, corporate sponsorships, and fundraising initiatives. These revenue streams will ensure the sustainability of the expanded Brandon Resource Center and its programs.

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.

ECHO

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	Essential furniture, technology, and facility upgrades to support the Brandon Resource Center's expansion. Office enhancements cover desks, chairs, cubicles, filing cabinets, and conference room furniture. Facility improvements include flooring, painting, signage, electrical upgrades, security systems, and storage solutions. Technology investments such as monitors, laptops, and tablets	350,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Facility improvements to enhance safety, accessibility, and overall functionality. This covers flooring upgrades such as carpet, area rugs, and floor maintenance, as well as essential security enhancements like cameras, a DVR system, and panic buttons. Additionally, funds will support electrical upgrades, signage, parking area improvements, and aesthetic enhancements, including painting and mural	200,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		550,000



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13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will support the expansion of the Brandon Resource Center, increasing its capacity from 8,000 to 12,000 square feet to better serve residents in need. This expansion will enhance access to emergency food, clothing, job coaching, and case management services in partnership with Hillsborough County Schools. The project aims to promote long-term stability, self-sufficiency, and economic independence for vulnerable individuals and families in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

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

The expanded ECHO Brandon Resource Center will provide emergency food, clothing, and job coaching services to individuals and families in need. Additional services will include self-shop food and clothing pantries, financial assistance, resource navigation, and employment support to promote long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

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

Access to a self-shop emergency food and clothing pantry, individualized case management, and financial assistance. Citizens in crisis will also have the opportunity to receive one-on-one job coaching and placement services to support long-term stability and independence. These services aim to address immediate needs while also offering pathways to economic self-sufficiency.

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

Elderly, Jobless persons, Economically disadvantage persons, homeless, students, >800.

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

The expected benefits and outcomes of this project focus on improving the well-being and stability of individuals and families in Unincorporated Hillsborough County. By expanding the ECHO Brandon Resource Center, the project will increase access to emergency food, clothing, and financial assistance, directly enhancing physical and mental health. The self-shop food pantry will provide nutritious meals, while access to social workers and case management will alleviate the stress and anxiety associated with homelessness and financial instability. Additionally, job coaching and resource navigation will empower individuals to secure stable employment, fostering economic self-sufficiency and reducing dependency on emergency aid. To measure these outcomes, the project will track job placement rates and the number of individuals utilizing emergency services.

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?

Refund of funds

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No Yes

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):

Milton/Helene

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.