



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2385

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida High School High Tech (HSHT) program, administered by The Able Trust, is a transformative initiative that prepares youth with disabilities for meaningful careers, especially in Florida's high-demand industries. To meet the growing need for services and expand the program's reach from 1,200 to 5,000 students statewide over the next four years, increased legislative funding is required. Specifically, additional funding for staff, travel, and technical assistance will enable The Able Trust to effectively coordinate and support this expansion, ensuring that the program's impact reaches every corner of the state.

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	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	16%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	1,018,000	56%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	28%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,818,000	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		
2024-25	1,018,000	0	30	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.

The Able Trust received recurring funds from the legislature and uses investment earnings from its endowment and funds raised through grants and individual/corporate donations to support the program.



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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	Project Director	60,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Grant Managers and Support Staff	140,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Staff Travel, regional training, technical assistance, program evaluation, and research	100,000
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)		300,000

13. Program Performance

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

An investment in program staffing, travel, and technical assistance is critical to statewide expansion and long-term success. By providing the resources needed to scale operations from 1200 to 5000 students served annually, The Able Trust can increase access to life-changing opportunities for youth with disabilities, empowering them to succeed in education and employment while driving Florida's economic growth. Increased legislative funding will ensure that the HSHT program continues to be a leader in preparing the next generation of skilled workers attuned to the needs of Florida's businesses.



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

Recruiting additional staff to manage site operations, provide technical assistance, and ensure program compliance. Travel to prospective and existing sites to build local capacity and provide hands-on support to local program coordinators. Funding of professional development, program materials, and technologies that will enhance learning experiences for students.

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

Students with disabilities will participate in industry tours and presentations; connections to career supports including Vocational Rehabilitation services; Career and Technical Education, apprenticeships, and other post-secondary education programs; soft skills training; and leadership development. Parents will receive guidance on post-secondary resources and supports to avoid the "service cliff" after high school graduation.

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

High school students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan. 1800 students, which includes an addition of 600 students, will served by this project.

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

Increased High School Graduation Rate 90% - tracked by program grantees
 Post-Secondary Enrollment 70% - tracked by program grantees
 VR Referral 100% - tracked by The Able Trust and FDOE/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 Credential Attainment (WIOA federal measure) - tracked by program grantees
 Measureable Skills Gains (WIOA federal measure) - tracked by program grantees

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 unspent funds, return of funds not spent in accordance with the contract

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#:



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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
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name



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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.