



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2386

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation has been positively impacting the youth in Pinellas County for over 45 years. Our mission is to educate students in a public-private partnership and improve their academic performance, self-esteem, and character using the golf course as a living classroom. The project is the expansion and renovation of the Foundation's campus, providing more classrooms, enhanced safety and security, upgraded facilities & technology, and growing the living classroom relationship with the golf course.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	20%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	11,642,177	80%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	14,642,177	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?

8/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

8/31/2027

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

Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation operates two businesses, the Chi Chi Golf Club and Chi Chi Driving Range. Proceeds from the businesses go directly to Foundation overall expenses. The Foundation also raises funds annually from the community through gifts and fundraising events.

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.

Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, Inc. is a non profit entity housed on City of Clearwater property. The facility is under the operation and management of the Foundation.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Portion of design and architectural services, removal of portable/temporary buildings, renovation of current buildings and new construction	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The expansion of the Chi Chi Academy campus will: expand classroom capacity, allowing our program to grow to 126 students from 96, while maintaining our student-to-teacher ratio that supports effective learning for at-risk students; enhance safety and security of the school, implementing controlled access points and secure entryways; and upgrade facilities by removing outdated portable classrooms with permanent structures.

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

The Foundation is working with an architect to design a safe and secure learning environment. The architect will work with the chosen contractors on implementing the build over the next two years through phased construction. The construction will be phased to focus on the least amount of disturbance possible throughout the school day.

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

The Chi Chi Academy public-private partnership school is a voluntary school for fifth through eighth grade students not achieving at their grade level, have low self-esteem or have difficulty adjusting to a larger academic environment. The Academy is a small school atmosphere, which thrives on individualized attention, counseling, real-life experiences in the Foundation's businesses (living classrooms), and extracurricular programs. This expansion would allow the Academy to continue to grow and be available for many years to come.

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

The Chi Chi Academy serves students at risk for dropping out of high school in the future. Our students meet two or more of the following requirements: (1) face academic challenges, (2) require additional assistance with social skills, (3) have poor school attendance, (4) lack of a strong family support system, or (5) obtain some form of government assistance (over 70% considered economically disadvantaged). With the expansion, the Academy will serve 126 students each year. The Foundation serves over 100,000 guests annually on the campus through golf and driving range facilities.

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

The Foundation is determined to positively impact the graduation rate of our at risk youth population. The Academy gives our students the tools needed to enter and successfully graduate high school, with the ultimate goal of being a productive member of our community. Students success while at school are academically tracked with gains in the classroom and through state testing. Many of our students also struggle socially, and their successes are measured by behavior growth seen by their teachers and counselor.

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?

repayment of funds

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



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- 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
- Other (please specify)



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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.