



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2446

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

Dan Marino Foundation FloridaReady AI is an app using Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered, human-like avatars focused on guidance counseling for Florida's high school students. The American School Counselor Association recommends a 250-to-1 ratio of students to school counselors, Florida's ratio in 23-24 was 432-to-1. FloridaReady AI integrates an assessment tool analyzing students' unique needs and skills to provide customized advice, and to support students in navigating their educational journeys. Through engaging and natural conversations with the Florida Ready AI, students will explore academic pathways tailored to their individual aspirations and capabilities. Leveraging AI technology, FloridaReady AI, builds upon the original success of FloridaReady (job interview app) to not only facilitate access to essential guidance services but also empowers students to take charge of their professional futures, fostering a culture of self-driven achievement across the state of Florida.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**  Yes  No

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

**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)	1,500,000	66%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	763,435	34%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>2,263,435</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  Yes  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?**  Yes  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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Staff Accountant, HR/Grants Management	71,430
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Director of Technology, Community/Technology Engagement Manager, Tech Zone Coordinator, Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	295,520
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Staff Training/Development, Travel and Conferences (Travel/Transportation, Hotel, and Conference Fees), Computer Services, Office Supplies, Printing, Postage, Academic Costs (Licenses, Hosting and AI Services, Digital Assets), Professional Services (Research, User Engagement Programs, Informational Campaigns, Educational Outreach, AI Researcher, Engagement/Educational Specialist, Accessibility Specialist, Full Stack Developer)	1,133,050
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The goal is to equip Florida’s high school students with personalized access to academic guidance, and job interview training to help them make informed decisions about their educational and career choices. Supporting this goal, FloridaReady AI offers ongoing and individualized support to high school students as they plan and advance along their chosen academic and career paths, ensuring they have the guidance they need at every step of their journey.

This initiative represents a significant investment in the youth of Florida, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the broader economy by enhancing their independence and future prospects.

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

Comprehensive, research-informed activities will be conducted to guide the development of the FloridaReady AI platform, ensuring it addresses the academic and career needs of Florida’s high school students. These activities involve in-depth studies of best practices in career and skills assessment, academic counseling, and career guidance to inform the AI’s design. Researchers, developers, and education professionals will collaborate to create models aligned with Florida’s educational standards and labor market data, ensuring the platform’s outputs reflect real-world opportunities. Additionally, user engagement initiatives, including focus groups, pilot testing, and community workshops, will be conducted to collect feedback and refine the app’s functionality. This process will establish a solid foundation for delivering personalized academic and career guidance services once the app is fully operational.

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

Academic Guidance: Providing tailored support to help students identify appropriate courses, plan their educational journey, and align their academic objectives with future career goals.  
 Skills Assessment: Measuring and tracking essential competencies to pinpoint areas for development, ensuring students build the proficiencies required for both academic and professional success. Career Assessment: Offering in-depth evaluations of each student’s interests and aptitudes, directing them toward career pathways that match their unique skill sets.  
 Professional Communication Skills Training: Delivering targeted instruction on effective interpersonal communication and interview techniques, enabling students to present themselves confidently in academic settings and the workforce.

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

The target population: Dan Marino Foundation FloridaReady AI app will be distributed to a minimum of 50% of Florida’s Public High Schools  
 Florida public high school students aged 16 and older, including neurotypical students and those receiving exceptional education services. A minimum of 3,000 students to download the Dan Marino Foundation FloridaReady AI app.

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

Benefits: Distribution of a mobile app offering academic and career guidance to Florida’s high school population supporting individualized learning pathways.  
 Students gain access to career and skills assessments, helping align their abilities and interests with suitable career paths. Foster engagement with guidance resources. Clearer understanding of academic and career requirements for Florida workforce.

Methodology:  
 Measure downloads, assessment completion rates and access to guidance resources through app analytics to determine the number of students actively using and benefiting from the platform;  
 Pre, Post self-reported skills assessment and career readiness;  
 Surveys and focus groups collecting qualitative feedback from students, educators, and guidance counselors to measure satisfaction, perceived improvements in readiness, and overall effectiveness of the model.

**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?**

Possible future funding adjustment.

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

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?



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- 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
- 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**



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#### 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.*