



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2542

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funds will support the first year of operational costs for Goodwill of North Florida's A-STEP (Adult workforce development) program in St. John's County. The County has experienced unprecedented growth, yet 66% of the workforce are employed OUTSIDE of the county. This program, requested by local businesses, will be based at Epic Village, St. Augustine. The GoodCareers center will provide no-cost job leads, career counseling and workshops to local residents seeking employment as well as on-site job interviews and computers for resume preparation and job searches. In addition, a Goodwill A-STEP education navigator will provide support to program participants completing education and career training certifications.

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	245,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>245,000</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)	245,000	71%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	101,779	29%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>346,779</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2542

## 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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Education Navigator and Employment Specialist	115,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Computer Stations for the GoodCareers Center - Computers (14), Mouses (14), Deep Frees License (14) Locking Docks (14) O365 Licenses (14) Printers(2) and Monitor (2). Direct program expenses include expenses for students educational courses and materials and other gap funding a client might need to achieve their education and employment goals.	130,000
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>245,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2542

The funds will support the first year of operational costs for Goodwill of North Florida's A-STEP program in St. John's County. The County has experienced unprecedented growth, yet 66% of the workforce are employed OUTSIDE of the county. This program, requested by local businesses, will be based at Epic Village, St. Augustine.

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

The GoodCareers center will provide no-cost job leads, career counseling and workshops to local residents seeking employment as well as on-site job interviews and computers for resume preparation and job searches. In addition, a Goodwill A-STEP education navigator will provide support to program participants completing education and career training certifications.

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

Direct career services include career counseling, job search workshops and on-site job interviews. For Goodwill's A-STEP program, the education navigator assists candidates with program enrollment, financial aid apps., course selection and creating a plan to remove any barriers to education and employment the candidate may face, such as child care, transportation, funds for textbooks and more.

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

200-400 low income individuals.

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

Giving citizens the tools needed to get jobs will increase economic activity. By providing the needed education and employment services, St. Johns County will be a place where people want to live and work and where companies want to be located. Job Placements and increase in earning potential will be measured.

Goodwill of NF contributed nearly 4,000 jobs to its territory as a result of its 2023 operational activities and provided \$123.6 million in annual earnings for the area. The territory's total estimated economic impacts equal \$297.8 million and add \$164.4 to the territory's GDP. This territory also collected \$2.4 million in local and state sales tax in 2023. The state can measure the amount of the territory's GDP after the A-STEP program is established in St. Johns County.

**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?**

There are significant financial penalties associated with nonperformance and not meeting project targets.

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

**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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2542

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)

d. First Name  Last Name



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2542

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.*