



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2628

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Holmes County is located in a rural, economically disadvantaged area of Florida, ranking as the fourth poorest county in the state. The limited local resources and lack of proximity to cultural, educational, and professional development opportunities present unique challenges for students, teachers, and residents. The proposed program will address these challenges by providing state-of-the-art distance learning technology to facilitate equitable access to:

- Advanced coursework and certified teaching staff.
- Professional development opportunities for educators.
- Cultural and arts engagement through virtual field trips, performances, and interactive learning.
- Workforce development through career and technical education.
- Community resources for organizations and municipal partners.

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	493,700
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	493,700

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)	493,700	31%
Matching Funds		
Federal	970,931	60%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	145,640	9%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,610,271	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)?

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	The \$183,700 allocation will fund stipends for key personnel to implement the initiative. Stipends will compensate a Project Coordinator (overseeing operations), Bookkeeper (managing finances), Counselors (guiding students), Instructors (teaching via distance learning), Facilitators (supporting technology integration), and Assistants (providing classroom and logistical support).	183,700
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The \$310,000 allocation will cover essential program costs, including expenses for state-of-the-art distance learning equipment (interactive displays, video conferencing systems, and supporting technology), travel for training and program implementation, and necessary supplies such as software, instructional materials, and technical accessories. Additionally, this funding will support other operational needs, ensuring the seamless rollout of the initiative and equitable access to resources.	310,000
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)		493,700



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13. Program Performance

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

The funds requested will support the implementation of a district-wide distance learning initiative designed to provide equitable access to advanced coursework, certified teachers, workforce training, and professional development for educators. The goal is to bridge the educational resource gap for rural and economically disadvantaged communities in Holmes County by leveraging state-of-the-art technology to connect students, teachers, and community members to vital learning opportunities and resources. This initiative will enhance academic outcomes, support workforce readiness, and foster community engagement through innovative distance learning solutions.

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

Technology Installation: Equipping schools with interactive displays and video conferencing tools for virtual learning.
 Advanced Coursework: Connecting students to certified teachers and specialized classes.
 Workforce Training: Providing career and technical education for future employment.
 Teacher Development: Offering professional development workshops using distance learning tools.
 Student Support: Engaging counselors to guide academic and career planning.
 Community Access: Facilitating virtual workshops and events for local organizations.

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

Access to Quality Education: Students will gain access to certified teachers, advanced coursework, and virtual learning opportunities, leveling the playing field with more affluent areas.
 Workforce Training: Students will receive career and technical education through distance learning platforms, preparing them for job opportunities and future careers.
 Counseling and Support: Counselors will guide students in academic and career planning, ensuring they make the most of the resources provided.
 Cultural Enrichment: Virtual field trips, arts programs, and interactive cultural experiences will be available to students, expanding their exposure beyond rural limitations.
 Community Engagement:

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

This project targets economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, grade school students, high school students, and the general population, including individuals who are developmentally disabled and physically disabled. Additionally, the initiative indirectly supports homeless individuals by providing equitable educational resources and workforce training opportunities that aim to break cycles of poverty and improve access to essential services for all community members.

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

This project will improve educational equity by providing access to certified teachers, advanced coursework, workforce training, and professional development for educators while fostering community engagement. Expected outcomes include higher student achievement, increased career readiness, enhanced teacher effectiveness, and community participation. Outcomes will be measured through test scores, course completions, certifications, teacher development surveys, and community feedback, with regular data analysis to ensure success.

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?

Reduction in Payment: Withholding or reducing payments until the deliverables or performance measures are met.
 Termination of Contract: Canceling the agreement due to non-compliance or failure to deliver.
 Reimbursement: Requiring the contractor to reimburse funds for unmet deliverables or services not rendered.
 Performance Bond Claims: Enforcing claims against a performance bond if one is in place.
 Exclusion from Future Contracts: Disqualifying the contractor from participating in future projects with the agency.

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)



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- 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

c. Organization Type



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- 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.