



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2698

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The purpose of Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida's Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success (BISS) program is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with evidence-based impact, and a primary focus on improving the child's ability to achieve academically through the positive influence of their volunteer mentor.

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	1,750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,750,000

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)	1,750,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,750,000	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	2,980,248	1,250,000	90	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.

We are not aware of available funds consistent with the amount of State funding.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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	The executive provides senior level direction and management in contractual relationships with BBBS local agencies in Florida. Benefits are approximately an additional 6.5% of the salaries and wages. Payroll taxes are also an additional 7.65% of the salaries and wages.	11,900
Other Salary and Benefits	The wages, payroll taxes and benefits for BBBSAF staff to include the Chief Financial Officer and a program manager as well as additional staff as deemed necessary to manage the project.	46,392
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses for liability insurance, travel to BBBS local agencies for program quality control, supplies, postage, and subscriptions/services for on-line access, technology, communications services and other expenses necessary for the project managed by Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida.	9,056
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultants and contract services for the financial statement audit, program reporting and evaluation, and payroll service fees. The allocation of the expense is in proportion of the project to the overall operation of Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida.	2,652
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contract service agreements between Big Brothers Big Sisters Association and BBBS local agencies ensuring quality one-to-one mentor services for youth in accordance with the BBBS national standards. Costs for direct services for youth including professional academic assessment, preparation of youth development plans, monthly contact by a BBBS professional for support offered to the youth and parent as well as professional support for volunteer mentors.	1,680,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	1,750,000
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13. Program Performance

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

The purpose of Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida's Bigs Inspiring Scholastic Success (BISS) program is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships with measurable impact, and a primary focus on improving the child's ability to achieve academically through the positive influence of their volunteer mentor.

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida (BBBSAF) through our statewide network of BBBS member agencies provides mentoring services and support for youth in grades K-12, in elementary, middle or high school. Youth are determined at-risk of academic failure because of factors such as poor academic performance, a history of truancy, economic disadvantage, among others. Every youth is assessed and evaluated for participation in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Mentors are recruited, background screened and trained in BBBS guidelines for mentoring youth. BBBS local agencies assign professional mentor managers to monitor and support volunteer mentors and activities. Mentor managers are in regular contact with the youth, the parent or guardian of the youth and volunteer mentors. Through contact with the school and educational professionals, the mentor managers monitor progress of each youth participant and completion of the annual youth development plan.

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

The funding for BISS is spent for direct program services and support for youth who are at-risk academically. BBBS local agencies will support delivery of one-to-one mentoring to individual youth. Mentor support activities including intake of volunteers and youth, assessments of prospective youth and volunteers; Level II background screening; case plan and youth development planning; case management monthly support; volunteer mentor training; community and school needs assessments; activity reports, tracking and safety evaluations; fiscal and program accountability activities.

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

BISS provides mentoring services and support for youth in grades K- 12, in elementary, middle or high school. Youth are determined at-risk of academic failure because of factors such as poor academic performance, a history of truancy, economic disadvantage, among others. BBBSAF will match an estimated 3050 youth with mentors during the project year and during the project year every youth matched with a mentor will attend mentor sessions with their mentor.

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

BISS incorporates the first goal of the State Board of Education's K-20 Strategic Plan, which is to "increase the proficiency of all students." BISS measures gains across four domains related to student learning gains, including academic performance, school attendance, grade level promotion, and behavioral outcomes – all of which lead to improved student learning. To ensure success, children and youth who participate in BISS receive regular mentoring sessions with homework and academic assistance as the key focus. Mentors address social, confidence and behavioral issues and encourage their Little to behave well in class, and provide positive role modeling on how to interact with others.

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?

The performance deliverables include the number of mentor sessions, the number of training sessions, and the number of youth served. A financial penalty is assessed for not reaching a goal for each performance measure on a per unit basis for service delivery below a minimum accepted level of performance. The financial consequences are measurable and specific to program performance and are tied to BBBS service delivery.

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



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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.