



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2703

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

This funding will provide devices, connectivity and crucial technology education to vulnerable elders who do not have the opportunity to interact with tech every day. Technology is an increasingly important element of day-to-day living and a lack of exposure to technology and potential scams places all seniors at risk for being victimized. This funding will provide 10,000 devices, with connectivity and pre-loaded educational content tailored to the unique needs and challenges of low income individuals to 10,000 recipients across 15 NW Florida counties (Aligned with the two community action agencies serving seniors in the region.)

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	5,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,000,000</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)	5,000,000	67%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,500,000	33%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>7,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  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?**  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	Executive Director	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Project Leader	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Includes 2 Area Leads, 1 Digital Literacy Trainer and 12 project coordinators	540,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Programming Implementation Software (\$15,000) - covers the purchasing and licensing of software necessary for the program's application management and distribution system. Tablets (\$4,335,000) - the largest portion of the budget will be used to procure 10,000 LTE compatible tablets with wifi functionality	4,335,000
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>5,000,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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Through access to technology and training, low income seniors and their households will be positioned to confidently and safely interact across the internet. The FBI reports that scams targeting individuals aged 60+ caused over \$3.4 billion in losses nationwide in 2023, marking an 11% increase from the previous year. Florida DOEA data indicates over 3.5 million seniors fall victim to fraud annually, with an average loss of \$35,000 per elder. More than 16,000 low income seniors call the project area home & would benefit from tech/fraud education.

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

Participants will receive modern, secure devices as well as training on how to operate modern technology and navigate online offerings safely and securely.

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

10,000 devices preloaded with training tailored to the low income population will be provided.

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

10,000 low income individuals across 15 Northwest Florida counties located within the areas of the region's two Community Action Agencies.

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

As a result of these devices and the associated training, recipients will be able to establish and maintain connectivity and safely interact with online content and service providers. Their financial health will be more secure and they will have the ability to more confidently interact in modern business settings. The recipient population will be surveyed regarding their success interacting with the devices and the effectiveness of the training.

**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?**

Recoupment of funds.

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
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**



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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

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name



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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.*