



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2721

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Sensory Center Inc, a sensory gym in Hernando County, provides critical support for children and teens with Autism, focusing on adaptive Physical activities, life skills training, and healthy lifestyle education. With Autism rates rising and limited accessible health programs for Autistic children in Hernando county, the center plays a vital role in addressing the health disparity faced by this population. Hernando county has a significant low income population of families with ASD. Autism often coexists with other health challenges such as obesity, gastrointestinal issues, and anxiety. The Sensory Center will expand the sensory gym by incorporating adaptive equipment and gamified interventions that address the physical and health challenges.

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	236,660
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	236,660

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)	236,660	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	236,660	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	Executive Director Salary	59,660
Other Salary and Benefits	Program Director Assistant Director	45,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Health Professionals, Personal Trainers, Nutritional Coaches, Life Coaches, health professionals as required	20,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	2 part time staffers	10,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Rent, utilities, adaptive exercise equipment, sensory materials, gamification training programs	102,000
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)		236,660

13. Program Performance

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

The Sensory Center Inc has been in operation for the last three years. One of the goals is to reach new health goals and to provide a safe, engaging and supportive space where kids can improve their physical health, emotional well being and quality of life through the use of gamification in exercise. The Sensory Gym will be designed to cater specifically to the needs of kids and teens with Autism, offering tailored sensory experiences and interactive games that promote physical activity, motor skill development and social engagement.



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

Exercise programs designed for children and teens with Autism. Socialization and meaningful friendships in our community. To teach our programs to local teens and young adults and hire them to work at the Sensory Center. Getting healthy and learning solutions to aid in this journey.

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

Group health and wellness training, support groups for caregivers, after school programs, yoga classes, life skills, and healthy life workshops, respite for our caregivers and a travel exercise activities for all the community events.

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

Children, teens and young adults with Autism and related disabilities. From grade school to young adult. More than 800 members of our community.

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

Improve the physical and mental health of the Autistic kids and teens in our community. The Sensory Center provides a safe interactive gym where friends will thrive, and get healthy, mentally and physically. We host events to promote and build lifelong friendships for kids and caregivers. Improve quality of life for everyone, caregiver respite, support groups, events that create bonds within the community. Our events bring friends from all over Hernando, Pasco and Citrus counties. To hire local teens with disabilities and coach for future careers this will strengthen local economy.

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?

Failure to meet deliverables results in funds being returned.

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#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:



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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

b. Firm Name



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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.