



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2843

1. **Project Title** Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida, Inc. - Bigs in Blue Mentoring Project

2. **Senate Sponsor** Clay Yarborough

3. **Date of Request** 2/13/2025

4. **Project/Program Description**

Bigs in Blue is an interactive mentoring program offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida (BBBSAF). At-risk youth are paired with assessed and trained adult mentors who become role models and provide positive guidance and direction. Sessions are held in the community, at schools, at workplaces, at BBBS partnering organizations, or virtually. Mentoring activities focus on educational support/academic enhancement, career exploration, experiential learning, and/or developing skills and abilities that will lead to improved potential, confidence & self-sufficiency. The Bigs in Blue program also positively impacts communities by establishing and strengthening mutual friendship and trust between young people, their families, and first responders.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Legal Affairs and Attorney General

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	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	1,500,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	1,500,000		No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.** 1,500,000

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

We are not aware of any other available funds.



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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	Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for BBBS Association of Florida Chief Executive Officer. Based on allocation of time to program. Executive oversight, communicating with BBBS local agencies regarding program goals and activities, maintaining contact with the funding agency to ensure contract goals are met, as well as compliance with contract terms.	7,500
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for BBBSAF Staff assigned to Bigs in Blue program. Based on allocation of time to program. Reporting, staff training, contract and subcontract monitoring and compliance, monitoring budget and ensuring contract deliverables are met, contract/subcontract negotiations. Management of payroll and accounting functions related to invoicing, payment, financial reporting.	48,150
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies, Liability Insurance, Technology/Software, Financial Audit, Travel. Based on allocation in proportion to project needs.	4,350
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Subcontractor services for Bigs in Blue program, through the BBBS Association of Florida local/member agencies. Youth and volunteer/mentor recruitment, eligibility assessment, training for youth and volunteers/mentors, professional support by staff who are monitoring and supporting the Bigs in Blue mentoring program.	1,440,000
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)	1,500,000
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13. Program Performance

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

Big in Blue is an interactive based mentoring program offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida (BBBSAF), facilitated by its local member agencies, that connects youth with first responders in communities, building strong, trusting, lasting relationships. Through high quality, professionally supported mentoring, young people have a greater opportunity to grow up to be confident, competent, caring adults. These relationships build strong bonds between first responders and the families we serve.

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

BBBSAF will manage and provide programmatic and financial oversight to the BBBS local agencies (subcontractors). Local agencies will make and support new and existing mentoring matches between youth and first responders. Matches will receive a range of services: recruitment, assessment, training, matching, monthly mentoring, and match support from a trained BBBS professional.

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

Mentoring activities will focus on educational support/academic enhancement, career exploration, experiential learning, and/or developing skills and abilities that will lead to improved potential, confidence & self-sufficiency. Youth will be mentored for a minimum of once per month. Sessions will be held in the community, at schools, at first responder workplaces, at BBBS partnering organizations, or virtually.

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

The Bigs in Blue program serves youth who are at-risk of poor academic performance, behavioral issues, family dysfunction, and other situations that may lead to negative future outcomes. Mentors are active and/or retired first responders (i.e., law enforcement, EMT, Fire/Rescue, State Attorneys, etc.).

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

Matches meet monthly for site or community-based mentoring sessions with mentors who are first responders to engage in academic enrichment activities and community engagement, such as outings to museums, parks, recreational events. Additionally, matches will spend time job shadowing/career exploration at law enforcement entities. The benefits are that youth will: gain extra support necessary to improve and excel in their academic career; learn about law enforcement or other first responder careers in their community. Those experiences can lead to a more positive & fulfilling future. The Youth Outcome Survey is a BBBS assessment tool used to evaluate a youth's change in skills and behaviors, such as perception of academic performance, social acceptance, competence & risk avoidance, due to participating in BBBS mentoring. Number of mentor sessions and hours are monitored, tracked by BBBS local agency professional staff.

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?

Financial consequences will be assessed at 3% of the reimbursement value submitted for each month during which the deliverable is not met.

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):



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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

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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- 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.