



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2919

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship Program are designed to both raise awareness about careers in the skilled workforce and to provide emerging students with entry-level skills training and work experience prior to entering the private workforce. The Expo is an annual event designed to raise awareness about skilled careers, and the Junior Apprenticeship provides internship opportunities directly to local students matching many of the academic programs currently offered by local colleges, which allows students the ability to gain entry-level skills training on the job prior to entering the private workforce.

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	50,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	50,000

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)	50,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	50,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	100,000	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	0	50,000		Yes

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will cover expenses associated with the planning and hosting of the Leon Works Expo and the Junior Apprenticeship Program. Participants of the Junior Apprenticeship Program will be paid on an hourly basis for work conducted during their designated semester.	50,000
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)		50,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship Program are designed to both raise awareness about careers in the skilled workforce and to provide emerging students with entry-level skills training and work experience prior to entering the private workforce. The goal of both of these initiatives is to reduce the projected unmet local market for middle-skill jobs by providing opportunities for students in the Big Bend region to gain hands-on experience in the workplace and by supporting local existing academic programs in skilled career fields.

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

The Leon Works Expo raises awareness about careers in the skilled workforce and directly connects individuals with workforce training opportunities and prospective employers. The Junior Apprenticeship Program provides work experience opportunities through paid internships matching many of the academic programs currently offered by local colleges.

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

The Leon Works Expo provides opportunities for citizens to connect with workforce training opportunities and engage with prospective employers. Students gain valuable work experience through the Junior Apprenticeship Program.

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

The Junior Apprenticeship program targets local high school students and students currently enrolled in local colleges and technical centers. In addition, through the Leon Works Expo, the program also seeks to raise awareness about skilled careers among high school students and other area residents who may be unemployed, underemployed, or who may be seeking a career change.

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

Increased employment in the local/regional skilled workforce; also increased number of local career/technical education students gaining workplace experience prior to entering the skilled workforce. Reduction in the projected unmet local market for middle-skill jobs by providing opportunities for students in the Big Bend region to gain hands-on experience in the workplace and by supporting local existing academic programs in skilled career fields.

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?

Deobligation 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



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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)
- 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.



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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.