



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2987

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funding a new education wing of classrooms within the Clark Family Center to expand programs to 2,700+ new students, 240 new education classes, 80 additional opportunities for community programming, and completes a total \$7M restoration of the old Pensacola County Jail into a cultural tourism destination for NW Florida, generating a new sustainable annual revenue stream for PLT that reinvests into the arts community at large. The program is tuition-free to Escambia students and helps families expand development skill sets in students like public speaking, self-confidence, and literary comprehension. Total annual impact: 47,000

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	646,000
Total State Funds Requested	646,000

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)	646,000	48%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	319,681	24%
Other	375,000	28%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,340,681	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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/15/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

9/30/2025

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

The matching funds received for the project total nearly \$700,000 completely support the operations of the project and sustain the program and maintenance for a minimum of 25 years. The program provides tuition-free classes to Escambia students, including transportation and healthy meals.

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.

Pensacola Little Theatre, Inc. is owned and operated by its volunteer Board of Trustees and staff. The capital outlay funding directly benefits Pensacola Little Theatre and its historic home, Pensacola Clark Family Cultural Center. No individual persons or owners receive the funding for the nonprofit.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Inside the historic Pensacola Clark Family Center, the funds overhaul the classroom wing of the building, expanding the square footage of innovative instruction area, including professional hardwood sprung floors, ventilation, lighting (facility and stage lighting), light board, sound system, staging, curtains, mirrors, storage cabinets, seating, collaborative learning pods, and rehearsal space.	646,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		646,000



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13. Program Performance

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

Pensacola Little Theatre currently serves over 900 students in our arts education and outreach department, including a traveling program that takes free theatre instruction into Title I schools and community centers. The program has reached maximum capacity, though we have countless other students we aim to serve. This capital outlay project expands our existing structure to include a new wing of classrooms and rehearsal area to be used for our soon-to-launch tuition-free classes, that bring students from low-income families into the classroom to help improve literary comprehension and self-confidence. The program provides healthy meals and transportation to the program.

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

Provided are 240 new family education classes for 2,700+ students – starting students at 4 years old; 80 programs beyond the theatre’s existing 210 programs – from improv, ballet, theatre, and instrumental music to public speaking and character development; usage for community initiatives like EntreCon, CivicCon, and Pensacon. In the classroom, foundational skills are instilled to shape our future teachers, mothers doctors, engineers, performers, representatives, and beyond. The funding builds the project. PLT builds the next generation of proud Floridians.

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

The funds expand an innovative, collaborative educational forum for the community to participate in whether as student or patron. Family arts educational classes, traditional theatre productions, technical skill workshops, reading intensives for public schools and teachers, community events, local business seminars, and tourism initiatives through this project will directly impact our area. The free classes also provide transportation and meals for the students. The operations are privately funded, and this request is to build the education wing inside of an organization that already has proven its ability to make a community impact and ROI and can expand that impact if allowed more capacity.

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

Currently, the nonprofit programs impact over 210,000 visitors annually. This project specifically serves an additional 47,000 in the first year alone. For the tuition-free classes specifically, the Escambia Children’s Trust produced a detailed 54-page study outlining the demand and need for the project, targeting under-performing Escambia County students from ages 4-18 who cannot afford or access public literary educational classes to enhance reading comprehension, verbal communication, and improved literary rates.

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

The outcome is simple - expand arts education opportunities for nearly 3,000 children in Northwest Florida; create 80 new artistic outlets for local self-expression and experience; drive tourism to increase TDT funding with a completed \$7M building restoration to showcase vibrant opportunities in Escambia County; and serve as a resource for significant community and cultural events locally aiming to drive their own missions and audiences. Evaluation will be measured on attendance, registrations, and patron participation. Surveys are distributed for all programs, events, and community collaborations post-execution.

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?

Withholding payment
 With the vast community support for the project which funds the operations of the classes, the support of the State is nearly doubled AND guarantees execution and implementation by the end of the year.

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)



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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

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity



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- 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.