



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3018

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

WOW is an innovative career exploration initiative designed to introduce students to a variety of professions through hands-on interactive experiences. The WOW curriculum provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed educational and career choices after high school graduation and succeed in the workforce. WOW seeks \$1,000,000 in funding to expand its initiatives and offer the program to students in rural counties within the Big Bend region.

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	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	33%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,500,000	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		

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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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	Percentage of salary to oversee financial and program management, and community and stakeholder relations.	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Percentage of administrative expenses, equipment, rent, travel, supplies related to the administration of the WOW program	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Percentage of consulting and contracted services to administer the program	20,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Funding will be used to cover salaries and benefits for 2.5 FTE dedicated to WOW. The positions include a Program Director and Outreach Coordinator.	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will cover expenses associated with the planning and hosting North Florida Worlds of Work, including but not limited to printing, event supplies and equipment, program supplies and equipment, and transportation costs for students attending the program initiatives.	400,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services and consultants will be used to staff the event, support program implementation, and to develop an evaluation tool to measure program success.	255,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The North Florida Worlds of Work (WOW) program seeks \$1,000,000 to bridge the gap between education and workforce needs. The funds will support hands-on career exploration, curriculum enhancements, and workforce alignment for high school students. The goal is to expand program reach, improve curriculum relevance, strengthen partnerships with businesses, and provide immersive learning experiences that prepare students for post-graduation success.

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

1. Career Exploration Events – Hosting expos and fairs, such as the WOW Career Expo and WOW 2.0 Hiring Fair, to connect students directly with industry professionals.
2. Educational Programs – Offering workshops, internships, and training through initiatives like WOW Varsity and Educator Workforce Academy (EWA) to align learning with workforce demands.
3. Technology Integration – Implementing advanced tools like virtual reality for interactive career simulations.
4. Mentoring and Networking – Providing mentorship opportunities and collaborations with local businesses and industries.

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

- The program provides students with:
- Career Readiness Training – Students receive exposure to career pathways, internships, and certification programs.
 - Skill Development – Hands-on learning experiences that match workforce needs, improving job readiness.
 - Workforce Access – Immediate employment opportunities facilitated through hiring fairs and internships.
 - Educational Equity – Focused outreach to rural and underserved communities, ensuring all students have access to opportunities.

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

The project targets high school students in Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Franklin, Jefferson, Taylor, and Madison Counties. It prioritizes underserved communities and aims to expand county participation. The program expects to serve more than 5,000 students annually, providing equitable access to career readiness programs and hands-on training .

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

- Expected Benefits:
1. Enhanced Career Readiness – Students develop skills and gain exposure to career pathways, improving post-graduation employment rates.
 2. Economic Growth – Increased local economic activity through a better-prepared workforce and new hires from job fairs.
 3. Educational Improvements – Higher alignment between school curricula and workforce demands, leading to better academic engagement and graduation rates.
- Measurement Methodology:
- Surveys and Feedback Forms – Evaluations from students, parents, and employers to assess impact.
 - Attendance and Participation Data – Records of student involvement in events, internships, and workshops.
 - Post-Program Tracking – Monitoring job placements, certifications earned, and enrollment in further education.

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 performance measures or contract deliverables will result in corrective action plans and/or other financial penalties.

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)



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- 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:

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



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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

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.