



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3189

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

4. Project/Program Description

The project is to build a new, future-ready home for the Harry Chapin Food Bank, called the Hunger Action Center. This facility will enhance the Food Bank's ability to serve the community, expanding its capacity to distribute fresh food and support local partners in the fight against hunger. Features include an expanded warehouse with improved refrigerated storage, increased food distribution, state-of-the-art equipment, and enhanced facilities for volunteers and staff. The Center will also provide essential services such as a food pantry, community meeting spaces, research facilities, and a clean room for safe repackaging of bulk produce. Located near major highways, the facility will boost visibility and efficiency while supporting the growth of programs to address the root causes of food insecurity in the region. Additionally, by sourcing food locally from area farmers, the Hunger Action Center will strengthen relationships with local agriculture and contribute to the local economy.

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	3,300,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,300,000

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)	3,300,000	6%
Matching Funds		
Federal	9,062,213	19%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	36,388,882	75%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	48,751,095	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?

08/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2026

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

As part of our multi-faceted approach we have secured a generous \$3 million grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation as part of our larger \$42 million campaign. To date, we have raised nearly \$13 million, even before the campaign has officially launched. This early success demonstrates strong support for our mission and sets a solid foundation for reaching our goal. With the support of our dedicated development team, we continue to secure funding from diverse sources.

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.

Harry Chapin Food Bank, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the owner of the facility.

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	Refrigerated racks, coils, humidity controlled room, heat reclaim cabinets, humidity cabinets: \$1.2 million Partitions, ceilings, man doors, accessories: \$1.1 million Erection, submittals, freight, tax: \$1.0 million	3,300,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,300,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The funds requested will be used to support the installation of a refrigeration system and refrigerated dock in our new Hunger Action Center. This will enable us to significantly increase our distribution of fresh food, enhance food safety standards, and expand our ability to source fresh food locally from area farmers. By doing so, we will not only improve the quality and quantity of food available to our community but also strengthen our relationships with local farmers, contributing to the local economy.

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

The cold storage, cold storage freezer, and refrigerated dock are critical components of our plan to provide fresh food to those in need. These facilities are part of a larger project designed to expand our capacity and efficiency in food distribution. The funds will enable us to immediately increase our product storage and handling space from 38,991 sq. ft. to 58,700 sq. ft., allowing for a 56% increase in food distribution capacity, from 45 million pounds to over 80 million pounds of food per year. The expanded storage will include specialized areas for both cold and dry food, with 832 cold pallets and 1,856 dry-storage pallets, organized with state-of-the-art equipment and high-efficiency freezers and coolers. This upgrade will improve food safety, enhance operational efficiency, and create room for future growth, including emergency food supply storage and the potential addition of a kitchen. Additionally, the new facility will provide better access and traffic flow.

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

The direct services provided to citizens by this appropriation project will focus on sourcing, storing, and distributing fresh, perishable food to the community. With the increased cold storage capacity, we will be able to source and store more fresh food from local farmers—much of which would otherwise go to waste. By expanding our relationships with local farmers, we can not only provide nutritious food to those in need but also support the local economy. This project directly benefits the community by addressing food insecurity while also contributing to local agriculture and stimulating economic growth through increased local sourcing.

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

The target population served by this project consists of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in Southwest Florida. Approximately 1 in 8 local residents are expected to go hungry at some point this year, with many facing economic challenges such as rising living expenses—rent, transportation, child care, medical care, and insurance—that outpace their incomes. Hunger is further exacerbated by personal emergencies or natural disasters. The population most affected includes working families, seniors, veterans, and individuals who may be temporarily out of work, experiencing illness, or caring for others. As SWFL continues to grow, the number of people facing hunger is expected to increase, especially among those with lower incomes. This project allows us to increase our food distribution from 45 million pounds per year to over 80 million pounds annually, to meet the growing demand. Additionally, our service population includes 32% children, 19% seniors, and 49% families.

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

This project will enhance the Harry Chapin Food Bank's capacity to serve those experiencing food insecurity in SWFL. By expanding storage capacity, particularly for fresh and perishable items, and strengthening relationships with local farmers, the project will enable the Food Bank to source, store, and distribute more nutritious food—particularly fresh produce and protein. It will increase food distribution from 45 million pounds to over 80 million pounds annually, while also supporting the local economy. Success will be measured by the increase in pounds of food distributed, tracked through our data collection methods. Ultimately, the project will improve access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and families, while fostering long-term sustainability in addressing hunger.

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?

In addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures, the contracting agency may consider several additional penalties. These could include financial penalties, such as the deduction of a specified percentage of the contract value for each missed milestone or failure to meet performance measures. Payment may also be withheld until the organization completes the deliverables to the satisfaction of the agency, ensuring that funds are only released when performance expectations are met. Furthermore, the organization could be subject to more frequent or detailed progress reviews and audits to ensure the project stays on track for successful completion. These measures are intended to encourage timely and efficient project execution while holding the organization accountable for meeting agreed-upon standards.



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14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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:

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



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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

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.