



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3345

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Immokalee Foundation provides a proven career pathway for students in Immokalee to become SW Florida's workforce in high-demand careers focusing on Engineering & Construction Management, Business Management & Entrepreneurship, Education & Human Services, and Health Care. Career exploration begins in middle school, and TIF guidance and support continue to employment, including career education, internships, tutoring, mentors, academic advisors, career counseling, and mental wellness services.

Last year, The Immokalee Foundation's Career Pathways program was awarded the Florida Leadership Impact Award for the business or nonprofit whose impact is transforming our region's future. Career Pathways is a model program that can be expanded and duplicated with the potential to transform Florida as a whole.

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	205,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>205,000</b>

**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)	205,000	6%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	3,432,527	94%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>3,637,527</b>	<b>100%</b>

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)?

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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salary support total \$594,860. Support for salaries is requested for 20% of total costs. Required services include one-on-one career advising, paid internships in their areas of interest, hands-on learning experiences, and transportation to career activities. 100% of students graduate high school. Our student support services lead to 87% of postsecondary graduates working in a FL high-need professional career.	120,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Total cost \$165,000 for Student Stipends \$125,000 and Internship transportation \$25,000, Internship support including Construction Learning Lab materials \$15,000. STEM Summer Camp at Florida Gulf Coast University \$160,000. Immokalee is a REDI/RAO community and without attendance at camps and internships, their opportunities are extremely limited. Request is for 51% of needed funds.	85,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>205,000</b>



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#### 13. Program Performance

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

The Immokalee Foundation (TIF) provides a proven career pathway for students in Immokalee to become SW Florida's workforce in high-demand careers focusing on Engineering & Construction Management, Business Management & Entrepreneurship, Education & Human Services, and Health Care. Career exploration begins in middle school, and TIF guidance and support continue to employment, including career education, internships, tutoring, mentors, academic advisors, career counseling, and mental wellness services.

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

Our services provide after-school and summer programming for students to explore in-demand career fields in Southwest Florida. Elements include career counseling, certification attainment, internships before high school graduation, career action plans, and exposure field trips. Summer camps, in partnership with postsecondary institutions, offer expert instruction and exposure field trips.

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

Funding will enable students in Immokalee to explore in-demand fields and postsecondary options beyond their rural setting. Services include one-on-one career advising, paid internships in their areas of interest, hands-on learning experiences, and transportation to career activities. These initiatives will equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to build a strong regional workforce.

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

The Immokalee Foundation serves a projected 1,300 students annually and has served 16,726 students since 1991. The students we serve are economically disadvantaged, at-risk elementary students, middle and high school youth, and postsecondary students. 100% of these children and youth live in Immokalee, a REDI & RAO community.

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

Growing Florida's economy by increasing the number of workforce-ready professionals. A recent study at the Tampa Bay region shows \$1 billion in economic gains if college enrollment increased by 10%.

100% of The Immokalee Foundation students graduate from high school and enter a college program, get a job in their career field or enter the military. 93% of the Foundation's postsecondary students complete their degrees with 89% earning a bachelor degree or higher and 87% working in their field of study, thus a state-wide model for building a skilled workforce and growing and expanding Florida's economy.

The Immokalee Foundation measures outcomes including graduation rates, grades, attendance, and participation. Students meet with Advisors to review their metrics regularly. Metrics are also presented to our Board of Directors annually. The most impactful metric is 87% of our postsecondary graduates are working in their career field and contributing to Florida's economy.

##### 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?

If mid-year and annual metrics are not met and no acceptable remediation plan is not in place, no further state funds will be awarded.

Metrics will include:

- 100% on time graduation rate and enrollment in postsecondary program, work in their career field or enter the armed forces within 6 months.
- 100% of eighth grade students will enter high school with a Career Action Plan to guide their high school and postsecondary studies and extracurricular activities to ensure their job success.
- 75% of postsecondary program graduates will earn a bachelor degree or higher.

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

##### a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?



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- 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**

**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.*