



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3463

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

According to the Florida Department of Corrections 2022 Recidivism Report, Putnam County has the highest recidivism rate over the last 36 months. This initiative, in partnership with Operation New Hope, will expand A-STEP (Academic Support Through the Employment Process) to Putnam County with the desired outcome of reducing the recidivism rate.
 Report Here: <https://fdc.myflorida.com/pub/recidivism/RecidivismReport2022.pdf>

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	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

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)	400,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	400,000	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	500,000		No

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.**

The organization is continuing to work on partnerships in the philanthropic community and utilize other diverse streams of revenue. We need help continuing to grow the program while we work towards sustainability.



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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	50% of the Putnam County Program Manager	36,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Salary and benefits are restricted for direct program operational costs. Funding will support a college navigator, case manager, and instructor.	127,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Direct program expenses include expenses for students educational courses and materials and other gap funding a client might need to achieve their education and employment goals. Additional expenses include housing and transportation.	237,000
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)		400,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Reduce recidivism by providing a 50 - 100 individuals who have been affected by the justice system, in Putnam and surrounding counties, with access to postsecondary education opportunities to elevate earning potential and job security by securing industry credentials and certifications. In addition, providing necessary wrap around services including job placement, mental health therapy, housing, transportation, and much more.

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

Provide services which include pre-release and post-release services. On the pre release side, we can provide certification and training opportunities for the clients. On the post release side, the A-STEP team provides 1 on 1 case management including connecting clients with other needed social services, educational planning for the clients program of choice, job placement and retention services.

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

Direct Services includes an in-person interview to discuss academic program selection, college navigators assists candidate with program enrollment, financial aid applications, course selection and creating a plan to remove any barrier one might have. Additional services include child care, transportation, financial literacy, and additional wraparound services needed.

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

Those citizens affected by the justice system. We have a current MOU with the Department of Justice and a referral relationship with the local correctional institution in Putnam County. Serve 50-100 people affected by the Justice System.

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

Individuals will be provided with education and employment opportunities to gain meaningful employment. Outcomes will be measured by certifications achieved, recidivism rates, and jobs placed. The expected outcome is a measurable reduction the recidivism rate for Putnam and surrounding counties. Our goal is for the future FDC Recidivism Reports to show these counties with a meaningful reduction in the 36 month rate.

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?

There are significant final penalties associated with nonperformance and not meeting project targets.

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



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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.