



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3467

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Casa Valentina bridges the gap in external support for youth transitioning from foster care to independent living. We offer safe, affordable housing paired with comprehensive wrap-around services to help young people navigate this critical life stage. Our goal is to expand our life-skills programming, providing tailored support to individuals aged 13-23 who are preparing to exit foster care or are at risk of instability.

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	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	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)	300,000	86%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	50,000	14%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	350,000	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	100,000	318A	Yes

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.

In lieu of state funding, Casa Valentina is successfully leveraging and supplementing resources through individual donations and support from other grant-making partners. Despite not receiving funding from the State this fiscal year, we prioritized this program by utilizing operational dollars to ensure the continuity of services. This highlights our commitment to maintaining critical support for our youth while diversifying our funding streams to sustain this program.



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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	Overseeing program fidelity; providing supervision to the Program Director; attending internal meetings.	38,500
Other Salary and Benefits	Salary, FICA, health for one (1) Program Director, and three (3) Program Coordinators. The Program Director will serve as liaison between direct service staff and management, as well as provide supervision to three Program Coordinators. Program Coordinators who will be responsible for delivering life skills workshops to youth across Miami-Dade County.	221,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultants will serve as support for the program coordinators who are responsible for delivering life skills workshops.	40,000
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		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Casa Valentina addresses the abrupt transition from foster care to independent living, by filling in the gaps in external support. We provide safe & affordable housing, and intensive wrap-around services. We want to extend the life-skills based programming. Staff provides support services to youth and young adults ages 13 to 23 on the cusp of transitioning out of foster care and/or are otherwise at-risk.

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

Whether in a classroom, at one of our non-profit partners, or a DCF-approved placement facility, Casa Valentina delivers life skills services to any youth in the child welfare system of care. They participate in life skills group meetings and life coaching sessions lasting one to two hours.

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

The participants engage in individual life coaching sessions and life skills group meetings regularly. All sessions focus on the five pillars of success for youth transitioning into independence: 1) Education, 2) Employment, 3) Money Management, 4) Self-Care and 5) Household Maintenance. Activities are tailored to the participants' individual needs with the ultimate goal of making youth more resilient and self-sufficient.

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

We will be working with economically disadvantaged youth who are considered at-risk of homelessness and/or involved in the foster care system, as well as youth in high school. We anticipate serving between 500-800 youth.

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

We anticipate that youth will improve the quality of education; enhance their specific economic self-sufficiency; and improve in other key areas of general life skills in order to support them as they grow. Outcomes are measured through evidence-based methodologies such as the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment.

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?

Moneys will be deducted if deliverables are not met according to the agency's guidelines for compliance.

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#:



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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.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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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.