



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2103

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This program request builds on last year's appropriations to continue serving youth of all abilities, including those with special needs, providing equitable access to physical activity, social-emotional learning, and character development. Funds will also support the expansion of programming to reach dependent youth facing debilitating mental and physical challenges, fostering independence and personal growth through inclusive engagement. By integrating the ethos of the First Tee, the program empowers all participants regardless of ability, through golf-based activities that teach life skills, promote teamwork, and strengthen decision-making. Expanding programming education to additional schools and reaching out to rural and underserved communities, we aim to empower our youth and equip them for a successful future.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	300,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	150,000	33%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	450,000	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		
2025-26	0	300,000	111	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.



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Potential sources of funding could include private donations, corporate sponsorships, local business partnerships, foundation grants, fundraising events, and in-kind support from community organizations. While these sources help sustain ongoing operations, they are not sufficient to support the expanded program capacity, staffing, specialized training, and increased service demands this project requires. State funding provides the stability and scale needed.

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	25 Positions; Program Director, Lead Coaches, Program Coordinators, Data Compliance and part-time instructors.	205,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Child appropriate academic equipment & curriculum. non-capital, Nutrition for program participants-healthy meals & snacks, Field Trip Transportation for on-course experiences, Facility rental fees,, Community Clinics, Printing & Publications-name tag credentials, printed materials, program certificates, badging gamification supplies, Background screenings, Staff training & Accounting.	95,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	300,000
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13. Program Performance

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

The specific goals of this initiative are to:

1. Expand Access: Establish new program sites within middle schools and community centers, particularly in underserved neighborhoods such as Griffin Heights and rural surrounding counties.
2. Promote Healthy Lifestyles: Provide regular physical activity through golf instruction that enhances coordination, balance, and fitness while promoting lifelong wellness habits.
3. Build Character and Life Skills: Deliver evidence-based lessons aligned with First Tee's Core Values—including integrity, perseverance, and respect—to improve youth confidence, decision-making, and interpersonal skills.
4. Ensure Equity and Inclusion: Offer transportation, equipment, and scholarships so that financial barriers do not limit participation.
5. Develop Future Leaders: Foster teamwork, responsibility, and leadership among participants to encourage engagement in school, family, and community life.

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

First Tee- Tallahassee will provide structured golf instruction and life skills education for students in grades 5-8. Participants will engage in hands-on lessons that promote coordination, balance, teamwork, and problem-solving while learning First Tee's key commitments, including integrity, perseverance, and respect. Services include program sessions led by trained coaches, transportation, equipment, and scholarships to ensure equitable access. Family engagement events and community showcases will strengthen school and neighborhood connections. These activities support positive youth development, leadership, and lifelong healthy habits.

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

The appropriation will provide free access to structured youth development programs that combine golf instruction with life skills education for students in grades 5-8. Participants will receive direct instruction from trained coaches, mentorship, and opportunities for physical activity that promote health, confidence, and character growth. Services include weekly program sessions, transportation assistance, and access to all necessary equipment and program materials. Families will also benefit from community golf events and engagement opportunities that strengthen family connections and promote wellness.

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

The project will serve approximately 400+ youth in grades 5-8 from underserved neighborhoods in Leon, Jefferson, Gadsden, and Wakulla counties, including areas such as Griffin Heights. These students are predominantly from low-income families, with many qualifying for free or reduced lunch, and have limited access to structured after-school enrichment programs. The program is designed to reach middle school youth during a critical developmental period, providing equitable access to physical activity, life skills education, and mentorship to foster academic, social, and personal growth.

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

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved confidence, resilience, and decision-making among participants.
- Increased physical activity and knowledge of healthy habits.
- Strengthened community connections and leadership development among youth.
- Greater access to positive, structured programs in underserved areas.
- Measured via pre/post surveys, skill assessments, attendance tracking, and feedback from participants, parents, and coaches.

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?



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In the unlikely event First Tee -Tallahassee does not meet required benchmarks, the organization will return all appropriated funds tied to unmet deliverables. First Tee will comply with all state rules and regulations governing appropriations contracts. If any project component is not completed, First Tee acknowledges that penalties may apply and will return funds for all unfulfilled elements.

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



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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

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.