



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2425

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Pace Center for Girls in Lee County provides academics, counseling, and therapy to at risk girls in middle school and high school. The project will allow Pace to upgrade and remodel our current facility which will increase capacity and allow us to provide the environment needed for education and healing. Upgrades will be focused on enhancing safety, security, health and wellness in the school and therapy programs.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,600,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,600,000

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)	1,600,000	99%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	19,000	1%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,619,000	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		

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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 07/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 06/30/2027

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

Pace Lee receives funding from the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Education for services rendered as part of our program model. The remaining funds are comprised of grants, corporate sponsorships, individual donations, and local fundraising efforts. Pace Lee has 3 major fundraising events annually and a fundraising board that consists of 21 members to lead the charge in fundraising efforts.

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.

Jennifer Cellitti, Executive Director-Pace Center for Girls Lee.

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	Funds will be used to upgrade the facility to sustain and expand services for our day school and therapy programs. Funds will focus on safety, security, health and wellness. Upgrades focused on enhancing safety and security include cameras, door locks, controlled access points, fencing, intercom systems, and alert systems. Upgrades focused on health and wellness renovations include upgrading HVAC equipment to allow clean air, new flooring, painting, and an outdoor recreation space for school	1,600,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,600,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Requested funds will be used for capital improvements to enhance the safety and security of our aging school facilities and improve the health & wellness of the students we serve. Pace purchased and remodeled our current building in 2013 with the help of a robust capital campaign. Since then, we have invested tens of thousands of dollars in additional repairs, upgrades, and remodels to expand our capacity and continue meeting the growing need for mental health and academic services for girls in Lee County. While we celebrate the thousands of girls whose lives have been changed at Pace, there is a growing need to repair and upgrade our aging facility.

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

Requested funds will be used for capital improvements to address lingering damage from Hurricane Ian and enhance the safety and security of our aging school facilities. Activities include construction and building upgrades to improve the security of the learning environment for our girls, replacing HVAC clean air intake units, installing an outdoor recreation space, and expanding dedicated space for our Reach therapy program to serve more girls.

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

Funding will support direct services to at-risk girls ages 11-17, who are facing challenges such as academic failure, family instability, or victimization, by providing a safe and secure facility to continue offering an evidence-based model of services that integrates education, counseling, life skills training, and advocacy to help girls achieve academic success and well-being.

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

Each year, Pace serves approximately 150 middle and high school girls, ages 11-17, who reside in Lee County. Students exhibit a minimum of three of the seventeen risk factors identified by the Department of Juvenile Justice which may include academic failure, truancy, and family instability. Other risk factors include physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect, mental health disorders, early sexual activity, and prior arrest history.

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 enable us to sustain and increase the capacity of our existing programs that provide critical mental health services, academic support, and substance abuse intervention resources that help girls to increase their resiliency and develop the skills to lead productive and engaged lives in the community. Success will be measured by the completion of the proposed projects which will result in enhanced safety and security measures and improved health & wellness at our facility.

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?

Failure to meet deliverables will result in return of funds to administering agency.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

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



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- 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

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)



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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.