



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 3402

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Center Presents Wonder Works: Florida Youth Innovation and Workforce Skills Initiative is a multi-county, youth focused program that strengthens creativity, innovation, and workforce readiness among Florida youth. The program delivers hands on, project based learning that connects creative thinking with real world career pathways, emphasizing problem solving, collaboration, communication, and skills aligned with Florida's future economy. Funds will support statewide expansion of Wonder Works, providing innovation learning, design challenges, career exposure, and mentorship for students, while also supporting design work to ensure a future campus meets statewide needs.

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	700,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	181,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>881,000</b>

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)	881,000	18%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	4,000,000	82%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>4,881,000</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		
2024-25	0	1,000,000		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.**



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In the absence of state funding, the project would be supported through a combination of private philanthropy, corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, and earned revenue. These sources would allow for partial program delivery; however, state funding is critical to achieving full scale implementation and equitable access across all intended service areas.

## 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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

10/1/2028

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

4/1/2033

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

Ongoing operations and maintenance will be supported principally through earned revenue with about 30% of annual revenues coming from private philanthropy, corporate partnerships, and grants. No state funding is requested for ongoing operations or maintenance at this time.

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.

Not applicable. The Center does not own any facilities associated with this project, and no fixed capital outlay funding will be used. Programming will occur through temporary use of partner or host sites. No facility owners will receive funding directly or indirectly under this request.

### 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	State funds will not be used for executive compensation. All requested dollars are dedicated to direct program delivery to ensure maximum public benefit, accountability, and measurable outcomes for Florida students and communities.	0
Other Salary and Benefits	Supports program delivery staff directly engaged in providing innovation learning experiences to students statewide. These roles are essential to delivering services that improve educational outcomes and build Florida's future workforce skills.	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Covers materials, technology, and logistics required to deliver programming across multiple Florida communities, including student project supplies, mobile activation resources, and travel for program staff to serve participating schools and partner sites.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Engages trained facilitators, creative professionals, and employer partners to deliver programming and evaluate workforce skill development. Contracted services ensure high-quality instruction, measurable outcomes, and local job creation across participating Florida communities.	150,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		



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Salary and Benefits	Funds will support program managers and delivery staff responsible for coordinating and facilitating Wonder Works innovation programming in schools and community settings statewide. These roles ensure consistent delivery, student engagement, and achievement of measurable education and workforce outcomes.	150,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds cover direct costs associated with statewide delivery including transportation of program materials, venue logistics, technology, and student project supplies. These expenses ensure access for communities across Florida, particularly where enrichment opportunities are limited.	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Supports employer-aligned curriculum development and independent evaluation to ensure the program meets targeted outcomes and delivers a strong return on investment for taxpayer dollars. Contracted services reinforce accountability and continuous improvement.	50,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The Center will conduct a building program analysis, cost estimate, site analysis and conceptual design process to begin the development of a center of creativity and innovation to serve Wonder Works programming and other programmatic pillars in a first-of-its-kind innovation campus.	181,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>881,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

Funds will expand Wonder Works programming statewide to deliver innovation learning, design challenges, career exposure and mentorship for students. Programs strengthen communication, collaboration and problem solving to improve education outcomes and prepare youth for high demand jobs. A portion of funds will also support planning & design work to ensure the future campus meets statewide needs.

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

Wonder Works is a statewide initiative delivering innovation learning experiences that build critical workforce skills in Florida youth through design challenges, mobile activations, career coaching exposure, film storytelling, and positive community engagement.

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

Direct services will deliver free innovation learning experiences that connect students with real world career skills through workshops, challenges, and mentorship, strengthening talent and preparing youth for Florida's high demand jobs.

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

The project will serve youth and their families, with a focus on at risk and economically disadvantaged students, across three counties in South Florida. During the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 program period, the initiative is expected to reach more than 20,000 children and adolescents (between two years and all programs).

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

The expected outcomes of this project include increased youth engagement in innovation and workforce skills programming, improved readiness for future education and employment pathways, and expanded access to high quality learning opportunities for youth and their families across three counties in South Florida. Outcomes will be measured through participant enrollment and attendance data, program completion rates, pre and post program surveys, and facilitator evaluations assessing skill development, engagement, and overall program effectiveness.

**f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties**



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**for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?**

If deliverables or performance outcomes are not achieved as planned, the contracting agency may require a corrective action plan and adjust payment schedules until progress is demonstrated. Regular reporting will support transparency and allow timely improvements to ensure the responsible use of funds and fulfillment of project goals.

**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**



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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

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.*