



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1018

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Women of Tomorrow Mentoring & Scholarship Program partners with 200+ professional mentors and 115 public-schools in Miami-Dade, Broward & Palm Beach counties to create pathways out of poverty for 3000 at-risk girls each year (17,000 since inception in SFL), prevent high school dropouts (96% graduation rate), increase access to technical/higher education (83% enrollment), and equip at-risk girls with tools needed for academic resilience and success in today's workforce. Technology and database enhancements would support and expand engagement with mentors, school coordinators, staff, and Alumnae Network; in-person mentoring and career-focused fieldtrips, vocational college campus visits; & ensure sustained engagement among alumnae as a bridge for at-risk girls as they develop in their academic, vocational and professional careers. This request will also ensure school coordinators experience strategic training ensuring long term engagement and re-engage a number of inactive schools.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	666,548
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>666,548</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	666,548	40%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,000,000	60%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>1,666,548</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	500,000	110	No

9. Is future 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.

Women of Tomorrow is primarily funded through community partners, individual, foundation and corporate donations. WOT would leverage state funding to secure matching funds from loyal private donors.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

WOT received \$252,502 in Paycheck Protection Funds in FY 2020-2021 for employee retention/payroll costs.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction

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?

12. 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.

13. 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	50% Alumnae Manager, 20% Program Director, 15% for two Program Coordinators and stipend for School Coordinators for a total of 23 schools (\$500.00 per school)	125,827
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Software and Technology: people search services career and aptitude assessment test, portal and app enhancements, supplies, networking/educational engagements, training, travel, shipping and transportation. Direct Program Costs to purchase resource materials, training videos, printed materials and awards for school programs.	352,471
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultant/vendor to record student/alumnae video profiles, software specialists to ensure program adaptability & sustainability ensuring all programs are accessible to our students and alumnae.	188,250
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>666,548</b>



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

State funding this year would leverage the existing resources and tools to provide enhanced in-person group mentoring sessions, and career discovery focused field trips, and college campus visits. State funding would also accelerate the ongoing work of the Alumnae Network, including and not limited to people search services for re-engagement, including career and aptitude tests for students, WOT App and portal enhancements networking and job opportunities/resources for the program's network of 3,000 active mentees and over 17,000 SFL student alumnae. Job boards and tangible career resources would be introduced to senior students in the program in addition to training videos and resources to the Alumnae Network, which would include a job shadowing program. Job shadowing would be organized in collaboration with our business partners, matching student requests. Funding from this grant would activate a number of inactive schools.

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

In times of economic uncertainty and inflation, our program will further enhance employment prospects for at-risk women and girls, WOT will provide aptitude assessment tests and self discovery tools allowing students to assess their skills for targeted job markets in an economy with increased inflation. A number of inactive schools will also be activated - encouraging new mentees to experience the program. The new program resources will complement and underpin the development of mentee life plans to equip them with the tools they need to sustain their academic and professional career paths upon graduation. Senior graduates will be integrated into the Alumnae Network, thus providing them with broader scope of opportunities either through higher education and/or workforce placement and job shadowing experiences (in collaboration with our business partners.)

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

Mentoring sessions, career focused field trips, and college campus visits for at risk women and girls; training videos and mentee video profiles to enhance networking and job opportunities for the program's network of 3,000 active mentees and over 17,000 SFL alumnae mentee graduates; aptitude and skills assessment tools to correlate skills to targeted job markets ensuring their financial independence and self-sustainability. Mentoring program resources for a number of inactive schools and the at-risk girls in those communities. Through our group mentoring program, our students also make a positive impact influencing their family and communities as they transform their lives.

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

3000+ at-risk girls in 115 public high schools, 200+ professional mentors, and 17,000 program alumnae in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties.

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

The program inspires and empowers at-risk girls to envision and achieve greater goals for themselves, through academic resilience achieving their full potential, helps them avoid risky behaviors, prevents high school dropouts and increases access to technical/higher education. Their success will be measured through metrics reporting - monthly - quarterly and annually. Methodology: measured through graduation rates, online digital platforms, in-person school visits and summit feedback surveys.

Currently 96 percent of students in the program graduate from high school; 83 percent have firm plans to enroll in higher education; Over nine out of ten mentees have pursued higher education supported by more than \$6.3 million in scholarships awarded to graduating seniors; 90 percent of mentees report the program has had a significant impact on their lives.

##### 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 the contract?

Women of Tomorrow would return unspent funds to the state.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

##### a. First Name

Jennifer

##### Last Name

Valoppi



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**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

#### 16. 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**

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**