



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1717

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Miami Lighthouse Academy provides services for students who are Blind/Visually Impaired who live within Miami-Dade County, Florida. The academy provides services for Miami-Dade County Public School Students who are visually impaired from K-2nd grade. To qualify to be in the school, students must have an updated eye report from a doctor stating they are legally blind, have peripheral field loss, or have a neurological visual impairment inhibiting vision. The services provided on site are standard curriculum instruction, braille instruction, assistive technology instruction, expanded core curriculum instruction, and low vision accommodations (such as large print, screen reader technology). The school capacity is 30 students, of which all are blind/visually impaired. The instruction includes four teachers of the visually impaired, one O & M Specialist, two ESE certified teachers, one Occupational Therapist, one Physical Therapist, and one Speech Therapist.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>200,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	200,000	18%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	83,626	8%
Local	274,907	26%
Other	518,487	48%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>1,077,020</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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.



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State funding is leveraged by \$877,020 primarily made up of grants and other fundraising activities such as events and requests from private donations. Major funders that support The Miami Lighthouse Academy are Miami Dade County Public Schools, The Children's Trust, The Spencer Foundation, and The Wildflower Foundation.

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.

## 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    
  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?

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	Prorated portion of Executive salary and benefits	2,600
Other Salary and Benefits	Prorated portion of Administrative staff	15,392
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	General Insurance, Audit Fees, General Office Supplies, Computers, etc.	2,800
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Prorated portion of facilities and public relations	5,408
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Prorated portion of 10 Full Time Equivalents plus benefits (20%) for teaching staff.	102,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program supplies, occupancy costs, and student transportation	40,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Nursing, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Security	31,800
<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>200,000</b>



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

The Miami Lighthouse Academy will utilize the requested funds to provide additional services and materials for K-2 students who are blind/visually impaired to be given the expansive supports needed to adapt, modify, and be provided access to the general education curriculum and activities of daily living skills.

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

Providing educational opportunities for students with visual impairments requires an explicit hands-on approach that implements materials and requires key support personnel. Services include: direct on site services by four Teachers of the Visually Impaired which include braille instruction, low vision adaptations, blind specific curriculum (expanded core curriculum) instruction, blind specific assessments (Oregon, ILSA, FVLMA), assistive library instruction, and assistive technology instruction. Full day (8:30-2:40) general education teacher led instruction following Miami Dade pacing guide and the standard curriculum for the state of Florida. Teacher to student ratio of 3:1 to provide explicit hands-on instruction for each student's unique needs.

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

Services and materials require funding that is needed to ensure the agency can provide all these resources for blind/visually impaired students. Services that will be implemented include braille instruction and materials (braille paper, braille writers, braille note takers, tactile graphic paper), low vision adaptations (lessons in large print, screen reader devices and apps, slant boards, magnifiers) and bringing in manipulatives to represent real world objects.

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

The targeted population are Miami-Dade County students with blindness/visual impairment grades K-2. Students are receiving services through the Miami Lighthouse Academy. With additional funding and resources, these numbers can grow to support upwards of 30 students.

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

Students will have access to expert led instruction and materials that reduce barriers for them to receive an appropriate education. The agency utilizes statewide assessments (FastBridge, Fast) 2X per year, blind specific assessments (EVALS, Oregon Project Assessment, FVLMA) 2X per year, and data from IEP related goals to track student success and improvements over time. The data is quantitatively tracked to measure student growth, and benchmarks met relating to same age peers on a standard curriculum statewide.

**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?**

Penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures include a percentage decrease in funding for failing to report:

- a. Final Narrative Report of program
- b. Final breakdown and justification of budget categories including direct costs, administrative costs, student costs.
- d. Final Financial Report
- e. Final invoice for incurred expenses.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

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

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information



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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