



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3179

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

4. Project/Program Description

Prodigy Cultural Arts is a juvenile delinquency prevention program that utilizes the arts to teach life skills to over 45,000 high risk youth ages 5-17 across 10 counties in west central Florida for over 23 years. According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, over 99% of youth enrolled in Prodigy do not get into trouble with law enforcement thus lessening the burden on the state juvenile system, increasing public safety and saving the state millions of dollars. Prodigy classes are taught in person by professional artists where youth learn problem solving, anger management, communication, leadership, career development and other life skills through various art disciplines. One year of Prodigy services cost below \$2,000 per student enrolled making it one of the most cost-effective youth development programs.

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	3,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	3,500,000

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)	3,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,500,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	1,500,000	500,000	1373	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.
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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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Yes

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

The amount was \$560,000 from PPP II and it was used on safety equipment and general operations/support.

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer	120,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Site liaisons, data analyst, classroom instructors, assistant instructors, HR/Payroll Staff, Accounting Staff	1,055,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program materials, supplies, art and music equipment, field trips, travel	875,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Direct program costs for Prodigy host organizations (contractors) and instructors to implement classes, community outreach, direct instruction, field trips, data collection, purchasing of supplies and equipment.	1,450,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The funds will support program development, classroom materials, professional instructors, art, music and dance supplies, data collection and reporting, field trips and other program management tasks. For over 23 years, Prodigy has served over 45,000 youth across West Central Florida with a 99% non-recidivism rate. Since 2011, Prodigy has been funded by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice at 4.4 million dollars, in 2017 the program was caught up in a shift moving "after school" providers under FDOE. Prodigy was cut by 3.3 million dollars and hundreds of youth went without services, which juvenile delinquency rates soared. The program was moved back to DJJ in 2018 but funding was not restored.

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

Prodigy Cultural Arts implements classes, both in person which are taught by professional artists. Classes consist of a variety of arts disciplines which are infused with life skill activities to teach anger management, leadership, problem solving, and communication skills. Activities such as field trips, educational workshops, mentoring sessions, community events and showcase are also included. Showcases are high level talent shows where participants show off their artwork or stage or music productions to share what they have learned throughout the year.

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

Participants enrolled in Prodigy receive a life skills and risk assessment to gauge what type of services they need. This may include other services such as mentoring, tutoring, or case management. They also receive their choice of art classes or music, dance, photography, performance and others. Participants (and their parents) also receive workshops on academic enrichment, career development, parent/child communication, money management and other life skills all taught by professionals. Lastly, Prodigy staff do outreach calls and case management to help keep youth on track.

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

2500 youth ages 5-17 from 10 west central Florida counties are expected to be served. Prodigy targets communities in which law enforcement has deemed at risk for high levels of crime and delinquency. Youth are enrolled who are or have seen to be at risk for school dropout and other delinquent behavior. Prodigy serves west central Florida communities from south St. Petersburg over to Tampa, to Lakeland and to the other side of I4 in Orange County. Prodigy also serves rural communities such as Lacochee (Pasco) and Sebring/Avon Park (Highlands).

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

Prodigy is monitored by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and each month Prodigy has to submit tracking data to DJJ to see how the youth are doing, if they have had contact with law enforcement and if they are completing classes. The main goal of Prodigy is to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system. The latest DJJ's CAR (Comprehensive Accountability Report) reveals that over 99% of Prodigy youth did not get into trouble with law enforcement when enrolled.

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?

If Prodigy does not meet the deliverables, DJJ imposes a corrective action plan in which agencies work on their improvements within an allotted time frame. These improvements are documented in a system called PMM and is regularly checked by DJJ staff. Once the action plan is complete, there is a review by DJJ to determine if all corrective goals and deliverables were met. If not, penalties persist including a possible reduction of funds or termination of contract.

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