



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1077

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

In Palm Beach County, Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) eligible customers may qualify for a discounted TD Fixed Route Bus Pass if they meet household income guidelines that fall between at 150% of the Federal Poverty Level or below. Depending on their income, the customer qualifies to purchase the monthly pass for unlimited trips for \$15 or \$20 instead of the full price of \$70 per pass. This program will allow qualified applicants access to the unlimited pass, drastically increasing their mobility and ability to access employment, medical, and community services.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

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)	2,000,000	34%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	3,197,090	55%
Local	631,182	11%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	5,828,272	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	994,550	1915A	Yes

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

Partial local funding may be available

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

Yes



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

Palm Beach County is the recipient of CARES Act funds from the US Treasury in the amount of \$261 million dollars. Funding was spent entirely for emergency assistance, mortgage assistance, business grants, COVID-19 sheltering, testing, and isolation and emergency personnel. Palm Beach received approximately \$290 million in American Rescue Plan funding for pandemic-related service and infrastructure projects.

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
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: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding will go directly to offset operating costs and reduced revenue in order to provide the discounted bus passes.	2,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The goal of securing funds is to improve transportation options for the low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Palm Beach County. Through reliable transportation residents are given the opportunity for economic mobility and to access important services in the community. The transportation disadvantaged bus pass program provides an affordable alternative to vehicle ownership which has become more important due to the current economic downturn. These passes encourage paratransit riders to also utilize fixed route services thus increasing efficiency across the entire public transit system.

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

Palm Tran conducts a thorough eligibility process of applicants to ensure that only qualified residents can access the discounted bus passes. Following income verification, customers are then able to purchase the discounted pass. Palm Tran staff continually provide education and outreach to customers regarding the application process so that funds are used to their fullest extent.

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

The monthly distribution of a bus pass at a discounted price of \$15 to \$20 from the regular price of \$70 for 31 days of unlimited fixed route travel. Through the discounted pass, residents are able to directly access public transportation that includes over 30 fixed routes across Palm Beach County.

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

The Transportation Disadvantaged program seeks to provide transportation for those dependent upon others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high risk or at-risk as defined in s. 411.202, F.S. Currently, around 7,000 residents utilize the discounted bus pass, but eligible applicants exceed that number. Palm Tran expects an increase in applicants due to the economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Palm Tran tracks the number of individuals served under the program and number of passes sold. The measure of benefit will be the number of trips taken by participants in the programs and savings realized by having access to the pass. The annual review for re-certification will be the best measure of success. Individuals will go from the \$15 to the \$20 program and eventually no longer qualify due to increased income.

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?

Funding should be curtailed from the agency if funds are not used in whole.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

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



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- 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**