



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1358

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The Pediatric Vision Center and its programs is a partnership between the USF Health Eye Institute and Lions Eye Institute that provides vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, treatments and surgical interventions, dispenses glasses as needed, at no cost to children who are uninsured and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged. Vision disorders that affect early learning have the best outcomes if treated by the age of 8. The PVC will provide this region with early intervention, follow-up care, STEM education, eye anatomy and eye health education and could serve as a model for pediatric health and education for the State of Florida.

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	670,436
Fixed Capital Outlay	79,839
Total State Funds Requested	750,275

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)	750,275	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	787,000	51%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,537,275	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	750,275	524	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.**

Public private partnerships including individuals and corporate gifts, program partners and special event fundraising.

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.

On April 10, 2020, Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research Inc received a loan of \$1,525,900 to fund payroll, rent, and utilities through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This loan was forgiven in January 2021. On February 1, 2021, the organization received a second loan of \$1,729,233 to fund payroll, rent, and utilities, which was forgiven on August 2021.

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.

Outlay is to create a community education and screening/exam space. Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research would receive the funding and wholly owns the facility at 1410 N. 21st. Street, Tampa FL 33605. We have a programmatic partnership with USF Health Eye Institute where they will provide comprehensive eye exams and surgical procedures at their facility located at 17 Davis, Tampa FL or Tampa General.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Foundation Executive Director - 10 hours per month to oversee program deliverables, raise awareness in the community of program, and serve as point of contact for contract.	12,500
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	6 positions - 1. Pediatric Optometrist to provide exam (\$60,000 = 50% of salary) 2. Licensed Optician to make glasses (\$48,000). 3. Optometric technician to assist optometrist/optician (\$41,000y). 4. Vision Screener to conduct screening (\$45,000) 5. Social worker to provide patient follow-up services (\$56,000) 5. Community Outreach Specialist (\$54,000) to connect with schools. Benefits at 25%.	394,120
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Medical equipment and supplies needed to conduct screenings, perform exams, make and distribute glasses (\$164,441), mileage for staff to travel to schools and community events (\$6,000), ocular tissues and materials for STEM programming, study, and training (\$50,000), background checks for 5 employees (\$1,500), tablets (2) (\$1,525) and wireless printer 1 (\$350)	223,816



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Creative/Marketing to produce materials needed to promote services to community and create patient follow up and STEM educational materials (\$25,000 includes printing). Curriculum Teacher Specialist to create age appropriate STEM materials (\$15,000)	40,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Build out for community screening, exam and education room - includes necessary demolition, painting, drywall, furniture, AV, signage, etc.	79,839
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,275

14. Program Performance

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

Provide vision screenings, eye exams, eyeglasses, referrals to the University of South Florida (USF) for surgical interventions and create age-appropriate STEM curriculum for eye education purposes to underserved children ages 0-17, primarily uninsured, enrolled in VPK, Title 1 schools and/or in living in low-socioeconomic communities. These services are provided at no cost and are designed to improve school performance, prevent blindness, increase access to health care for the uninsured, and assist families.

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

The Pediatric Vision Center and its programs is the first facility dedicated to pediatric vision care in our region, becoming a hub for ocular health in our region by offering new treatments and serving as a learning destination for students. Children will receive vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, early intervention through dispensing glasses, and treatments/surgical care. We will also provide public health education for students, caregivers, school nurses, community centers, etc. regarding ocular health and prevention. Screenings, limited exams, glasses and education services are provided by Lions Eye while more comprehensive clinical exams and surgeries are provided by USF.

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

Vision screening services, eye anatomy 101, hygiene practices, education to prevent avoidable blindness, STEM curriculum at age-appropriate levels, comprehensive eye exams, eyeglasses and surgical intervention if needed.

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

Economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, preschool, grade school and high school students. If we understand that vision problems result in skill deficiencies, difficulty in reading and learning, and poor academic performances - which, in turn, create feelings of failure, low self-esteem, and lack of interest in academics - then the connection between vision problems and life problems becomes clear. Hillsborough County Public Schools is in the top ten largest school district in the country, serving 218,505 students at 311 schools. According to Plan Hillsborough, 40% of Hillsborough County residents are living below the poverty line. A large portion of our children cannot receive the comprehensive eye care that they need and deserve. This impacts their ability to achieve success academically and has a domino effect after they leave school.

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

In its study "Abandoned in the Back Row: New Lessons in Education and Delinquency Prevention," the Coalition for Juvenile Justice reported, "The biggest finding is that school failure is one of the earliest and best predictors for future delinquent and criminal behavior." The expected outcome is that children in the Tampa Bay region are given the best opportunity for success in schools and in life. We will track the children who are screened and who receive comprehensive eye exams, glasses, and treatments through the program, follow-up with school nurses, parents/caregivers to ensure the children receive the follow-up care and early intervention that they need.

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?

The equipment and all assets would be liquidated and funding returned to its original source.



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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
- 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