



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2158

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

Our program is for at risk teenage girls, ages 13-18, who identify as BIPOC, who face challenges, and who seek safe spaces and mentorship. It is designed to enhance quality of life, deepen their sense and knowledge of self and the world around them, and ensure a successful transition into adulthood. The organization provides them with resources and opportunities that they may not otherwise have access to, which can help to close the achievement gap and provide a more equitable future for teenagers.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</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)	500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  No

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?  No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

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.

\$30,000 for payroll and programming related expenses.

## 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	The budget allocation includes a base salary for the Executive Director, as well as benefits such as health insurance, retirement contributions, and paid time off.	60,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Hiring of accountant, executive assistant, program manager, volunteer coordinator, marketing manager, community resource specialist	140,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program expenses including trainings, event planning, excursions/outings	200,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Hiring of mental health counselors	100,000
<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>500,000</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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

Our goal is to reach 300 teenagers over the next five years and to expand our program to more tribes throughout Miami-Dade Palm Beach and Broward Counties and surrounding areas. Our Annual membership gives our GEMS access to a tribe, connection spaces, weekly mentor hours, quarterly retreats, community service hours, workshops, field experiences, private online community, mentors, and like minded individuals. Our program addresses the whole child, including their mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

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

GEM CULTURE offers an annual membership program, GEM SESSIONS, which gives the GEMS access to gender specific programming using a hybrid model that includes:

A GEM Tribe consisting of three mentors, 25 GEMS, and two mental health counselors. Connection Spaces, monthly in person meetings, monthly virtual meetings, mentor hours (schedule varies per semester and is based on mentor availability and mentee need), quarterly GEM retreats, quarterly in-person retreats that bring together GEMS to participate in glamping, guest GEM Mentors, workshops, and team-building activities, community service hours. Life skill workshops, field experiences and a private online community for GEMS only.

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

GEM CULTURE is a non-profit organization that provides safe spaces and mentorship to divergent thinkers and creatively gifted teenage girls, ages 13-18, who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color (BIPOC) and who face challenges such as limited enrichment opportunities and economic resources. Our goal is to provide services for 300 at risk youth.

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

Expected benefits include exposing students to cultural enrichment outside of their neighborhoods, enhancing creative learning and improving mental health and educational attainment, creating access to mental health counselors outside of educational setting. Programs are designed to improve mental health and economic status to reduce or prevent interaction with the juvenile justice system. Methodology will use case study, interdisciplinary research/approach, surveys and educational performance metrics.

**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 may include reduction in funding, decrease in resources for programming and cancellation of contracts.

**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



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#### 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