



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1287

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

We Love Books is a mobile literacy outreach program making a measurable impact on grade leveling reading in Pinellas County. The program is operated by certified teachers that disguise learning by tutoring from a mobile literacy bus. Each literacy bus can provide K-3rd grade students with 75 minutes of free tutoring each week and serve 120 students annually. Funds allocated in this year's budget will allow our teachers to reach an additional 250 students in the 2020-21 school year.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted? Yes No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="257,700"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="000"/>
Total State Funds Requested	257,700

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="257700"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="100.0"/> %
Matching Funds		
Federal	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="29"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Local	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="26"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Other	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="30"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	257,785	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes No
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes No
- If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	\$59,700 will be allocated to fund the program director position. The position will be held by the Founding Director. The position will be responsible for daily operations throughout Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. The Founding Director is a certified Title 1 teacher and obtained an Ed.S in Counseling and Education.	59,700
Other Salary and Benefits	\$12,500 will partially pay a PTE site coordinator, whom will report directly to the Director. Responsibilities include mobile program logistics, supplies and maintenance.	12,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	ED travel expenses	6,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Professional development for tutors- training and program evaluation	11,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will be allocated for capital equipment to be retrofitted into mobile classrooms, commercial insurance, bus maintenance, books and educational supplies. Books and educational supplies will focus on cultural enrichment, vocabulary development, currency and civic engagement for early learners. \$45,000 is fixed capital outlay for two RV purchases and retrofit.	103,300
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds will be allocated to pay extended day tutors and drivers to staff two additional buses. The We Love Books mobile literacy program offers year round learning to mitigate summer learning loss and strategically partners with schools and recreation centers in communities with the greatest deficits in reading proficiency.	65,200
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		257,700



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11. Program Performance

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

The specific goal that will be achieved by the fund request is that our mobile literacy outreach program will enroll 240 more K-3rd students in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties, greater than 65% of participants will read proficiently by the end of the year-round program, and attain greater life outcomes. The mobile approach allows teachers to partner with existing agencies and programs, without having to utilize their space or train existing employees in critical components of literacy.

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

Bees Learning's teachers and trained professionals offer an innovative, practical and evidenced-based solution to increasing literacy rates in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. Two additional literacy buses, serving an additional 240 students in grades K-3d, will partner with Pinellas County Schools, City of St. Petersburg parks and Tampa Parks and Recreation Department. The program is designed as outreach to alleviate the transportation barrier that many low-income families face when seeking quality tutoring services for their families. Each participant receives 75-150 minutes of engaging literacy instruction each week and 44 weeks annually. Literacy activities are project-based and small group instruction based on the following components of literacy instruction: phonics, vocabulary, writing skills, fluency and comprehension. Activities include a culturally-relevant interactive read-aloud paired with a vocabulary activity, writing group and teacher led reading group.

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

Each participant in grades K-3rd will receive either 75 minutes or 150 minutes per week of tutoring in language arts. Each class is 75 minutes. Students that are substantially deficient in reading, as assessed by Independent Reading Levelling Assessment, can attend two classes per week. Bees Learning partners with the Pinellas-based nonprofit The Kind Mouse Productions to offer take-home snacks to each participant. The program targets healthy minds and healthy bodies and brings these resources directly to families through a mobile platform.

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

The target population served by this project is students in grades K-3rd that attend schools rated C or lower or that qualify for free or reduced lunch. We Love Books mobile literacy program partners with schools, libraries and recreation centers in communities and neighborhoods where students attend lower-performing charter and public schools. The appropriations request will allow our teachers to provide weekly tutoring to an additional 240 students. Quarterly outreach events and book drives will reach another 800, making the total participation over 1,000.

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

The expected benefit of the appropriations project is that at least 65% of K-3rd graders enrolled in the We Love Books mobile literacy program will achieve grade level reading by the end of the 2020-21 school year. Four annual data points provide teachers with information with which to track reading growth in the area of fluency and comprehension. The evidenced-based measurement tool used to track growth is Independent Reading Leveling Assessment by American Reading Company. Monthly vocabulary pre and post assessments track vocab development and bi annual writing assessments track adequate development of writing skills.

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 in the contract?

Suggested penalties for failing to meet performance measures are that funding will not be awarded in the 2021-22 state budget.



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12. **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.**

Fixed capital: two buses/RVs that will be retrofitted into mobile classrooms. Bees Learning currently has three buses and the appropriations project will bring that total to five. Bees Learning, Inc. will be the sole owner of the property.

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.