



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1530

1. Project Title Pediatric Vision Health Program at Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research

2. Senate Sponsor Darryl Rouson

3. Date of Request 01/14/2021

4. Project/Program Description

The Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research is investing in a Pediatric Vision Health Program that will provide vision screening services for underserved pre-K students, a demographic that has been impacted greatly by the pandemic. Vision disorders will be identified, such as amblyopia and strabismus - diseases that have a chance of better visual outcomes if diagnosed by age eight - and also a refraction screening that will determine if a child will benefit from glasses. In addition, the program would offer STEM-based educational opportunities, eye anatomy and health education with referrals to ophthalmologists as required.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Health

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	234,925
Fixed Capital Outlay	15,075
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	250,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	500,000	100%

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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 150,000

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

Private fundraising opportunities, although competitive, can be solicited.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1530

Yes

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

\$1,525,900 in PPP funds were used to stabilize the operations for the core mission of our organization as an Eye Bank and Ocular Research Center.

11. 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	A creative consultant and a teacher will be engaged to develop a lesson plan and creative health content that is age-appropriate, fulfills STEM requirements and will be designed for knowledge to be retained by children long-term. We will also be providing children with information on hygiene practices that can protect them from viruses, such as coronaviruses and flu, and will prevent them from touching/rubbing their eyes.	10,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Part-time vision screeners who will work during the school year and travel to schools to conduct vision screening services. Vision screeners will also provide screenings to students during field trip programs held at Lions Eye Institute.	45,810
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Vision screening certification for each screeners (good for three years), level II background check, membership to Nat. Assoc. of School Nurses, SPOT autorefractors (4), BLINQ screeners (4), clinical and ocular supplies, travel.	179,115
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Replace carpet with laminate flooring, paint, update electrical, replace awning.	15,075
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

12. Program Performance

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

Since 70% of classroom learning depends on the visual system, students with uncorrected vision problems are at a tremendous disadvantage before they even enter the classroom. A study shows 25% of all students suffer from undiagnosed vision problems. Among juvenile offenders, it is estimated that 70% have undiagnosed vision problems. Vision screening is of utmost importance throughout infancy and early childhood as it can detect a treatable abnormality that can otherwise lead to permanently decreasing vision. Children in the Tampa Bay area will receive a vision screening that can identify a vision problem so they can have the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1530

The Vision Health Program at Lions Eye Institute will become a new learning destination for students. We will develop educational curricula to teach students about how eyes work and how to care for them, including general hygiene practices such as not touching your face with your hands, especially not your eyes, that can prevent viruses from entering the body. The curricula taught will be grade-level specific and aligned with the core competencies being taught at that age. Students will receive vision screenings performed by certified screeners. The next step would be providing services to students who need their vision corrected. Most cases will be solved by dispensing a pair of glasses. Or the student will be referred to an ophthalmologist or optometrist for a comprehensive eye exam.

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.

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

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 8th largest school district in the country, serving 214,386 students at 304 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 through the program and follow-up with school nurses to ensure the children receive the follow-up care 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.

13. 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.

The owner of the facility and the applying entity are the same.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1530

14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name
b. Firm Name
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number