



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1306

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

Fit Kids of America (Fit Kids) has provided After-School and Day Camp programs to Miami-Dade County Pre-K to 8th grade students for more than 25 years. Its Co-Founders, Connie Sootin and Rhonda Smith have a life-long commitment of serving their communities and ensuring that FK offers quality academic and cultural enrichment programs to students through specialized youth fitness training, team sports, STEM and robotics project-based instruction, nutrition education programs that nurture the emotional fitness, mental health wellness and cognitive development of our youth. Fit Kids offers extended program hours and financial assistance throughout the year to support the parents and children who need it most. Fit Kids has won several prestigious awards for their work and dedication for the communities they serve, including Miami-Dade County Public Schools "Exemplary Partner Hall of Fame Member" and The Children's Trust 2018 Champions for Children "Program of the Year".

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	521,114
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>521,114</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	521,114	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 2024-2025</b>	<b>521,114</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

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.
- N/A



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

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

Fit Kids of America qualified for the Payroll Protection Program in order to keep our most valued asset, our highly trained and qualified staff who remained employed throughout the pandemic.

## 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    
  N/A

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.

Fit Kids of America is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization, and therefore does not have owners.

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Staff Needs: (2) LICENSED TEACHERS -\$74,480 (2) PE COACHES -\$36,680 (2) JANITORS-\$67,280 (2) RECEPTIONISTS -\$45,184 (2) REGISTERED BEHAVIOR THERAPISTS -\$73,920	297,544
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses: SPACE- \$57,570 UTILITIES- \$38,400 OFFICE SUPPLIES- \$28,000 PROGRAM SUPPLIES- \$99,600	223,570
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>	<b>521,114</b>
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#### 14. Program Performance

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

This funding will be used to serve students Pre-K-12, with quality after-school and day camp programming in the under-resourced/under-served community in Miami-Dade County, Florida focusing on Holistic Engagement and Enrichment. Our goal is to support the development of all children who will become academically engaged, physically fit, socially adept, and culturally enriched and to mature into independent and successful citizens for the future. Fit Kids utilizes evidence-based strategies-curricula-enrichment programs; which include: Academic Success-Homework Assistance, FAB 5 & SPARK-SPORTS, LEGO-VEX (STEM), Meet the Masters & Arts-In-Action-Arts and Culture which align with state-academic-standards to provide daily homework assistance, literacy, differentiated learning instruction (DLI), fitness-team sports, social-emotional learning, snacks-supper. Children also receive instruction and experience a variety of enrichment activities such as field trips.

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

1. Provide comprehensive programming to K-5 students with a focus on Arts & Culture (theatre), STEM (technology, mathematics) and Sports for after-school and summer camp programming.
2. Provide comprehensive programming to 6th-8th grade students with a focus on STEM (technology, engineering) and Sports for summer camp programming.
3. Provide academic programs that support school day learning. (Homework assistance, tutoring, differentiated literacy instruction, social-emotional learning and wellness, basic health and wellness). Nutrition Education, Snacks & Meals will be provided.

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

1. Visual Arts will help students develop positive attitudes towards other cultures and build self-esteem and pride. They will produce numerous multi-media creations for which an art background is not necessary because all lesson plans are scripted and illustrated.
2. Students will learn STEM through Game Design, which is as inherent to student learning as reading, writing, mathematics, and other core subjects. Game Design concepts can be integrated as early as Kindergarten and carry students through 12th grade in a planned pathway to prepare them for future success. 6-8th grade students will also build robots. FK is preparing students for future success in a STEM field.
3. Students will experience improved life skills and character development through Sports activities designed to fit the needs of all the students FK serves.
4. Financial assistance and support for the parents and families of all the children in our program.

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

The Fit Kids of America "K-12 Focused on Holistic Engagement and Enrichment" program proposes to serve 255 (K-5) Participants through After-School, Summer program Participants, 315 (K-5), 60 (6-8) Graders, 23% Children with Disabilities (CWD). Our program is fully inclusive and serves children of all abilities. SEW and REDI are woven throughout all curricula and activities that are provided for participants. FK serves a predominant number of first-generation American families. English is not the primary language spoken in the home, and over 95% of the population is Hispanic, with an obesity prevalence of 48.7%, at risk and vulnerable. Ten of twelve of the partner schools are Title I schools with enrollment of over 90% of students coming from socio-economically disadvantaged homes on the Free/Reduced lunch program.

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



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Expected benefits and outcomes of this projects:

1. Literacy Skills: Children at the frustrational level improve to instructional or mastery level.
  2. Increase in overall knowledge and participation in health and wellness activities.
  3. Student Program Satisfaction: An average score of 3 or higher on satisfaction items captured, indicating children and youth generally "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" that they are satisfied with the program.
  4. Parent Program Satisfaction: an average score of 3 or higher on satisfaction items captured, indicating children and youth generally "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" that they are satisfied with the program.
- Impact will be measured through quantitative and qualitative data collection from students, parents, and staff. Student level data includes baseline data, and data from pre/post-surveys. This focus is on individual data and moving each student forward in incremental steps based on the program they are participating in.

**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?**

Reduced funding if these measures are not met.

#### 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**