



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1577

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Research shows that foster youth are less likely to finish high school or become employed & have difficulty maintaining employment. Funding will prepare foster teen moms & at-risk teens for the workforce through civics, educational, vocational, medication management, mental health, and life skills training. Many girls that arrive at Hands of Mercy are in 10th or 11th grade but have a 3rd or 4th grade education level. This is frustrating for them and discourages them to attend high school. This prep vocational program will give them the education and life skills they need so that they can experience a framework for economic freedom and become an adult. We appreciate First Lady DeSantis supporting this project through Hope Florida's \$15,000 donation in September 2023. The City of Belleview donated the building for this project and Marion County has provided the funding to renovate the building. Construction will be completed by March 2024.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	594,900
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	594,900

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)	594,900	46%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	583,000	45%
Other	121,500	9%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,299,400	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2019-20	0	100,000	113	Yes

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.**

This is funding to start-up the workforce program. In 2024, Hands of Mercy Everywhere will be merging with Lutheran Services of Florida. They will include the funding for this project in their general funding requests in 2025.



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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.

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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Education, Vocation, and Life Skills Director (Salary: \$65,000, Benefits: \$5,100)	70,100
Other Salary and Benefits	Educational Program and Volunteer Coordinator: \$59,100 (includes benefits/up to 10 volunteers) Part-Time Assistant: \$25,000	84,100
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Tables, chairs, desks, copiers, books, laptops, and educational materials/curriculum for the students (\$20,000) Travel Expenses include gas to drive the teen moms to interviews and to their jobs. This will help them save money to purchase their own vehicle. (\$10,000)	30,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	4 Teachers (\$45,000 with Benefits): \$200,400/Childcare Professional: \$50,100 includes benefits/ Transportation Professional: \$50,100/ Full-Time Counselor: \$70,100 (includes benefits)/ Part-Time Counselor: \$40,000 (will work nights and weekends). Counselors will assist with medication management, consistency of programs, and evaluations.	410,700
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	594,900
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14. Program Performance

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

The funding will allow us to provide educational services for foster teen moms, teens in foster care, and youth who are at-risk of sex trafficking including life skills, job training, mental health support, medication management, DJJ support, and include an aging out of foster care support group. It will include GED tutoring and civics courses.

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

Many teens that arrive at Hands of Mercy Everywhere are in 10th grade with a 4th grade education. Many are not able to attend regular high school because they are so far behind academically. This funding will allow us to provide a real life and prep vocational education for the teens.

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

Prep Vocational and life-skills education.

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

Girls in foster care that are teen moms or are pregnant, teens who have been/are at risk of sex trafficking.

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

The expected outcome of this project is that these teens who have not been able to receive an education because of life situations will be able to get a job, become an adult and be able to take care of their babies. The methodology will be measured by how many teens complete the program, obtain jobs and own a car.

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?

Reversion of funds to the state.

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



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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