



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3043

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

4. Project/Program Description

A child's vision plays a crucial role in their academic performance. Vision issues in children impact cognitive, social, and physical development, as well as their future health and overall well-being. The Pediatric Vision Center and its programs is a partnership between the USF Health Eye Institute and Lions World Vision Institute that provides vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, treatments and surgical interventions, and dispenses glasses as needed, at no cost to children who are uninsured and/or socioeconomically disadvantaged. Vision disorders that affect early learning have the best outcomes if treated by the age of 8. Our comprehensive approach, including STEM education and community outreach, will have a lasting impact on thousands of children with vision issues, not just in Tampa Bay but nationwide. This initiative not only promotes eye health but also serves as a model for healthcare facilities actively contributing to their mission through innovation.

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	645,489
Fixed Capital Outlay	104,511
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	787,000	51%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,537,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	450,000	539	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

Public private partnerships including individuals and corporate gifts, program partners and special event fundraising.



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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.

On April 10, 2020, Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research Inc received a loan of \$1,525,900 to fund payroll, rent, and utilities through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This loan was forgiven in January 2021. On February 1, 2021, the organization received a second loan of \$1,729,233 to fund payroll, rent, and utilities, which was forgiven on August 2021.

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.

Outlay is to create an community education and screening/exam space. Lions World Vision Institute would receive the funding and wholly owns the facility at 1410 N. 21st. Street, Tampa FL 33605. We have a programmatic partnership with USF Health Eye Institute where they will provide comprehensive eye exams and surgical procedures at their facility located at 13330 USF Laurel Dr 4th floor, Tampa, FL 33612 or Tampa General.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	20% of Executive Director to manage and oversee the program deliverables, raise awareness in the community of program, and serve as point of contact for contract. 25% of Foundation Specialist salary to manage reports and budget for the program.	42,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel for meetings and clinics for administrative staff above.	500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	3 FTE and 2 PTE positions. 50% of Pediatric Optometrist (FT) to manage staff and ensure proper ocular care is provided and an effective referral process is followed (\$57,000). Two (PT) licensed Opticians to fit eyeglasses by filling a refractive prescription from the optometrist or ophthalmologist. (\$48,000 total). Vision Health Coordinator (FT). Using a clinical case management model, this position makes referrals to outside agencies, provides educational resources, and assists in the coordinat	268,750



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Medical equipment and supplies to conduct screenings, perform exams, make and distribute vehicles via fully outfitted mobile vision clinic including vehicle purchase (\$286,239.00), supplies to provide 300 pairs of glasses at stand-alone clinics (\$10,500), printing of educational materials (\$5,000), Mileage for travel to and from schools and community clinics (\$2,500),	304,239
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Vision Screeners at \$125 per clinic (\$5,550 for 50 clinics), Ophthalmology fees at \$400 per clinic to conduct exams (\$10,000 for 25 clinics). Creative/Marketing to produce materials needed to promote services to community and create patient follow up and STEM educational materials (\$15,000 includes printing).	30,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Build out for community screening, exam and education room - includes necessary demolition, painting, drywall, furniture, AV, signage, etc.	104,511
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

14. Program Performance

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

Provide vision screenings, eye exams, eyeglasses, referrals to the University of South Florida (USF) for surgical interventions and provide age-appropriate STEM curriculum for eye education purposes to under served children ages 0-17 primarily uninsured, enrolled in VPK, Title 1 schools and/or in living in low-socioeconomic communities. These services are provided at no cost and are designed to improve improve school performance, prevent blindness, increase access to health care for the uninsured, and assist families.

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

Our Pediatric Vision Center, mobile vision unit and early intervention programs will ensure that children have the best opportunity for success in the classroom, and in life. Vision screening, glasses as needed, and education services would be provided by LWVI while patients needing more comprehensive eye exams will be referred to our clinical partner, the USF Eye Institute, which will provide exams, clinical care and surgery if required. A program vision health coordinator will assist students and families by helping them understand the process of treatment, compliance and follow-up care.

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

The appropriation project will provide children a range of direct services, including vision screening, complete eye examinations, provision of eyeglasses and, if necessary, surgical interventions for eye-related issues. Additionally, citizens will have access to educational programs covering eye anatomy basics, hygiene practices, and guidance to prevent avoidable blindness. For children, there will be age-appropriate STEM curriculum. Moreover, the project will also connect individuals with social service agencies designed to help lift families out of poverty and improve their access to healthcare.

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

Economically disadvantaged individuals, including at-risk youth and students from preschool to high school, that face vision problems often result in academic challenges, low self-esteem, and reduced interest in learning. Hillsborough County Public Schools, one of the nation's largest districts, serves 224,149 students in 311 schools. In Hillsborough County, where 40% of residents live below the poverty line, many children lack access to essential eye care, impacting their academic success and future prospects. This issue also extends to neighboring counties, such as Pasco, Manatee-Sarasota, and Pinellas.

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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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 and who receive comprehensive eye exams, glasses, and treatments through the program, follow-up with school nurses, parents/caregivers to ensure the children receive the follow-up care and early intervention 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.

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**