



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2094

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Teens struggling with addictions have hope and earn their diplomas at Victory High Schools! Florida Recovery Schools of TAMPA BAY, Inc., a non-profit organization with 3 sober schools in Tampa Bay: Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties. Our primary goal is to save young people's lives! Our goals are to improve school attendance, reduce dropout rates, increase graduation rates, reduce relapse, improve mental health, reduce cost to society, and improve emotional wellness and self-regulation. Funding will provide our deserving students an Education, Mental Health Services, and Recovery Support to succeed substance free with a diploma. Our mission is to empower students ages 14-19 through a therapeutic, emotionally, socially, and spiritually safe environment with high-quality education to grow academically.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>300,000</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	300,000	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 2025-2026</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24		100,000	378	No

9. Is future-year 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.



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## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 10. 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?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. 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.

### 12. 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	The Executive Director is the key management leader of Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, Inc. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing administration, fundraising, volunteer management, programs, implementation of the strategic vision of the organization, and supervision of staff and volunteers. The Executive Director is selected by, reports to, and is accountable to the Board of Directors.	20,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Operations Manager, Academics Manager, Recovery Support Manager, and Caregiver Advocate are all vital roles to the success of Victory High Schools. O.M. maintains operational excellence. A.M. develops academic success plans for each student. C.A. will support Caregivers of our students. R.S.M. develops recovery wellness plans.	80,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Customized Academic Curriculums and the development of Education Success Plans, Academic Advising, development of Recovery Wellness Plans, Recovery Support Groups and Therapy, Individual Mental Health Counseling, Mentorship Program for past graduates to receive job coaching, workforce development, and peer to peer certifications to provide mentorship to students.	200,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	300,000
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#### 13. Program Performance

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

We are respectfully requesting your consideration for support toward our 3 non-profit private schools to continue classes to revive the lives of our teens struggling with addictions. Victory High Schools are in the Tampa Bay area where our students will receive a second chance and a recovery focused education in a healing centered environment with mental health services, and recovery support. Our primary purpose is to save young people's lives! Our goals are to improve school attendance, reduce dropout rates, increase graduation rates, reduce relapse, improve mental health, reduce cost to society and improve emotional wellness and self-regulation.

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

We are confident through our wraparound services of mental health services, recovery support and education, we will fill the gaps in services in Tampa Bay for this population of unique young people as well as meet their unmet needs. The most powerful tool to combat isolation with COVID19, Substance Use Disorders, Co-Occurring Disorders and mental illness is connection. Victory High Schools, with your help, will create a safe, healing centered learning environment fostering a sense of connection and will save lives! Our mentorship program is for graduates to receive job coaching and provide mentorship to students.

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

Our students will be provided a second chance with the following direct services: Academics, Mental Health Counseling, Equine Therapy, Individualized Recovery Plans, Trauma Informed Care, Brain Performance Coaching, Vocational Job Training, Performing Arts Classes, Leadership Training, Expressive Art Therapy, Support Groups, Fitness and Wellness Classes, Peer to Peer Mentorship, Mentors through our Community Leader Lunch N Learns, Yoga, Asset Building Community Development and many more opportunities to set them up for substance free success.

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

75 females and males ages 14-19 years old with substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders will receive an education, mental health services, and recovery support. Most of our students are adopted and have had involvement in Florida Department of Children's and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, and most have co-occurring disorders. Before attending Victory High Schools, our current students have survived 27 drug overdoses, and 15 suicide attempts. Victory High Schools saves lives by addressing their childhood trauma, providing mental health and recovery support so they will earn their diplomas sober!

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

Improve attendance for students to be 80% or higher. Attendance will be recorded daily by the teacher. Improve recovery rate centered on long-term abstinence from drugs and alcohol will be 60% or higher. Each student will be randomly drug tested. Results will be documented in file by counselors and reviewed weekly among mentors. Provide youth with effective mental health services, interventions, skills, and treatment with demonstrated success. 90% participation rate of students. Documented in file by Mental Health and Behavioral Specialists.

##### 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?

Balance of expended funds will be returned to the state if deliverables or performance measures are not met.

#### 14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

##### a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)



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- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

**17. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**18. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization**

**b. Municipality and County**

**c. Organization Type**

☐ For Profit Entity



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- ☒ 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  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*