



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2951

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

At-risk youth in Hillsborough & Pinellas counties are served through programs addressing food insecurity, economic instability, legal challenges, mental health & more. Food Packs for Kids ensures 625 children receive weekend meals, with plans to expand 420%. Rental & utility assistance, domestic violence relocation & legal aid provide stability, while GED prep, career training & financial literacy equip youth for self-sufficiency. Trauma-informed therapy & young parent support address critical mental health & family needs. Community Drives supply hygiene items, back-to-school supplies, toys & holiday meals to those in need. Funding supports program expansion, local job & infrastructure creation & environmental sustainability. Vehicle purchases will improve service accessibility, ensuring youth can reach critical resources while enhancing food supply distribution. Additional initiatives provide educational workshops, life skills training & mentorship to help youth build a stable future.

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	3,324,500
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,324,500</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)	3,324,500	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	8,500	0%
Other	15,000	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>3,348,000</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		

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.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2951

We are currently applying for grants, we have submitted several and will continue to do so. We will reach out to local counties and cities for assistance. We will continue to ask for volunteers and donations. We will have fundraisers.

## 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	Exec Director of Ops & Exec Director of Programs: crucial roles for expanding services to at-risk youth in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. With state funding, a 420% increase in the Food Packs for Kids program is expected, along with expansion into Pinellas County & the growth of critical initiatives like rental & utility assistance, legal aid, mental health support, education, GED support, & job training. Strong leadership will ensure efficiency, fiscal oversight, and program.	136,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Nonprofit Leadership Conference - Leadership conference for nonprofit leaders is a valuable investment in staff development. These conferences offer essential training on best practices, effective management & new trends in the sector, helping to improve the ability to deliver impactful programs. EDs will gain skills in leadership, fundraising & financial oversight, while also building connections with peers that may lead to new partnerships &/or funding opportunities. This profession.	6,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Necessary administrative supplies, fuel and vehicle maintenance, volunteer engagement, donor appreciation, professional association fees and dues.	139,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Insurance, social media and website management, marketing, rent on two office spaces (one in Hillsborough and one in Pinellas).	117,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

**LFIR # 2951**

Salary and Benefits	8 jobs with full familial benefits including professional development for hires coming from served communities or program graduates, includes grant writer, grant manager, project managers and assistant project managers.	651,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Food, storage & supplies for packing 2625 food packs weekly (1625 in Hillsborough and 1000 in Pinellas); education program/initiative materials, expenses and supplies; toys to cover any deficit in toy drive; school supplies to cover any deficit in Summer Backpack drive, funds to cover Rental Assistance, Utility Assistance and Legal Aide Initiatives; 3 vehicles (2 cargo, 1 transport) necessary to deliver supplies & provide access to vital services: office computers and furnishings for offices.	2,095,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Doula services for young mothers, Trauma Informed Therapy/mental health providers.	180,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>3,324,500</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The purpose of the requested funds is to expand & sustain essential services addressing food insecurity, financial hardship & educational barriers for at-risk & under-served youth in Hillsborough & Pinellas counties. Funding ensures the Food Packs for Kids program continues & grows by 420%, providing weekend meals to more children relying on school food. It supports rental & utility assistance, legal aid, career development & mental health services to stabilize vulnerable youth. Educational initiatives like GED prep, financial literacy & mentorship promote long-term self-sufficiency. Resources for young parents, like baby supplies, support & doula services, strengthen their ability to care for their children. Funds also cover transportation, storage, staffing, infrastructure & outreach to expand services, improve efficiency & increase accessibility. This investment provides immediate relief while fostering long-term economic stability & resilience for at-risk youth.

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

Funds will expand Food Packs for Kids to serve 420% more children across both Hillsborough & Pinellas counties. Rental & utility assistance will prevent homelessness & financial instability. Legal aid will support eviction defense, custody cases, & expungements. Trauma-informed therapy & mental health services will provide professional support to youth in crisis. Young Parent Initiatives will offer resources, education, & support. Community drives will distribute hygiene products, school supplies, toys & holiday meals. FCO funds will provide vehicles, office furniture, & computer equipment for increased service accessibility. Infrastructure for program sustainability will include staffing, technology, marketing, fundraising & logistical support to ensure long-term impact. 10 new jobs, 9 with full benefits, will be created and filled locally to strengthen the economy. These activities & services will ensure at-risk youth receive the resources needed to build stable & successful futures.

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

Of the \$3.33M requested, 61% will directly fund essential services, including food assistance, rental and utility aid, legal support, GED prep, tutoring, career readiness, scholarships, internships, financial literacy education, doula services, baby supplies, trauma-informed therapy, domestic violence relocation, and community drives providing hygiene items, back-to-school supplies, and holiday meals. Funds will also support job training, mentorship, youth workforce development, educational workshops, wraparound case management, housing navigation, life skills classes, family stabilization support, and access to medical and mental health referrals. 36% will support infrastructure, including salaries, rent, utilities, and program operations to ensure effective service delivery. 3% will fund vehicles and fuel to expand food deliveries, distribute essential supplies, and improve transportation access to critical services, ensuring underserved youth can reach the services we provide.

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2951

Programs support at-risk, underserved youth in Hillsborough & Pinellas Counties. 44.1% of households in Hillsborough & 41% in Pinellas live below the ALICE threshold, struggling to afford basic needs (United Way Florida, 2024). In 2022, 17.7% of children in Hillsborough & 15.7% in Pinellas faced food insecurity (FL Dept of Health). Hillsborough County Schools recorded 4,513 homeless students in 2022-2023, while Pinellas County Schools counted 4,752. In 2021, 13.2% of Florida youth had a major depressive episode, with 67% not receiving treatment. In 2021, 25% of Pinellas teens considered suicide or had a plan, & Hillsborough reported similar rates (JWB Pinellas). That year, over 5,500 FL teens gave birth (CDC). Childcare in Hillsborough exceeds a semester at USF, making it unaffordable (WMNF). 625 children are currently fed with Food Packs for Kids, expanding to 1,000 more in each county, for a 420% increase to 2625, while innumerable others will benefit from the various initiatives.

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

Programs will improve access to food, housing support, education, mental health services & economic resources. Outcomes include improved physical health through food security, reduced stressors & support for young parents. Mental health will improve through stable housing, trauma-informed therapy & supportive relationships. Education programs will enhance academic performance, attendance & access to higher education. Transitioning to eco-friendly packaging & eliminating plastic will enhance environmental sustainability. Economic activity will increase through job creation, financial literacy & workforce training. Recidivism & substance abuse rates will decrease through life skills development, therapy & career pathways. Programs will divert youth from the justice system, strengthen them through engagement & self-sufficiency support & enrich cultural experiences through inclusive, cross-cultural programs. Impact will be measured through program data & relevant data permitted for release

**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?**

Failure to meet deliverables activates an immediate corrective action plan. Failure to complete action plan and/or meet deliverables could lead to loss of funding.

**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)
- ☒ 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):**

Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton

**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:**



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2951

**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):**

FL State House Appropriation 1660

**17. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name** Meredith **Last Name** Pericles

**b. Organization** Write on Top of That

**c. E-mail Address** meredithpericles@gmail.com

**d. Phone Number** (727)543-6218 **Ext.**

**18. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization** Mind Over Matter, Inc

**b. Municipality and County** Hillsborough

**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** Jennifer **Last Name** Underwood

**e. E-mail Address** mindovermatterhillsborough@gmail.com

**f. Phone Number** (813)516-1759 **Ext.**

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**

**a. Name** None

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2951

d. Phone Number

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