



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3553

1. Project Title Westonwood Ranch Workforce Development Expansion for Individuals with Disabilities

2. Senate Sponsor Jay Trumbull

3. Date of Request 4/1/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Construction of a transition to work educational building on the Westonwood Ranch campus in central Walton County, serving as an expanded and permanent facility for Westonwood Ranch life skills and workforce incubation center. Educational programs that transition exceptional students from high school into employment are non-existent in Walton County. This proposed new facility will expand capacity for Westonwood Ranch to offer educational opportunities and workforce training.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Agency for Persons with Disabilities

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	680,000
Total State Funds Requested	680,000

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)	680,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,150	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	681,150	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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? No

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

1/2/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

3/15/2027

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

Westonwood Ranch has a diversified funding stream that includes earned income through program service and social enterprise revenues, foundation support, local grant awards, individual donations, corporate donations and sponsorships that sustains our programs.

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.

The ownership of the project would be a non profit 501c3, Westonwood Ranch, Inc.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction	680,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		680,000

13. Program Performance

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

Construction of educational building to expand our Transition to Work Program for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Walton County. Without effective transitional programs that focus on life skills based education, these individuals are trapped in a pattern of perpetual poverty and our society misses out on the value of human potential.



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

Construction of building to expand our Transition to Work Program, known as program "LIFTOFF" for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD). This facility will improve access to educational opportunities, internships, as well as skills trades related to aquaponic farming and safe food handling certifications as well as employment. We are at capacity in our existing 5,000sf building.

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

Once completed, the project will serve students in Exceptional Education grades 8-12 with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, post high school transition to work program, other community educational events and opportunities to promote industry certifications and employment of those with exceptionalities in our community.

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

At risk youth, developmentally disabled, Citizens with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities seeking workforce training and employment supports. Estimated 101-200 target population to be served.

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

1) Improve agriculture production/promotion and education - skills acquisition tracking in the field of aquaponics farming. Skills competency assessment of 75% to progress through training levels. Tracking the number of farm to table lettuce heads produced for local restaurants. (2) Improve quality of education - providing a local resource for students 8th-12th with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD), provide transition to work programs for individuals with IDD post high school, which improves access for internships and technical certificates 3) Improve economic activity- In addition to direct employment, construction projects also generate indirect employment opportunities, Enhance economic self sufficiency- Westonwood Ranch will provide expanded job training programs specific to technical and soft skills that increase employability by providing training in the fields of aquaponics, kitchen operations and data entry.

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?

The funding will be returned to the State of Florida if the project does not initiate.

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):

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#:



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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
- ☒ 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



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a. Name

None

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.