



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1028

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Family Cafe is the leading source of information, resources, and networking for Floridians with disabilities. It hosts the largest statewide cross-disability event in the nation, The Annual Family Café, which connects attendees with resources and strategies they need to thrive in their communities. It also provides a platform for state agencies and policy makers to connect with the citizens they serve. The Family Café additionally promotes leadership among youth with disabilities through its Florida Youth Council and supports the development of local family organizations through a Family-Run Organization Movement initiative. This will allow for Floridians to access the connections, resources, and natural supports that The Annual Family Cafe offers on a local level throughout the year. This specific project will support the 29th Annual Family Cafe in June 2027, Florida Youth Council activities, and local resource development via the Family-Run Organization Movement.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	150,000	10%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	350,000	23%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,500,000	100%

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		
2025-26	350,000	1,000,000	112	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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No other source of public funding exists. The Family Cafe seeks out sponsorships and private contributions on an ongoing basis, however that source is insufficient to meet programmatic needs.

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
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	Direct costs related to hosting The 29th Annual Family Cafe, implementing Family-Run Organization Movement training and process facilitation, and hosting the Florida Youth Council's Annual Youth Summit and leadership training activities. Expenses include printing and mailing; keynote speakers; A/V services; signage; staff, board, youth council member, and keynote travel; the Annual Youth Summit, youth leadership trainings, and Family Run Organization initiative trainings and meetings; exhibit h	1,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000



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13. Program Performance

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

The requested funding will allow The Family Café to support and promote the self-sufficiency and wellbeing of Floridians with disabilities. Funds will allow The Family Café to connect Floridians with disabilities and their families with information, resources, and networking opportunities, both through The Annual Family Café event, and on a regular basis throughout the year. The Annual Family Café will connect families with peers, commercial service providers, and public entities to find out what services are available to them, which best serve their needs, and how to go about securing those services. The Family-Run Organization Movement project will replicate the organization's statewide success by developing local family organizations. The Florida Youth Council program will foster leadership among the next generation of disability leaders.

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

The primary activity that will be funded through this request is the 29th Annual Family Café. This three-day event will include approximately 200 breakout sessions; a series of keynote events; The Annual Summit on Disabilities, where attendees can interact with the elected officials and the State Agencies that serve them; and an Exhibit Hall, with a range of providers, partner organizations and private vendors on hand to showcase their services and products for individuals with disabilities. Funding also allows for on-site support of local organizations through a Family-Run Organization Movement project to bolster family-run organizations to create local networks of resources and advocacy, and supports youth leadership promotion through The Florida Youth Council and its Annual Youth Summit.

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

The bulk of the direct service provided by The Family Café comes in the form of training and resource provision through 26.5 hours of total training activity at The Annual Family Café as well as training through the Annual Youth Summit. The project also provides direct service to family leaders engaged in the Family-Run Organization Movement through on-site training and assistance in their communities, provides information dissemination through its website, mass email list, and social media channels, and publishes an annual resource guide called the Questions & Answers Book.

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

The Family Café primarily serves K-12 students with disabilities or special health care needs and their families. It is also open to other Floridians with disabilities, including transition-age youth. The 27th Annual Café in June, 2025 hosted over 14,607 attendees.

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

The Family Café makes individuals with disabilities better equipped to flourish in the community. The project will lead to informed families better able to identify resources, engaged youth disability leaders able to lead their peers in transition to independence, and a network of local family-run organizations able to support Floridians with disabilities where they live. The Family Café collects data regarding satisfaction with The Annual Family Café through a survey tool known as the "Report Card." It offers a means to provide both objective and subjective feedback about the event. A similar survey tool is used to assess the efficacy of the Annual Youth Summit.

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 Family Café has a long-standing working relationship with the Florida Department of Education and possesses a strong understanding of the expectations related to project performance and deliverables. The Family Café is prepared to meet DOE's expectations, to adjust implementation plans, and provide all necessary information and documentation to demonstrate a good faith effort to meet department requirements. Suggested penalties are codified in The Family Café's contracting agreement with the Florida Department of Education.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? ☐ No

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

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)



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- ☐ 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#:

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



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- ☐ 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

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.