



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1031

1. Project Title Public Safety & Violence Prevention through Mentoring & Career Development

2. Senate Sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez

3. Date of Request 11/1/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Women of Tomorrow (WOT) empowers 2,700 at-risk teenage girls across 119 Florida public high schools each year, providing pathways out of poverty and reducing high school dropout rates through mentoring by accomplished professional women, college scholarships, and real-world career exposure. With an extraordinary 99% high school graduation rate and 94% continuing on to higher education, WOT has awarded more than \$9 million in college scholarships to date. Funding will support the implementation of critical programming focused on personal safety, violence prevention, and career exploration in public safety fields—equipping mentees with the tools they need for both personal security and long-term financial success.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	21%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,896,809	79%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	2,396,809	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2025-26	0	500,000	94	Yes

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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1031

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	Executive Director (30% allocated), Program Director (30% allocated), 3 Program Coordinators (30% allocated), Alumnae Director (20% allocated)	100,026
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Safety/career-focused summits and field trips, travel, transportation, buses, video library resources and computers/equipment. Direct program costs to purchase welcome kits, safety and training videos, printed materials, public safety resources and supplies.	289,974
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contractor services to develop and administer new video library channel materials. Technology enhancements to upgrade and enhance the app/portal used by mentees, mentors and school coordinators.	110,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1031

State funding will support the creation of new programming focused on personal safety and violence prevention through mentoring and career development. WOT mentees are identified as at risk for high school dropout due to challenges such as limited opportunity, domestic abuse, or exposure to addiction, making prevention efforts both life-changing and lifesaving. This targeted curriculum will reach 2,700 at-risk students across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, along with the program's 30,000 alumnae network. Funding will also strengthen WOT's permanent digital content library to ensure ongoing access to high-quality educational resources.

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

Through expertly designed mentoring sessions, field trips, and summits, mentees will engage with topics such as human trafficking, self-defense, substance abuse prevention, bullying, and cybersecurity, building awareness, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. These experiences will be paired with career exploration in public safety fields, including the military, law enforcement, intelligence, legal professions, emergency management, and criminal investigation.

This initiative will equip mentees with the knowledge and tools to enhance personal safety, strengthen academic and career readiness, and establish clear pathways toward postsecondary education and long-term employment in high-demand public safety sectors.

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

The Public Safety and Violence Prevention curriculum will be delivered through mentoring sessions, guest speakers, educational videos, expert-led summits, career-focused field trips in law enforcement and the armed forces, and alumnae chapter meetings. The initiative will introduce new violence prevention topics for mentors, mentees, and school coordinators; host career-focused field trips available to all 2,700 South Florida students; and convene county-wide summits featuring expert panels across Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. New educational videos will be integrated into mentoring sessions and shared through WOT's video library. A senior career fair will highlight opportunities in public safety, and all new curriculum materials and field trip updates will be accessible through the WOT APP/Portal.

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

WOT serves 2,700 students annually across 119 public high schools in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. 95% percent of participants are minority students, and nearly half are the first in their families to pursue higher education. Mentees are selected based on criteria such as risk of high school dropout, exposure to abuse, involvement in criminal activity, or academic challenges.

Despite these risk factors, 99% of WOT mentees graduate from high school, demonstrating the program's proven success in transforming outcomes for vulnerable youth. The WOT Alumnae Program, open to all graduates, extends this support through continued mentorship, career development, and professional guidance. Nearly 90% of mentees report that WOT helped them stay in school and graduate, while 92% say it had a significant impact on their lives, equipping them with the confidence and life skills to build a successful future.

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

WOT empowers at-risk students to transform obstacles into opportunities by providing exposure, motivation, and the confidence to create brighter futures for themselves, their families, and their communities. Through targeted mentoring and career-focused experiences, mentees gain the knowledge and life skills to avoid risky behaviors, stay in school, and pursue higher education and meaningful careers.

Program effectiveness will be measured through mentee surveys, graduation and postsecondary enrollment data, and year-end reports from partner school districts. Continuous progress monitoring, through mentor feedback and direct communication with schools, will ensure accountability, data-driven decision-making, and sustained impact across all participating schools.

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?

Unused funds would be returned to the state.

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

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1031

- ☐ 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#:

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

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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

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.