



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1035

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

A statewide Preschool Emergency Alert Response Learning System, PEARLS, will provide training, options, and information on current and optional notification to protect Florida's youngest and most vulnerable children. A K-12 public school could be on lock-down due to life-threatening criminal activity such as an active shooter, while a preschool close by remains unaware of the imminent threat. Florida's early education centers are an integral part of our state's educational & economic structure - developing young minds while providing young children a safe environment so parents can work to care for their families and improve their futures. Investing in the security of these young children and their educators is critical based on the current escalation of violence in schools. PEARLS has been successfully providing direct training to our early educators since its inception in 2018, supporting them in their mission to be prepared to protect these vulnerable children in an emergency.

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	395,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	395,000

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)	395,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	395,000	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	0	375,000	80	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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Should future funding be requested, From Cradle to College Foundation will pursue available local government and other entities' funding to support this statewide program.

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	Program Facilitators	255,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program Materials and Statewide Travel	140,000
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)		395,000

13. Program Performance

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



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PEARLS provides training for preschool environments to mitigate risk and save lives in emergency situations such as active shooter events. Optional implementation of a local notification system to alert preschools of imminent danger, as is currently done with K-12 schools, closing the existing training and notification gap, working to keep ALL of Florida's children safe. It is essential for these early education locations to use their environments and Proactive Planning to provide the safest environment possible for our youngest children.

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

The essential training will be provided through two methods, both in person training with early childhood educators in their workplace and live on-line trainings for those who cannot attend in person. Participants are provided with resources to assist as they analyze their environments and improve their planning for emergencies, a critical discussion that supports proper preparation for these tragic events. PEARLS will also utilize a Train the Trainer program and leverage collaborative partnerships to enhance community impact.

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

Training on highly relevant topics including planning and preparing for critical incidents and optional notification systems for schools. This training will be provided through both in-person and on-line formats and both English and Spanish to best serve Florida's citizens.

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

Preschool children and staff - approximately 850,000 individuals in the State of Florida.

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

The expected benefit of PEARLS is an increased life-saving awareness of current threatening events and informed choices for action that will mitigate risk and save lives. The program is designed to support preschools and empower them with knowledge and awareness that will prompt them to have a preemptive plan of action which includes multiple options. Planning and preparation make them ready to judiciously implement their plan based on the form of danger present and change the outcome of the event thus enhancing the safety of Florida's youngest children. The program's outcome will be measured by the evaluation forms completed by participants, its successful statewide training and participation in the implementation of optional notification systems.

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?

Possible return of funds

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



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☐ 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

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name



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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.