



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1063

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The funds will help to construct Branches Allapattah, a fourth Branches community center, with a total cost of \$12 million, at the current site of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. Branches plans to partner with surrounding schools to initially serve 150 children in Grades K-12 and into postsecondary through its Grow, Climb and Climb Higher programs. Branches expects to scale enrollment to serve 300+ students within 5 years of opening as well as provide our Achieve financial wellness programs to 1,500+ residents.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
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	18%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,200,000	82%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	2,700,000	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		

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.

Branches would seek to secure other funding from either foundations, individuals, corporations or a combination thereof.



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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

06/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/01/2028

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

Branches is funded by a diverse group of donors such as The Children's Trust, United Way Miami, Himan Brown Charitable Trust, The Batchelor Foundation, Publix Charities, Trish and Dan Bell and many other foundations and corporate partners that will help to fund programming at this new site as well as support any maintenance needs.

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 Southeast District of the United Methodist Church (UMC) maintains ownership of the property. Branches is currently planning the redesign of the property along with the Ebenezer UMC which is located on the site. The church will be renovated and Branches Allapattah will be build alongside it. Branches has already signed a 100 year lease with the Southeast District, just like it did for Branches Florida City in 2010. The District has already provided \$1.2 million donation towards the project.

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	100% of the requested funds will be spent on construction of Branches Allapattah. The planned size of the facility is approximately 20,000 to 22,000 square feet with an estimated total cost of \$12 Million.	500,000
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?



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The funds will help to construct Branches Allapattah, the 4th Branches community center at the current site of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church at 2001 NW 35th St, Miami FL 33142. Branches plans to partner with surrounding schools to initially serve 150 children in Grades K through 12 and into postsecondary through its Grow, Climb and Climb Higher programs. Branches expects to scale enrollment to serve 300+ students within 5 years of opening as well as provide our Achieve financial wellness programs to 1,500+ residents.

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

Branches' Grow program serves elementary students through afterschool enrichment, preparing them for lifelong success through enrichment of their minds, bodies and hearts. Branches' Climb program serves middle and high school students by providing youth development services focused on the development of the students' individual assets in order to maximize opportunities for them to become better students and better people. The Climb Higher program provides support to all Branches students currently pursuing a post-secondary education through mentoring and a scholarship for incidentals. The Achieve programs provide a wide array of financial wellness services from financial coaching, micro-business development, free tax prep and more for all Miami residents.

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

Branches' Grow program serves elementary students through afterschool enrichment, preparing them for lifelong success through enrichment of their minds, bodies and hearts. Branches' Climb program serves middle and high school students by providing youth development services focused on the development of the students' individual assets in order to maximize opportunities for them to become better students and better people. The Climb Higher program provides support to all Branches students currently pursuing a post-secondary education through mentoring and a scholarship for incidentals. The Achieve programs provide a wide array of financial wellness services from financial coaching, micro-business development, free tax prep and more for all Miami residents.

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

The target population is primarily low-income and minority Allapattah area residents. Branches will be serving students age 5 to 25 as well as adults. Branches plans to partner with surrounding schools to initially serve 150 children and youth in Grades K through 12 and into postsecondary through its Grow, Climb and Climb Higher programs. Branches expects to scale enrollment to serve 300+ students within 5 years of opening as well as provide our Achieve financial wellness programs to 1,500+ residents.

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

Branches partners with families to help them build educational and financial assets. A few outcomes focused on improving quality of education through the Grow and Climb programs are: Elementary students that qualify for Differentiated Literacy Instruction improved reading skills, HS students achieve cumulative GPA of 2.5 to 4.0, Grades 11-12 achieve a Math and Reading score on the SAT of 1000 or above or improve score by 40 points, and Post-Secondary students graduate. Measurements include reviewing iSTEOP Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) or the Maze assessment, report cards, SAT results and proof of completion. A few outcomes focused on improving economic activity through Branches' Micro-Business program are that: Entrepreneurs with proven capability access capital, establish robust business systems, and secure defined and supportive networks. Measurements include ensuring businesses are scheduling and attending business coaching sessions and completing pre and post tests.

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?

Return of funds upon failure to meet contract deliverables.

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)



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- ☐ 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

☐ For Profit Entity



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- ☒ 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.