



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1096

1. Project Title Talent Bridge: Empowering Florida's Workforce, Strengthening Florida's Economy

2. Senate Sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez

3. Date of Request 11/12/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Talent Bridge aligns current training programs through targeted industry outreach and engagement. The program does the following:

- Establish an Industry-Driven Talent Portal: Create a centralized platform that offers real-time labor market data, training resources, and actionable insights to facilitate informed decision-making for businesses and training providers.
- Enhance Employment Opportunities for All Floridians: Increase access to employment for underrepresented groups and people with disabilities.
- Create engagement opportunities for industry and future workforce

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Commerce

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	2,100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,100,000

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)	2,100,000	72%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	800,000	28%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	2,900,000	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		
2024-25	0	1,000,000		No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 600,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Public funding needed with private funding to follow



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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)?

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	Cover the cost for overhead of program including office space, supplies etc	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultant to oversee and administer program, including recording keeping, tracking and progress etc.	125,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Young Professionals Program local transportation and supplies covers cost of executing body of work. Industry Engagement Tours: Provide tours and workplace experiences in various industry sector for select high school and colleges in the region. Beacon Fellows: As part of the program, hire six interns, three from high school and three from college, to gain exposure to different industry sectors and to rely on their expertise to help build and guide the program. Disability Employment Ini	925,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Portal Expansion & Maintenance: Enhance and scale the Talent Bridge portal to provide real-time workforce data, centralized training resources, and accessible tools for employers, educators, and job seekers. Create sustainable program after the life of the grant. Establishment of Young Professionals program: Establish a network of business leaders and young professionals who serve as mentors and advocates and provide insights on the upskilling needs of those currently in the workforce.	975,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,100,000

13. Program Performance

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

To aggregate all talent development programs in one easy to use portal for business and industry which does not exist currently. Facilitate and provide information to industry to inform their talent development pursuits.

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

The development of a portal where business and industry can query training programs in the county to meet the upskilling needs of their employees, provide innovative new program to increase hiring of people with disabilities and program to engage young professionals

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

Deeper connections of existing workforce and training programs to industry to better utilize existing programs and expand pathways to in demand employment.

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

The targeted population are the economically disadvantaged, jobless, underemployed, developmentally disabled and students

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

This will increase wages, productivity and opportunities for both workers, and help businesses get the most from their workforce through better leveraging the myriad of training and educational programs offered through the county.

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?

If the program fails to meet the approved deliverables the first course of action will be to cure noted deficiencies within 90 days as it relates to business engagement efforts. If the portal fails to be delivered then the applicant will work with the state on a new timeline for delivery. If unable to cure the applicant will return any unused funds to the state.

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)
- ☐ 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):



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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

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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☐ 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.