



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1128

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Young Musicians Unite (YMU) will provide in-school music education to more than 19,500 students across 88 Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The program has restored music programs, increased student engagement, and reduced absenteeism. In support of Florida's classical education model, YMU integrates music with academics to create a values-based learning experience. This request will fund additional music teachers for 11 schools, reaching 2,242 more students and completing full feeder-pattern continuity. This proven, community-driven model improves attendance, fosters collaboration, and celebrates American culture while maximizing Florida's investment in education.

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	600,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	600,000

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)	600,000	12%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	20,000	0%
Other	4,597,536	88%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	5,217,536	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.



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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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Staff: Teaching Artists	600,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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)		600,000

13. Program Performance

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

This \$600,000 request will fund additional music teachers in 11 schools, serving 2,242 students within YMU's broader network of 19,500 students across 88 campuses. The funds will expand access to music education that improves attendance, engagement, and academic achievement across Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Through in-school and after-school programs, YMU fosters purpose, belonging, and pride while advancing Florida's classical education priorities. Music transforms school culture by motivating students to show up, collaborate, and excel.

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



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The project provides music programs that keep students engaged, inspired, and connected to their schools. Through YMU's model, music becomes a central part of school culture. Programs run during and after school, offering a safe, structured environment that builds discipline, creativity, and pride. One principal even rescheduled an English class to follow music because attendance was higher on those days, leading to improved reading scores and grades.

Program Activities and Services:

- Music Instruction and Performance: Daily modern band, jazz, drumline, and marching band classes that celebrate American art forms and national heritage.
- Performance and Mentorship: Parades, festivals, and workshops that build confidence and civic pride.
- Feeder Pattern Collaboration: Cross-school performances that strengthen mentorship and community connection.

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

This initiative provides a direct public service by expanding access to music education that improves attendance and reduces absenteeism. Through this appropriation, 2,242 students across 11 Miami-Dade County Public Schools will receive free, high-quality instruction rooted in America's musical heritage. Students perform at parades, festivals, and community celebrations that promote pride, belonging, and civic engagement. Family concerts and school showcases bring communities together, strengthening school culture and helping students stay connected, motivated, and showing up to learn.

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

The project will serve 2,242 students across 11 Miami-Dade County Public Schools, representing one full feeder pattern, spanning grades K-12. These campuses have historically faced high absenteeism and limited access to arts education. Through YMU's in-school and after-school programs, students gain daily opportunities for creativity, teamwork, and leadership in a safe, structured environment that fosters discipline and civic engagement. Beyond the classroom, performances and community events unite families and strengthen school pride, helping students stay connected and consistently attend school. This investment strengthens Miami-Dade's education ecosystem, with YMU now fully serving seven of the district's 29 feeder patterns and expanding access to high-quality music education across communities.

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

The project increases student attendance, engagement, and academic achievement through daily participation in high-quality music programs. By making music central to school culture, students develop confidence, teamwork, and leadership while improving their commitment to learning.

Expected Benefits and Outcomes:

- Improved Attendance: Students in YMU programs attend school more consistently with fewer absences and tardies.
- Academic Growth: Participants maintain higher GPAs, take more advanced courses, and show stronger long-term performance.
- Civic and Cultural Impact: Public performances build pride, belonging, and community connection.

Methodology for Measuring Outcomes:

Miami-Dade County Public Schools data tracks attendance, GPA, and enrollment trends. Engagement and social-emotional growth are measured through Hello Insight surveys, while YMU program reports document instruction, performances, and student participation.

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?

YMU will remit funds back 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?

- ☐ 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.