



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1134

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Florida Early Learning Corps combines the power of AmeriCorps with evidence-based practices to fill the opportunity gap in Florida through individualized literacy and numeracy intervention support to PreK students. The program will recruit, train and place AmeriCorps members in the highest need zip codes to deliver a data-based, problem-solving model of literacy instruction to children age 3 to 5.

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	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	15%
Matching Funds		
Federal	3,064,226	58%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,446,267	27%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	5,260,493	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		
2024-25	0	500,000	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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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	Executive Director will spend 11% of their time working on this program and funding is to cover 11% of the annual salary at \$14,352. The Director of FL Programs will spend 10% of their time working on this program and funding will cover 10% of the annual salary at \$9,185. The Education Impact Manager will spend 10% of their time working on this program and funding will cover 10% of the annual salary at \$10,857.	34,394
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Salary to cover a percentage of three (3) Program Managers salary that totals \$48,038. Four (4) Coaching Specialists that spend 10% of their time on this project for a total of \$61,495.	109,533
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	178 AmeriCorps tutors at a rate of \$5,021 each. Funding will be used as bi-weekly stipends (living allowances, FICA and health benefits).	606,073
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Funding will expand Florida Early Learning Corps' geographic reach and impact on the early literacy and numeracy skill-building of our state's youngest learners. An appropriation amount of \$750k will facilitate Florida Early Learning Corps' expansion from 136 to 178 tutors who will serve more than 2,500 at-risk students, ensuring they are prepared for success in Kindergarten.

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

Early Learning Corps is a proven model that accelerates literacy skills and Kindergarten readiness for high-need preschoolers. Full-time tutors work with PreK teachers to implement evidence-based interventions, individualized tutoring plans, formative assessments at least three times per year to ensure growth, extensive data systems that provide quality assurance, and multi-layer coaching.

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

The instructional model focuses on integrating the "Big Five Essential Literacy Predictors outlined by the National Early Literacy Panel (2008) into all aspects of the daily classroom routine. The program includes an immersive "push-in" component, where tutors provide (1) whole-class literacy enrichments for all students, (2) targeted small group experiences, and (3) one-on-one interventions.

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

In a state where more than 18% of children live in poverty (FL Chamber of Commerce, 2023), Florida Early Learning Corps serves those who are among the most at risk: 96% of Florida Early Learning Corps students are eligible to receive free and/or reduced price lunch, an indicator of poverty. This is higher than the average of Florida students overall (53.8%) (FL Department of Health, 2024). Our 178 tutors will each serve 15 students resulting in more than 2,500 students receiving individualized tutoring support during the 2026-27 school year.

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

We expect the following outcomes for students by the end of the 2026-27 school year:
-70% of 4-5 year olds will meet or exceed their target growth in literacy and early numeracy skills needed for Kindergarten.
-80% of children will complete family literacy and numeracy activities at home with a parent or guardian.
-70% of all children will meet or exceed their age-level benchmarks for each skill.

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?

The suggested penalties if deliverable or performance measures are not met are loss of funding and impact on eligibility for future funding.

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



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☐ 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)

☐ Local Entity

☐ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)



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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.