



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1193

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds will support a program for children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities who will learn valuable skills for their growth and development through proven acting, music, and dance therapies. The physical, cognitive, and social skills they will learn are a crucial gateway to autonomy and independence, supporting the integration process of neurodiverse individuals into the community and workforce.

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	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

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)	350,000	46%
Matching Funds		
Federal	95,000	12%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	75,000	10%
Other	250,000	32%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	770,000	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	350,000	241A	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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Specialized Dance, Voice, and Acting Coaches	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Stage/Classroom/ADA Compliance: \$60,000 Specialized Classroom and Sound Equipment/\$40,000 Transit Passenger ADA Compliant Van/\$100,000	200,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Speech and Behavior Therapist	100,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		350,000

13. Program Performance

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

Funds will support a program for children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities who will learn valuable skills for their growth and development through proven acting, music, and dance therapies. The physical, cognitive, and social skills they will learn are a crucial gateway to autonomy and independence, supporting the integration process of neurodiverse individuals into the community and workforce.

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



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350+ neurodiverse participants will receive group and private therapy through multi-modal performing arts group and private classes both at school and facility. We will provide audience interaction through monthly public performances which strengthens their ability to follow direction, perform in front of an audience, and work with a team, essential skills to function.

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

Group Classes: Theatre for personal insight, improvisation for responses, storytelling for communication, theatre performance for teamwork, dance and movement for cognitive and physical functions, music and sound for brain connectivity. Public performances: to support social interaction. Individual Therapy: speech, behavioral, and artistic coaching. Transportation: for financially limited families

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

The target population served by this project will be economically disadvantaged persons, physically disabled, grade school students, high school students, and university/college students. Less than 800 individuals are expected to be served.

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

It will improve physical health by evaluating the participants by directors at the beginning, middle, and end of a session. It will improve mental health by being measured through pre and post assessment surveys given to participants at the start and again once the session is completed. It will enrich cultural experience through measuring continuously through instructors' evaluations of the participants. Pre and post assessment surveys are also employed to measure this benefit. This is measured in audiences through satisfaction surveys sent to audiences post performance. It will improve transportation conditions by measuring the number of participants using the transportation service. Lastly, it will create specific immediate job opportunities by comparing the number of actual hires from the initial goal. Retention rates of the positions will measure satisfaction and sustainability. The costs associated with creating these job opportunities will be analyzed against the benefits.

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?

Instances of noncompliance will be penalized through financial consequences.

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
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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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

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name	David T Caserta
b. Firm Name	David T. Caserta Government Relations Inc
c. E-mail Address	flagovernment@aol.com
d. Phone Number	(305)463-8808

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.