



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1222

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Mitzvah Kitchen operates the only community-run, industrial kosher kitchen in the greater Miami-Dade area. Volunteers and adults with disabilities prepare and distribute meals to individuals and families—both Jewish and non-Jewish—experiencing food insecurity or requiring kosher meals. The program also provides adults with special needs valuable training and certifications to support workforce entry. Demand for kosher food continues to grow across Miami, reflecting both adherence to Jewish tradition and an increased emphasis on food safety and community security.

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	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,050,000	51%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	2,050,000	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	1,000,000	1460A	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.

Alternative sources include local government strategic partnerships as well as private donors.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1222

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	Salary and benefits for the Program Director responsible for overseeing daily operations of the Mitzvah Kitchen, managing staff and volunteers, coordinating meal production and distribution, ensuring compliance with kosher standards, and expanding community partnerships to sustain and grow the program's impact.	80,148
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Professional services for accounting, auditing, and data administration to ensure fiscal compliance, accurate recordkeeping, performance tracking, and transparent reporting for the Mitzvah Kitchen program.	76,250
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Staff salaries and benefits supporting the management, coordination, and delivery of all Mitzvah Kitchen operations, including meal preparation, volunteer supervision, and community outreach.	410,863
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Operational and programmatic costs including facility expenses (mortgage, insurance, security, landscaping) and essential supplies (office, kitchen, program materials, equipment, marketing, and food) that ensure a safe, welcoming, and fully functioning environment for our participants, volunteers, and community.	305,239
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted logistics and marketing services to coordinate meal distribution, optimize delivery routes, and raise community awareness of the Mitzvah Kitchen's programs and volunteer opportunities.	127,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1222

13. Program Performance

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

The Mitzvah Kitchen program provides individuals with special needs hands-on culinary training focused on kosher meal preparation, equipping them with practical skills, certifications, and workforce readiness. The program also promotes personal growth, community engagement, and long-term independence while fostering inclusivity within the local business community and building partnerships with organizations addressing food insecurity and the growing need for kosher meal access in Miami-Dade.

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

The Mitzvah Kitchen provides the only community-run, industrial kosher kitchen in Miami Dade area that engages individuals with special needs and volunteers from various businesses who prepare and distribute restaurant-quality meals to individuals and families (Jewish and non-Jewish) experiencing food insecurity as it relates to kosher restrictions.

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

The Mitzvah Kitchen provides citizens the opportunity to gain culinary experience through the only community-run, industrial kosher kitchen in Miami Dade area. Individuals with special needs will receive culinary certificates that will benefit them in job placement. Individuals and families (Jewish and non-Jewish) experiencing food insecurity as it relates to kosher restrictions will be provided meals prepared to meet their needs.

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

Elderly persons; persons with developmental and physical disabilities; persons with poor mental and physical health; persons who are economically disadvantaged, to include homeless, jobless; persons who are at-risk youth; persons who are high school and college/secondary level students.

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

The program delivers valuable instruction for individuals with special needs, aimed at enhancing self-confidence, self-esteem, assisting with life-skills, and fostering financial independent by better preparing the individual to attain employment that fosters their economic self-sufficiency while serving those experiencing food insecurities. The program helps to establish stability and promotes improved mental health, enhancing culinary skills while encouraging cultural enrichment and promoting tolerance, inclusion, and diversity within the community for individuals with special needs. Outcomes will be assessed through data reports, behavioral observation by staff, feedback from participants, and before and after comparisons.

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?

All funds must be paid back to administering agency.

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1222

- ☐ 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)
- ☐ Local Entity



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1222

☐ 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.