



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1228

1. Project Title Florida Clubhouse Coalition: Workforce Training for Adults with Severe Mental Illness

2. Senate Sponsor Joe Gruters

3. Date of Request 11/3/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The Mental Health Clubhouse Supported Employment program increases the financial independence of adults living with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness by equipping them with the skills and industry certifications needed to fill the staffing needs of area employers. Combined earnings of Clubhouse members statewide were \$4,719,943 in FY 2024-25 and \$11,456,672 over the last three years. Recurring state funding allocates \$1.8 million to DCF to support 14 of Florida's Mental Health Clubhouse programs at approximately \$129K each. The Legislature provided equivalent non-recurring state support for four new Clubhouse programs in 2023, re-appropriated in 2024. Since then, two additional clubhouses have opened. State funding would allocate proportionate funding for the six new Clubhouse programs and provide support to all 20 Florida Clubhouse programs to help more adults with SPMI transition from being a tax burden to becoming taxpayers.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	864,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	864,000

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)	864,000	13%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	1,800,000	27%
Local	0	0%
Other	4,000,000	60%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	6,664,000	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	1,800,000	500,000	372/BOB	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1228

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transportation, outreach and program support expenses for 6 new Mental Health Clubhouse programs (\$5,000 each x 6 programs) to recruit employers and transport members to and from employment + Coalition Coordinator travel and per diem (\$20,000) for statewide on-site staff training and employer outreach.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Job Training & Employment Specialists for 1 year (2 each for the 6 new Mental Health Clubhouses at \$62,000 each) to conduct skills training for members and employer recruitment and training: 1 contracted Statewide Coalition Coordinator (\$70,000)	814,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		864,000

13. Program Performance



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1228

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

Expand workforce training for adults with SPMI at 6 new Mental Health Clubhouses and a full-time Coalition Coordinator under contract for one year to provide expert training and assistance for new Clubhouses to prepare for and meet the 37 Clubhouse International standards for accreditation, ensure that accredited Clubhouses maintain their accreditation, and provide more vocational training and job placement opportunities for Clubhouse members through employer outreach and recruitment.

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

Provide proportionate funding for six new Mental Health Clubhouse programs -- MHA Belle Glades Clubhouse (Palm Beach); Academy at Bradenton (Manatee); Club Success Haines City (Polk); ACTS Tampa Clubhouse (Hillsborough); Key Clubhouse (Miami-Dade); and Chobee Clubhouse (Okeechobee) -- to help adults with SMI transition from being a tax burden to becoming taxpayers.

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

All 20 Florida Mental Health Clubhouse programs will receive essential financial and technical support to ensure their programs are fulfilling the staffing needs for area employers while equipping more than 2,500 Clubhouse members with the skills needed to fill jobs, increasing member independence and recovery while reducing their dependency on state benefits. On-site visits to all 20 Clubhouses will facilitate employer outreach to over 150 state employers, including relationship development, job identification and ADA requirements, resulting in 500 new job placement opportunities and employer practices that maximize on-the-job success for Clubhouse members. Over 120 Clubhouse staff statewide will be provided expert technical assistance and training in Clubhouse best-practices, substantially increasing their capacity to secure and maintain Clubhouse International accreditation.

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

2500 Florida residents living with SPMI. Combined earnings of Clubhouse members statewide were \$4,719,943 in FY 2024-25.

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

This request would ensure that the six new Clubhouse programs in Manatee, Hillsborough, Polk, Miami-Dade, Okeechobee and Palm Beach counties receive the same level of state support to help their members secure and sustain employment in the competitive marketplace. Independent studies have found that one year of holistic recovery services are delivered to Clubhouse members for the same cost as a 2-week stay at a psychiatric hospital. Clubhouse members experience a significant decrease in hospitalizations, reduced incarcerations & reduced criminal justice system involvement. Clubhouses are active participants in the recovery-oriented system of care, a core DCF strategy. The Clubhouse model is also a SAMHSA-recognized best practice. Outcomes will measure job training, placement and tenure of Clubhouse members.

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?

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met will be returned 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):



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1228

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	William	Last Name	McKeever
b. Organization	Florida Clubhouse Coalition		
c. E-mail Address	william@academySRQ.org		
d. Phone Number	(941)921-9936	Ext.	

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization	Florida Clubhouse Coalition
b. Municipality and County	Statewide
c. Organization Type	
☐ For Profit Entity	
☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)	
☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)	



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1228

☐ 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.