



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1309

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Disaster Recovery & Management - Global Empowerment Mission is fully committed to serving all Florida residents in the wake of any disaster. In 2024, GEM served over 1 million Florida residents after several disasters, most notably performing large-scale responses in the aftermath of both Hurricanes Helene & Milton. In 2025, GEM has carried out several hurricane preparedness distributions in Florida communities. GEM is also the official disaster-relief partner of Miami-Dade County and is counted on to rapidly respond to them.

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	1,163,427
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,163,427

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)	1,163,427	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,163,427	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.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The funds requested will allow us to expand and obtain equipment, disaster responder vehicles, relief aid supplies, and warehousing needs. These items are to be used for statewide disaster responses of vulnerable communities affected by disaster or other such event.	1,163,427
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)		1,163,427

13. Program Performance

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

GEM's headquarters, located in Doral, Florida is fully-equipped to respond immediately to disasters, and with partners such as Good360, Amazon, Publix, & many others, GEM is able to bring aid into the most devastated areas & most vulnerable populations as quickly and efficiently. GEM's goal on the ground is to distribute aid in affected disaster zones in less than 48 hours after the disaster strikes, arriving in the immediate wake of loss with crucial, life-saving aid.

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



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GEM prepositions emergency aid supplies such as non-perishable food items, water, hygiene products, and other life-saving goods such as temporary shelters, generators and medical supplies. GEM also partners with local grass-roots organizations to further impact the communities affected by these disasters. GEM's average response time is 24-48 hours.

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

GEM implements a Family Necessity Kit program where those affected by disasters receive a box containing life-saving food, hygiene products, and other forms of aid that can support a family of 4 for up to a week. GEM also implements a Relief Card program where those affected by disasters receive a pre-loaded gift card containing \$100-\$500 to be able to replace essential goods & supplies.

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

The funds will serve the general population in Florida, specifically ensuring the residents receive the aid & assistance they need before and after disasters strike. GEM expects to serve nearly 1 million individuals in Florida annually.

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

GEM expects to ensure that all Florida residents feel prepared and safe before disasters. GEM also expects all Florida residents are not left behind in the aftermath of destructive disasters, such as major hurricanes. These outcomes will be measured by the number of individuals GEM is able to serve in Florida annually.

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?

Failure by the organization to utilize the funds in the specified manor shall result in funds being returned 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)
- ☒ 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):

All Florida disasters

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:



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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

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number

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