



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1335

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center, jointly sponsored by Gainesville for All and Alachua County Public Schools, seeks to transform public early learning education to meet the needs of struggling local families. The GEZFLC aims to close the racial and economic achievement gaps, offering high quality education to children from six weeks to preschool age. Families in need receive scholarship funding. The GEZFLC also connects families to vital community resources.

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	380,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>380,000</b>

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)	380,000	37%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	66,500	6%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	559,212	54%
Local	33,190	3%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>1,038,902</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

Gainesville for All has a grant writer that is actively working on securing grant funding. We don't have a guarantee of enough grant funding to be used in lieu of state funding.



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## 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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Full time Executive Director salary. GEZFLC Executive Director oversees Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center vision and operations.	65,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for seven teachers to teach and care for GEZFLC students, salary and benefits for our Family Engagement Specialist who connects student's parents to vital community resources and plans monthly family engagement events at the GEZFLC.	315,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>380,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

Our goals are 1). Improved kindergarten readiness and 2) increased parental involvement.



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

Research based curriculum and quality education for low-income students ages six weeks to four years old in Alachua County's lowest academically performing area. Support families and students by providing family development education opportunities and connecting families to community resources. Ongoing assessments of students to measure progress towards kindergarten readiness. Ongoing assessment of parents and their increased involvement.

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

Support for students to increase kindergarten readiness. Community resources for parents and families. Free meals for GEZFLC students. Free dental screenings for GEZFLC students.

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

Economically disadvantaged persons, preschool students, at-risk youth. We expect to serve about 200 individuals.

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

The expected benefit is that at least 90% of children enrolled students will demonstrate age-appropriate progress in language, social-emotional, and cognitive domains as measured by standardized developmental screenings and that 90% of families will report increased confidence in supporting their child's education and utilize at least one family support resource per quarter. Student academic improvements are documented through tools such as ASQ, CLASS, and STAR LITERACY assessments. We compare results at the beginning, middle and end of the school year to track academic growth and kindergarten readiness. We track increased parental involvement by keeping record of parent's attendance at various family events we put on such as field trips, parent teacher meetings and parent workshops. We take quarterly family surveys and keep a record of which parents attend each event at the beginning of the school year and measure whether there is an increase in attendance throughout the year.

**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?**

Develop and implement a plan to address the performance issues for deliverable not met. Lowering the funding amount based on the severity of the performance issues.

**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



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### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1335

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)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.



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#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	<input type="text" value="None"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

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