



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1342

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Persaud Legacy Farm is located on over 1,000 acres in Marion County Florida. The Persaud's vision is not just to offer world-class sport horse facilities, but to also provide sustainable, equine therapy on a large scale. This project assists with the development of the Persaud Legacy Equine Therapy Center to provide services to children with disabilities and military veterans suffering from PTSD. Funds for this project will be used in build out of the Equine Therapy Center, including therapy areas and equipment, as well as auxiliary spaces for families that have traveled for therapy.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	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	5,000,000	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		

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.



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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

3/1/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

03/01/2027

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Mr. Persaud and the Persaud Legacy Foundation will bear ongoing operations and maintenance costs surrounding this 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.

Danny Persaud and Persaud Legacy Farms own and operate the Persaud Legacy Farms, including the Persaud Legacy Equine Therapy Center.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	As the Persaud Legacy Equine Therapy expands, this funding will be used to build resource room for families to utilize while their participant's are in session, including commercial grade kitchen for providing meals. Additionally, funding will be used to expand paddock and stable space for therapy horses, as well as purchase needed therapy equipment to allow for increased volume of treatment.	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Equine Therapy Programs improve quality of life, and the physical, social and emotional well-being. These therapies produce measurable functional improvements in balance, control, muscular strength, endurance, and cardiovascular fitness for special needs children. Additionally, veterans see improvements in self-confidence, healthy coping skills and stress management skills, and reductions in symptoms related to PTSD, depression and suicidal ideation. This funding will allow Persaud Equine Therapy Center to expand and offer greater access to such therapies for these groups.

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

The fixed capital outlay funding enables expansion of facilities for the Persaud Equine Therapy Center. With such expansion, the center will be able to offer increased therapeutic riding to improve balance coordination, and motor skills. It will also allow additional equine activities like grooming, leading, and bonding with horses to encourage responsibility and emotional regulation. Further, there will be increased veteran and first responder programs to support emotional healing for those dealing with PTSD.

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

The Persaud Equine Therapy Center provides hippotherapy for special needs children, military veterans, and first responders. This includes Equine Psychotherapy group sessions for individuals recovering from trauma, addiction, and mental challenges.

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

There are two primary target populations for the Persaud Equine Therapy Center:

- Children with Autism and disabilities.
- Military Veterans and First Responders suffering from PTSD.

The vision of the Persaud Equine Therapy Center is to become a national leader and destination in equine therapy and this expansion would enable the center to meet that goal at a wider scale.

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

Primary outcomes are:

- Mental health and emotional resilience.
- Improved social and behavioral functioning.
- Better over all quality of life for those receiving therapy and their families.

The Persaud Equine Therapy Center is partnering with therapists and researchers at the University of Florida to track these outcome.

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?

Corrective action plans - contractors may be required to submit formal plans detailing how they will be addressed. Suspension of future funding until corrections are made.

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



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- ☐ 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
- ☐ University or College



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☐ 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.