



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1347

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The CDL State Consortium addresses Florida's critical shortage of commercial truck drivers by expanding affordable, accessible CDL training statewide. With 18,000 unfilled CDL positions and heavy/tractor-trailer drivers ranked as Florida's second highest-demand career for 2032, the project strengthens the state's supply chain, supports economic growth, and provides high-paying job opportunities to unemployed, under-employed, formerly incarcerated, and economically disadvantaged Floridians. Funds will provide tuition support for up to 700 new drivers through Consortium partner institutions, helping stabilize Florida's transportation workforce and ensuring timely delivery of goods statewide.

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	5,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	5,500,000

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)	5,500,000	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	5,500,000	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	4,000,000	130	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.



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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
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	Covers CDL tuition for up to 700 new drivers across State College System partner institutions (\$5,150,000) and the required 6% institutional overhead (\$350,000). Funding supports Entry-Level Driver Training (160 hours), hands-on instruction, certification testing, and access to equipment and training facilities throughout the statewide consortium.	5,500,000
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)		5,500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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To reduce Florida's severe shortage of CDL drivers, protect the state's supply chain, and meet projected workforce demand by expanding CDL training capacity and producing job-ready commercial drivers statewide. Heavy and tractor-trailer drivers are projected as the second most in-demand career in Florida for 2032.

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

Provides 160 hours of CDL Entry-Level Driver Training, testing, and certification through a statewide consortium of colleges and training partners. Includes hands-on instruction, curriculum delivery, and access to training equipment and testing centers.

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

Provides tuition grants that reduce or eliminate the cost of CDL training, directly benefiting low-income individuals, unemployed or under-employed adults, formerly incarcerated individuals, and students seeking high-wage, high-demand careers.

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

Economically disadvantaged persons, jobless persons, at-risk youth, homeless individuals, university/college students, formerly incarcerated Floridians, and the general population.
Estimated number served: 401–800 Floridians

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

The project increases workforce participation in the transportation and logistics sector by producing new licensed CDL drivers, which reduces delivery costs, strengthens supply chain reliability, and boosts economic activity. CDL careers provide median salaries of ~\$70,000, supporting economic self-sufficiency for participants. Outcomes will be measured through employment placement data, wages, recidivism tracking (for formerly incarcerated trainees), the number of certified drivers trained, and Department of Education/Department of Commerce labor-market metrics.

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?

Return of a pro-rata share of state funds if the CDL Consortium fails to meet performance measures, such as training a set number of drivers, ensuring accountability in taxpayer funding.

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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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="Heather L. Turnbull"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="Rubin, Turnbull & Associates"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="heather@rubinturnbull.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(305)495-3868"/>

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