



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1358

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

DMF Employment Opportunities' target population are adults, ages 18 to 60, with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who wish to gain full-time employment and become self-reliant in South Florida. The Employment Project currently has 77 Employer Partners and 155 participants employed in a variety of fields.

The model implemented by DMF Employment Opportunities (DMF) follows a 5-step process that aligns with the evidence-based practice of Customized Employment with a customer focus on the employer and the addition of extended services for the employee. This approach has proven to be successful in generating stable employment while encouraging the hiring of individuals with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) through long-term partnerships beyond the traditional 90 to 150-day period.

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	800,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>800,000</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)	800,000	51%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	200,000	13%
Local	250,000	16%
Other	320,000	20%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>1,570,000</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		
2025-26	0	600,000	28	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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Funds raised through fundraising activities, local grant opportunities and funds from foundations that align with the Mission of DMF Employment Opportunities (DMF).

## 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Office space to conduct trainings, meetings, program activities and counseling sessions Travel/Professional development for direct support staff to attend The Association of People Supporting Employment (APSE) Regional and National Conferences	40,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Direct services provided to maintain employment that include on and off-site job coaching, individual and group sessions, job and life skills development, vocational services, peer group meetings, ongoing follow-ups with the employer and employee. Plus applicable fringe and health insurance.	700,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Communication services, database to maintain notes on progress and assistance provided to participants and time tracking fees to track allocated hours to each participant and employer partner.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services to (1) maintain website, design and disseminate information with constituents via eBlasts and social media, design and print outreach materials and training media, and (2) behavioral analyst/therapist, counselor	40,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		800,000

#### 13. Program Performance

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

The funds will specifically help sustain extended services integral to maintaining long-term employment outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). An investment in extended services yields positive employment outcomes for young adults with IDD, which leads to economic growth and less dependence on government assistance.

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

Offer extended services to at least 200 individuals seeking employment, currently employed, or recently employed to obtain or maintain employment and ensure the employees thrive or grow in their current positions. This includes:

- (1) Weekly: Engage participants technologically to build work and independent living skills while preventing isolation and promoting mental wellness
- (2) Weekly and monthly: Peer group meetings, counseling sessions, and social skills training facilitated by a mental health/behavioral practitioner
- (3) Daily, weekly or biweekly job coaching based on individual needs.

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

Eligible citizens will receive intensive supported employment services in accordance with the Customized Employment model adopted by DMF Employment Opportunities. The appropriation project will specifically fund intensive job coaching to ensure transition into stable employment and extended services to maintain employment.

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

All participants served are adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who seek employment and self-reliance in South Florida. DMF expects to place participants in 35 new job opportunities during the project period. The 153 participants currently employed will continue to access services to maintain employment and the 70 participants seeking employment will receive job and life skills trainings until a job opportunity is identified that matches the participants skills and interests.

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

Activities focused on continuous support for both the employer and the employee with a disability beyond the traditional 90 to 150-day period will be provided to ensure long-term employment outcomes for program participants.

- Secure 15 new job opportunities with new or existing Employer Partners
- Place 35 new participants in employment.
- 80% of participants will remain employed with the same Employer Partner for a minimum of 1 year; 70% for over 2 years
- Increase work hours or hourly rate for 15 new or existing participants.

##### 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?

Future funding will be lost.

#### 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)



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- ☐ 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

**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



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- ☒ 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

d. Phone Number

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