



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1393

1. Project Title Mobile Education Center – Services to Blind and Low Vision Residents Access Expansion

2. Senate Sponsor Jim Boyd

3. Date of Request 11/25/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Lighthouse Vision Loss Center seeks \$848,000 in State support toward a \$1,131,000 regional Mobile Education Center initiative serving Charlotte, Desoto, Highlands, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. This revolutionary service delivery model expands awareness of assistive technology products and services by bringing them directly to individuals with vision loss in low-income and rural communities who face transportation and accessibility challenges. By meeting individuals where they live and work, traditional access barriers are eliminated, and equitable access to education, independence tools, and support resources that empower individuals to live independently and productively. This initiative is grounded in a new cost-effective service delivery model of bringing services to a historically underserved population, ensuring that those most affected by poverty, isolation, and transportation limitations have equal access to life-changing technology and training.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	848,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	848,000

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)	848,000	75%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	283,000	25%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,131,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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? No

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.

N/A

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	Salary and benefits for 3 personnel FY 2026 and 27. Outreach Director, Vision Loss Specialist, Van Driver.	198,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Vehicle with special custom uplift & design of interior and wheel chair lift. Gas, insurance, Outreach registration fees and supplies for FY 2026-2027.	650,000
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)		848,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Provide a Mobile Education Center to bring assistive technology training and device access directly to low-income and rural communities across five counties, reducing transportation barriers and improving independence, communication, and workforce readiness for residents with vision loss.

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

These outreach sessions will be scheduled throughout Charlotte, Desoto, Highlands, Manatee and Sarasota Counties to maximize accessibility for residents who experience vision loss and live in low-income or rural areas. By bringing technology and training directly to neighborhoods, the Mobile Education Center serves as a revolutionary service delivery model of bringing services to a historically underserved.

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

The Mobile Education Center will visit libraries, senior centers, and community organizations to host hands-on learning sessions. Each visit will feature small group classes and individualized support covering:

- Cell phone accessibility and voice-over features
- Computer use with magnification and screen readers
- Wearable device demonstrations (e.g., electronic magnifiers, smart glasses)
- Community resources for vision rehabilitation and support
- Immediate onsite access to assistive technology devices, allowing participants to experience and use tools that enhance independence

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

1000 annually.

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

Lighthouse utilizes a highly effective system of collecting, populating and measuring data for all programs and services utilizing our customized Salesforce program. Data will be collected by site and county for each outreach visit as well as new client enrollment resulting. Pre and post surveys are used and client success is measured against pre established goals set.

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?

Lighthouse will be allocating the funds as described and reporting spending to the State. Any variances will be included. In the event that the project were canceled, funds would be returned.

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



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☐ 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

☐ Other (please specify)



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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.