



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1406

1. Project Title The Motivational Edge: Juvenile Justice Diversion, Prevention & Workforce Readiness Initiative

2. Senate Sponsor Shevrin Jones

3. Date of Request 12/2/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Initiative provides trauma-informed mentoring, arts-based interventions, academic support, SEL development, and workforce readiness training to at-risk youth ages 10–23 in high-need Miami-Dade communities. The program focuses on youth at risk of entering or reentering the juvenile justice system by addressing the root causes of delinquency, including trauma, disengagement, and limited access to safe enrichment opportunities. Through structured pro-social activities, mentoring, and support, youth build resilience, improve behavior, and stay connected to school & community.

Serving 200+ youth annually, the initiative is projected to prevent an estimated 30 offenses each year, resulting in \$337,000–\$450,000 in direct taxpayer cost avoidance based on DJJ cost benchmarks. By reducing first-time offenses & recidivism while improving academic engagement & workforce readiness, the program enhances public safety, strengthens long-term outcomes, and provides a strong fiscal ROI to the State

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Juvenile Justice

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>350,000</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)	350,000	54%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	200,000	31%
Other	100,000	15%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1406

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

## 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	Supports the CEO's leadership of the initiative, including oversight of program execution, partnership coordination, fiscal compliance, reporting, and strategic direction to ensure the project meets all state-defined goals and performance outcomes.	18,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Covers compensation for the Program Director and Program Manager responsible for daily operations, supervision of teaching artists, youth enrollment, data tracking, staff support, and delivery of diversion, prevention, and workforce-readiness services.	30,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds local travel for staff to oversee program sites, conduct youth assessments, and coordinate services. May also include minor supplies or operational needs tied to program delivery.	2,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Provides for CPA or financial consultant support to ensure accurate accounting, compliance, reporting, and fiscal oversight aligned with state requirements and audit standards.	5,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Supports essential program staff, including the Campus Coordinator, Administrative Support, Education Specialist, TAP Specialist, and Mentors. These positions oversee daily operations, coordinate youth services, deliver academic and SEL support, provide case management, and ensure consistent mentoring and workforce-readiness instruction across all program sites.	110,000



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

**LFIR # 1406**

Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	Covers transportation for youth and staff, program materials, technology needs, educational and arts supplies, site maintenance items, and other operational costs required to safely and effectively deliver diversion, prevention, and workforce development services.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds specialized 1099 professionals—including life coaches, tutors, teaching artists, and mentors—who provide targeted support, academic assistance, therapeutic arts sessions, and individualized workforce and life-skills coaching. These contracted experts expand program reach and ensure youth receive high-quality, specialized services aligned with project goals.	134,500
<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>350,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will expand The Motivational Edge's Juvenile Justice Diversion, Prevention & Workforce Readiness Initiative to reduce first-time offenses, lower recidivism, and serve 200 at-promise youth with trauma-informed mentoring, arts-based intervention, and workforce skill-building-ultimately decreasing juvenile justice costs and improving community safety.

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

Wraparound education and mentoring services will be provided to students in grade 2 up to 23 years old, 7 days per week. Activities will include trauma-informed mentoring, arts and education programming (music, lyrical expression, visual arts), academic and SEL support, goal-setting, and workforce readiness training. Services focus on diversion, prevention, skill-building, and ongoing engagement to reduce first-time offenses and recidivism among at-promise youth.

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

The project will provide youth with direct diversion and prevention services, including trauma-informed mentoring, arts-based intervention, academic and behavioral support, SEL development, court-compliance assistance, and workforce readiness coaching-helping reduce offenses, improve stability, and support healthy development.

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

Youth with a history in the juvenile justice system, the lowest 25% performing in school, and youth in foster care are our prime target population. The project serves at-promise youth & young adults ages 10–23 in high-need communities, and youth at risk of entering or reentering the juvenile justice system. Approximately 200 youth are expected to be served annually through diversion, prevention, and workforce-readiness programming.

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

- 25–30% reduction in first-time offenses and recidivism among participating youth. Measured through DJJ re-offense data, court-compliance tracking, case management notes, and completion of diversion requirements.
- 80% of youth will show improved social-emotional skills and behavioral stability. Measured by SEL assessments, pre/post surveys, attendance logs, and behavior reports.
- 75% of youth will demonstrate increased engagement in school and positive activities. Measured through attendance tracking, participation logs, academic reports, and staff evaluations.
- 100% of youth will receive career, vocational, or workforce-readiness exposure. Measured through pre- and post-interest surveys, workshop participation records, and documentation of off-site experiences or coaching sessions.
- Demonstrated cost avoidance to the State through fewer youth offenses. Measured by calculating avoided system costs using DJJ cost benchmarks (\$7,900–\$15,000 per offense).



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1406

**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?**

Withholding of payments is fully understandable if our agency fails to meet the performance measures. The Motivational Edge will internally audit and reflect on all aspects of the program to maintain fidelity.

**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

**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**



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1406

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.

#### 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.*