



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1614

1. Project Title

Florida Digital Wellness & Mental Health Initiative
(ParentDigitalAnswers.org)

2. Senate Sponsor

Corey Simon

3. Date of Request

11/17/2025

4. Project/Program Description

To design, pilot, and make statewide-ready, a family-based digital addiction and mental health program that started in Leon County schools and Sheriff's Department. Our website, brochures, other materials, gives parents and youth shared tools to reduce harmful screen use. The project has two parts: (1) Family Digital & Mental Health Bootcamp and (2) spreading information, resources, and solutions for Digital Addiction with a cyber-bullying emphasis: ParentDigitalAnswers.org. Bill Montford and David Sikes of the state superintendent's office wants this in all 67 county school districts.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted?

Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	195,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	195,000

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)	195,000	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	195,000	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.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Oversee all of Your Children's World (YCW) projects, expansion, webinars, and presentations throughout Florida. The North Florida Panhandle will have many in person presentations, family workshops, teaching and law enforcement training concerning use our resources.	0
Other Salary and Benefits	Part-time volunteers to handle participant sign-up, reminders, data entry, in-person meetings for schools, parents, and law enforcement in the Panhandle. Also to help schedule statewide webinars open to all of Florida School Districts, Sheriffs' and Police Depts, and other youth focused associations.	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	In-state travel within north Florida for hotels, meals, gas.	15,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Website consultant and tech fees.	5,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Curriculum/instructional designer to align parent+child content to mental health; outreach coordinator to work with Leon County School District/community partners. The 17 counties from Madison and Taylor west to Escambia, we will need a traveling instructor for in-person meetings.	0



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	Requested grant to support the expansion of our educational materials and outreach across an 18-county region. Specifically, funds will be used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printing Parent/Youth Workbooks to guide families through digital safety concepts and healthy technology habits.• Family Digital Health Plan Packets for all county cohorts, providing step-by-step tools for managing screen time, setting boundaries, and creating safer digital environments at home.• Family Challenge Kits designed	120,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Supplies for all the schools in this 17-county area. We have Bill Montford and David Sikes with the state superintendent's office, encouraging us. Video production and editing for parent series and youth lessons (content studio). Ongoing research with new video games and apps. Facilitator stipends to run 8–12 bootcamp cohorts in the other 17 counties in the Panhandle. Evaluation and reporting tools (pre/post, 60-day follow-up) County replication package (implementation guide, te	55,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		195,000

13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will directly support our most effective outreach tool: high-quality printed brochures that drive parents, grandparents, and youth to our educational website, ParentDigitalAnswers.org. While we actively use modern digital platforms, our data shows that brochures remain our strongest catalyst for engagement, prompting families to seek deeper guidance online. Our overarching mission is to combat digital addiction by equipping families with clear, practical knowledge about the risks of excessive screen time and unsafe online environments. Through our materials, we raise awareness of how popular social media apps and online video games can expose youth to cyberbullying, and many of the inherent dangers with these apps and games.

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

To advance our mission and maximize the impact of grant funding, we deliver a range of educational presentations and community outreach services tailored to schools, families, and local leaders. Our presentations vary in length and depth to meet the needs of each audience. For example, our 20-minute briefing to the Leon County School Board was so effective that the district purchased 6,000 brochures and distributed 100 to the front office of each of its 47 schools. We also provide longer, one-hour sessions for groups such as the Chiles High School staff and later their football team, allowing us to explore issues more thoroughly and engage directly with youth and educators. Across all presentations, we focus on the rapidly evolving challenges families face— including advances in AI, new and trending online games and apps, and the associated risks. We emphasize both awareness and practical solutions that parents, grandparents, youth, and educators can implement immediately.

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

This project will deliver a wide range of direct services to citizens, ensuring families receive practical, accessible guidance on digital safety. Local residents will benefit from our Public Service Announcements (PSAs), which have already aired more than 3,000 times on local ABC, CBS, and NBC affiliates, significantly expanding community awareness. We also conduct educational sessions at school events, public seminars, and community gatherings—many of which include interactive Q&A to address individual concerns. Our instruction equips parents, grandparents, and guardians with clear, actionable strategies for managing their children's digital use across all devices, including phones, tablets, and computers. We teach families how to set healthy digital boundaries, how to balance screen time with family time, and how to recognize early signs of digital overuse. We stress balance, as the average youth spends well over 50 hours a week in front of a screen.

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



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This project serves families, students, educators, and public safety personnel across 17 counties west of Madison and Taylor counties. Our outreach focuses primarily on school-aged youth ages 8 to 18, as well as the parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, and law enforcement officers who support them. College-age students have also shown strong interest and benefit from our presentations.

In Leon County (Tallahassee) alone, we have delivered over 50 presentations to school groups, sheriff's office employees, and city and county officials, demonstrating both demand and impact. Continued partnership from local media—such as Leon County's three TV stations and multiple newspapers, all have been enthusiastic supporters—we anticipate expanding our reach significantly throughout the entire 17-county region.

This funding will help us serve tens of thousands of individuals, including students, families, educators, and leaders, through presentations, our digital and printed materials.

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

The expected outcome of this project is a measurable increase in family awareness, safety, and balance regarding digital use, along with a reduction in digital-related harms such as cyberbullying, excessive gaming, and exposure to unsafe online content.

To evaluate these outcomes, we rely on surveys and data collection from schools, parents, and community partners. For example, the Leon County School District distributed a districtwide survey to all 47 schools—including principals, assistant principals, counselors, social workers, psychologists, and district staff—regarding the frequency and impact of cyberbullying. Survey results confirmed that every school experiences cyberbullying weekly, and many reported incidents occurring daily, underscoring the urgent need for our work.

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?

Repayment of funds awarded, proportionate to completion.

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)?



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- ☐ 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.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number



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