



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1641

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Vocational and educational programming in corrections utilizing virtual reality technology to improve literacy, workforce preparation, and the attainment of CTE credentials.

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	1,450,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,450,000

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)	1,450,000	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	1,450,000	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		

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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1641

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	One year lease of virtual reality headsets with storage carts and casting laptops.	135,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Licensing of Promising People, LLC educational products including academic and CTE pathways, 4 facilitators from Promising People to work with students at FDC facilities	1,315,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,450,000

13. Program Performance

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

Workforce readiness of FDC inmates with guided effort to prepare them for quality careers in high demand fields that are essential to Florida's economic growth and need. This will include both CTE curriculums as well as literacy and academic progress, with focus on attaining high school diplomas, as opposed to a GED, for those that lack them currently as this can increase their earning potential post release by up to 50%.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1641

As proved in previous pilots with FDC, students will engage in learning through virtual reality headsets in career oriented curriculums that allow them to attain nationally recognized credentials in high demand skilled labor fields. Virtual Reality CTE coursework will vary from construction fields to emerging technology and CDL programming. Adult phonics and Ability to Benefit programming ensures these students have access to Pell funding (Workforce Pell will be implemented in 2026 after passage in the Big Beautiful Bill passed in 2025) but will also lead students to attainment of a High School Diploma.

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

Educational programming to FDC inmates.

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

500 individuals who are currently incarcerated by the Florida Department of Corrections will participate in the program.

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

As in prior pilots conducted by FDC with Promising People, the number of nationally recognized career credentials attained will be measured as well as high school diplomas earned for those that lack them. The combination of a high school diploma and these nationally recognized career certifications will enable these individuals to find employment post release and therefore reduce the likelihood of them recidivating reducing the burden of the state to have to incarcerate them in the future. Florida's economy currently badly needs the type of workforce this program will create.

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?

Loss of future contracting ability.

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:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1641

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.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1641

d. Phone Number

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