



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1690

1. Project Title Boys & Girls Club & Teen Workforce Readiness Center of West Palm Beach

2. Senate Sponsor Mack Bernard

3. Date of Request 12/2/2025

#### 4. Project/Program Description

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County is requesting a \$1.5 million grant to finalize the funding for construction of a new 31,000 square foot Boys & Girls Club and Workforce Readiness Center in West Palm Beach's Dreher Park. Construction of the Club will provide 800 youth from six to 18 years of age with a safe and educational haven each day after school and throughout the summer and non-school days. The location of the Club will enable the organization to reach youth in a low-income area - particularly teens who have few, if any, options for their out-of-school time.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</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)	1,500,000	8%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	16,500,000	92%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>18,000,000</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.

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)?

Yes

#### c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/03/2025

#### d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

08/14/2026

#### e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Foundation, grants, individual contributions, special event income, government funds (Early Learning Coalition and Youth Services of Palm Beach County), and endowment proceeds.

### 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.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County is the owner of the building with a 50-year ground lease from the City of West Palm Beach.

### 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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Fixed Capital Construction of a 31,000 sq ft Boys & Girls Club and Teen Workforce Readiness Center	1,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The requested funds will close the gap to reach \$18 million required to complete the construction of the new 31,000 square foot Boys & Girls Club and Teen Workforce Readiness Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Club will provide 800 youth from six to 18 years of age with a safe and educational haven each day after school and throughout the summer and non-school days. The location of the Club will enable the organization to reach youth in a low-income area - particularly teens who have few, if any, options for their out-of-school time.

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

After school and summer programming is often cost prohibitive for low-income families, the new Club will provide an affordable (\$30 annual membership fee), quality program to parents that would otherwise have no option but to have their child home alone each day after school and in the summer in unsupervised and often dangerous situations. The Club will be open from 2PM to 8PM each day after school and from 7:30AM to 6PM on non-school days and throughout the summer to provide much needed support and peace of mind to working families. Programs will include Academic Assistance and tutoring with certified teachers, Teen Workforce Readiness instruction, STEM, Life and Health Skills, Leadership Training, Hunger Relief, and Sports, Fitness and Recreational programs. In addition, to providing a myriad of programs, the Club will provide a snack, and a hot meal each day after school and breakfast and lunch during non-school days and summer.

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

In keeping with the needs of the area's youth, the main Club will be comprised of two distinct wings to provide numerous age specific flex areas for high yield learning opportunities. The youth wing for children from 6 to 12 years of age is 6,716 sq ft and includes both junior and cadet activity centers, a technology lab, cultural arts center, and academic center. The 8,671 sq ft Workforce Readiness Center wing will have numerous educational and career hubs to attract teens and help them academically, so they are ready to transition to secondary educational opportunities, obtain a certification for a skilled labor position or join the military. These areas include a Commercial Teaching Kitchen, Technology & Digital Media Lab, Sound & Recording Studio, Robotics & Maker's Space, Design Studio, two additional Career Hub spaces, and a Teen Lounge. Shared spaces for all youth include a cafeteria and a gymnasium with a basketball court and combination dance studio/stage.

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

The Boys & Girls Club expects to serve 800 young people from six to 18 years of age from low-income families annually. According to the 2020 Census, more than 2,100 children between the ages of 5 and 19 live within one mile of the new Clubhouse. More than 70% of the children live in households with annual incomes at or near poverty as the average per capita income is \$28,351 and one out of every 10 children live in households with an annual income of less than \$15,000. After school academic assistance is a critical need as only 39% at one elementary and 43% at the other local elementary school are reading at grade level and less than 45% are performing at grade level in math. Similarly, only 39% of the middle school students are performing at grade level in English and only 43% in math. Worse still, only 24% of the area's high school students are performing at grade level in Algebra and only 45% in English Language Arts.

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

BGCPBC programs help youth to improve academic performance, physical health, and mental health. Programs will also support transportation for families, enrich cultural experiences, help to reduce childhood hunger and substance use and abuse, and divert youth from the Juvenile Justice system. Teen workforce readiness programs will improve economic activity and enhance economic self-sufficiency. Program outcomes will be measured through pre- and post-tests, responses to BGCA's research-based National Youth Outcomes Initiatives survey, school report cards and state standardized test scores, graduation rates, collaboration with the Dept. of Juvenile Justice, and acceptance into secondary education, certification programs, or the military.

**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?**

Should Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County (BGCPBC) fail to meet the contract requirements, the Boys & Girls Club will meet all legal remedies provided by law and contract including refunding of all of the allocated funds.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?



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- ☐ 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**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**18. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization**



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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.*