



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1703

1. Project Title Empowered of Central Florida expansion of the Rock Program Into Levy, Citrus & Sumter

2. Senate Sponsor Stan McClain

3. Date of Request 12/1/2025

4. Project/Program Description

With \$350,000 in state appropriations, the Rock Program will expand services to all middle schools and high schools in Marion & Citrus and Launch in Levy & Sumter counties. This funding will empower thousands of students with essential items, improving attendance, confidence and academic performance. The expanded reach and operational efficiency will ensure no child's success is hindered by lack of basic resources including food, clothing, school supplies, and hygiene products..

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	375,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	375,000

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)	375,000	65%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	200,000	35%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	575,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2025-26	0	350,000	111	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 300,000

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	This appropriation request seeks funding to support the salaries of current critical staff within our organization, ensuring the effective implementation and sustainability of programs that serve our community. The request will cover 40% of the salaries for the Executive Director, Operations Director, and Outreach Coordinator	63,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Support funds for current Program Coordinator and Inventory Coordinator in Citrus County at 25% and hire a driver	20,800
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Essential need items that are better purchased new, - 26 existing Rock rooms in Marion, Citrus and Lake County	52,400
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Coaches for Empowered Wrestling Program (year around wrestling program for 6 to 14 year olds) and Linemen Academy (6 month program for young men learning the skills needed to be an effective youth football lineman.)	22,525
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	100% of the salaries for two new Program Managers who are essential to the day-to-day management and delivery of our initiatives in Levy County	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Build out \$5000 per room and stock for year one (\$5000) of 8 Rock program Rooms 2 in Citrus County, 5 in Levy County, and 1 in Marion fuel cost, vehicle maintenance, 15 laptops, 6 lpads (Citrus) for inventory control tracking at each school County. Purchase build outequipment.	95,475
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Fractional CFO, Social Media Strategist	20,800
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)

375,000

13. Program Performance

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

Enhancing Access to Essential Resources

Provide under served middle and high school students with essential items such as clothing, hygiene products, and school supplies to improve their self-esteem and readiness to succeed in school and life.

Expanding Program Reach

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

1. Distribution of Essential Items

Provide students with clothing, shoes, hygiene products, school supplies, and other basic necessities to ensure they have the tools to succeed academically and socially.

Organize regular distribution events at participating schools and community centers.

2. Outreach and Program Expansion

Identify and partner with additional schools, focusing on underserved areas, to expand the reach of the Rock Program.

3. Resource Logistics and Management

Improve the storage, inventory, and distribution systems to handle increased demands efficiently.

Invest in transportation solutions to ensure timely delivery of resources to schools and communities.

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

Access to Essential Items

Distribute clothing, shoes, and outerwear to students in need.

Provide hygiene products, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and deodorant.

Supply school essentials, including backpacks, notebooks, pens, and other learning materials.

Improved Access for under served Communities

Bring mobile resource units to rural or economically challenged areas where students face significant barriers to basic resources.

Expand partnerships with schools and community centers to establish convenient distribution hubs.

Community Engagement and Support

Facilitate community events, such as resource fairs, where families can access not only Rock Program services but also additional support from local organizations.

Create volunteer opportunities for community members to actively engage in supporting students.

Data-Driven Impact Reporting

Collect and analyze feedback from students and schools to assess the program's impact.

Share measurable with stakeholders.

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

Target Population Served

The Rock Program targets underserved middle and high school students who face barriers to academic success and personal development due to a lack of essential resources. The program focuses on students in:

Economically disadvantaged communities where poverty limits access to basic needs.

Rural or under served areas with fewer community support services.

Schools with high rates of free or reduced lunch participation, indicating financial hardship.

Families experiencing temporary hardships, such as homelessness, unemployment, or financial instability.

The project also indirectly benefits:

Families of students, by alleviating financial burdens.

School staff and administrators, by addressing students' non-academic challenges, allowing them to focus on education.

Number of Individuals Expected to Be Served

Direct Beneficiaries (Students):

An estimated 2,500–3,000 students annually across multiple schools and communities.

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



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Expected Benefits or Outcomes of the Project

The Rock Program's primary benefits and outcomes are tied to improving the well-being and success of under served students. Key outcomes include:

Enhanced Student Confidence and Self-Esteem

Providing essential resources like clothing and hygiene products empowers students to feel confident and ready to participate in school activities.

Improved Academic Performance

Addressing basic needs helps students focus on their education, leading to improved attendance, engagement, and academic success.

Reduced Financial Burden on Families

Supplying essential items reduces the strain on families struggling to meet their children's basic needs.

Increased Access to Resources in Under served Areas

Expanding the program ensures equitable access to resources for students in economically disadvantaged and rural communities.

Stronger Community Collaboration

Engaging local businesses, schools, and volunteers fosters a supportive network around students.

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?

Financial Penalties

Withholding of Funds:

A portion of the appropriated funds may be withheld until specific deliverables are met.

Reduction of Future Funding:

Reduce funding for subsequent phases or years if performance measures are not achieved.

Reimbursement Requirements:

Require the grantee to return funds that were allocated but not used effectively or failed to meet their intended purpose.

Corrective Action Plans

Mandatory Corrective Action Plan Submission:

Require the organization to develop and implement a plan addressing deficiencies, with strict timelines for improvement.

Performance Improvement Programs:

Enroll the organization in a formal performance improvement program overseen by the contracting agency.

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#:



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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)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name	<input type="text" value="None"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

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