



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1738

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Through the School to Work program, we partner with 35 corporations and other organizations to open doors of hope and opportunity for students. Each month, youth meet with a volunteer mentor at their job site, where they experience first-hand the world of work from the perspective of, and with encouragement from, someone who is already employed by our respective partner. Workplace partners facilitate workshops on topics, such as work-readiness, preparing for post-secondary education and/or employment, resume writing, business etiquette, and interview skills. BBBS staff provides support to workplace partners regarding the youth and mentoring strategies. Our mentoring services provide experiences that assist youth to immediately enter the workforce.

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	950,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	950,000

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)	950,000	87%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	142,500	13%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,092,500	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		
2025-26	0	950,000	2077	No

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.



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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	The executive provides senior level direction and management in contractual relationships with BBBS local agencies in Florida. Benefits are approximately an additional 6.5% of the salaries and wages. Payroll taxes are also an additional 7.65% of the salaries and wages.	5,505
Other Salary and Benefits	The wages, payroll taxes and benefits for BBBSAF staff to include the Chief Financial Officer and a program manager as well as additional staff as deemed necessary to manage the project.	28,820
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses for liability insurance, travel to BBBS local agencies for program quality control, supplies, postage, and subscriptions/services for on-line access, technology, communications services and other expenses necessary for the project managed by Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida.	1,750
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultants and contract services for the financial statement audit, program reporting and evaluation, and payroll service fees. The allocation of the expense is in proportion of the project to the overall operation of Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida.	1,925
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contract services for our STW mentoring support through BBBS local agencies serving youth in Florida. The expenses incurred by the local agencies include the cost for recruitment of volunteers and youth, assessment for eligibility to participate, background screening, and professional support staff who are monitoring and supporting the program operations at corporate partner locations.	912,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		950,000

13. Program Performance

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

The School-to-Work program goal is to ensure that students improve their chances of graduating and transitioning to the workplace. This allows them to meet with and shadow volunteer employee mentors at our workplace partners offices, sites, etc. each month during the school year. This exposure to the workplace and encouragement from volunteer mentors makes a world of difference as students improve their grades, gain in self-esteem, and graduate high school with plans for a career. The immediate benefit of our School-to-Work Program is that students will be trained by corporate partners who will serve as teachers and mentors to prepare students to fulfill the growing need of a highly skilled and educated workforce in Florida.

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

Our corporate partners open doors of hope and opportunity for students by welcoming them into the workplace to meet and shadow volunteer employee mentors each month during the school year. This firsthand exposure to professional environments—combined with the guidance and encouragement of caring mentors—makes a lasting difference. Students improve their grades, build self-confidence, and graduate high school prepared for success in college, careers, and life.

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

Facilitated through our statewide BBBS local agencies, BBBSAF will match approximately six hundred (600) students, identified as at-risk youth, with mentors who are employed in corporate workplace partners of Big Brothers Big Sisters local agencies. Each month, youth in STW meet with and shadow a volunteer mentor at his or her job, where youth experience first-hand the world of work from the perspective of and with encouragement from someone who is already doing the job. Workplace partners facilitate workshops on topics, such as work-readiness, preparing for post-secondary education and/or employment, resume writing, business etiquette, and interview skills. BBBS staff provides support to workplace partners regarding the youth and mentoring strategies.

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

Students across the state of Florida often lack the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for success in school or in jobs. Unfortunately, this skills gap affects some of the state's most vulnerable youth disproportionately: rates of college attendance, unemployment and underemployment tend to be higher for at risk and/or low-income youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters local agencies identify at-risk youth for participation in the STW program. Students and mentors are encouraged to commit to the STW program for two years.

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

In addition to the benefits of youth having a caring adult mentor who is a successful role model, the STW program offers opportunities for youth to learn valuable career skills. In the corporate environment, youth shadow the work of their mentor, and other workers, to provide an opportunity to be exposed to various types of jobs/careers. Workplace partners facilitate workshops on topics, such as work-readiness, preparing for post-secondary education and/or employment, resume writing, business etiquette, and interview skills. BBBS staff provides support to workplace partners regarding the youth and mentoring strategies. Our mentoring services provide experiences that assist youth to immediately enter the workforce.

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 consequences for failure to meet the deliverables are charged on at a fixed price per unit of youth matched with a mentor in the School to Work (STW) program. If the contract number of youth do not receive one-to-one mentoring services at a corporate partner site, the funding will be reduced on a per youth basis during the budget period July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.



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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

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

18. Recipient Contact Information



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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.