



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1777

1. Project Title DIRSEE BRIDGE PROJECT - CONNECTING RURAL YOUTH TO HEALTH, HOPE & OPPORTUNITIES

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

3. Date of Request 12/8/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The DIRSEE Bridge Project provides under-resourced youth in rural areas with comprehensive support to enhance their academic, social, and personal development. The program offers tutoring and educational enrichment, mentorship, career readiness, college and career exposure through tours, health and wellness activities, social-emotional learning, and violence prevention seminars. It also empowers youth to feel safe, valued and equally important as peers in urban and suburban areas, fostering confidence, opportunity, and long-term personal and economic growth.

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	275,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	275,000

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)	275,000	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	275,000	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.

N/A

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 salary will be a flat fee to provide overall leadership, management, and coordination of the Project to ensure effective implementation and results.	27,500
Other Salary and Benefits	This salary supports three administrative staff members (the Data Collector, Fiscal Manager, and Site Manager) who are responsible for data management, financial reporting, and on-site program operations for the DIRSEE Bridge Project.	38,750
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will be spent on laptops, tablets, travel, food, school supplies, equipment, clinics and workshop materials, facility usage, college tours and enrichment activities to ensure the program runs effectively.	158,750
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Funds will be spent on consultants providing specialized instruction, including education specialists, mental health professional, career coaches, guest speakers and physical trainers.	50,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		275,000

13. Program Performance

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



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These funds will allow DIRSEE to server under-resourced youth in rural communities. The goal is to strengthen academic performance, physical health, mental wellness, and career readiness through mentorship and education. Funds will support fitness and nutrition activities, mental health workshops, tutoring, literacy programs and college tours. The project will also provide laptops, tablets, reading materials, enrichment workshops. Lastly, our goal is to empower youth to feel safe, valued and equally important as peers in urban and suburban areas.

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

The purpose of the funds, the project will provide academic tutoring and educational support, mentorship and social-emotional learning, a violence prevention program, career readiness, college and career exposure through tours, health and wellness activities, and enrichment that build skills, resilience, and opportunities for under-resourced rural youth.

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

The requested funding will provide under-resourced rural youth with academic support (tutoring), health and wellness activities, mentorship, career readiness training, college and career tours, and enrichment opportunities to enhance their educational, physical, and mental well-being.

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

We will serve 50-100 under resourced youth in rural areas with deficiencies in mental health, physical health, economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth, homeless, single parent households, grade school and high school students and victims of crime.

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

The project will improve educational achievement, mental and physical well-being, career readiness, violence prevention skills, and provide exposure to college and career opportunities for under-resourced rural youth. The outcomes will be measured through pre- and post-assessments, participation tracking in program activities, and feedback from students and mentors to evaluate skill development, engagement, and behavioral improvements.

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?

Payback of a percentage of the awarded amount to the State of Florida, or designated agencies, if the organization does not fulfill the obligations set forth in this request.

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



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☐ 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

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)



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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.