



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1859

1. Project Title Centro Mater Child Care Services- Family Wellness & Mental Health Education Initiative

2. Senate Sponsor Ileana Garcia

3. Date of Request 12/1/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Centro Mater Foundation, Inc., established in 1968, is a nationally accredited educational and childcare organization that serves low-income working families. The initiative aims to educate parents and caregivers on vital topics such as family planning, child development, co-parenting, violence prevention, and mental health awareness. The program will offer weekly educational and intervention sessions, crisis support, and referrals for families in need, with a focus on the East Little Havana community.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Children and Families

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	175,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	175,000

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)	175,000	88%
Matching Funds		
Federal	25,000	12%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	200,000	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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 100,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Private grants if available or Federal Funds under the Head Start Program if available.



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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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Project coordinator to implement initiative and coordinate activities.	65,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	2 laptops, office furniture Travel-mileage books, copy paper, materials for class	12,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	2 Mental Heath specialist to assist with project implementation and interventions-available to families during program hours @ 49,000 each for 12 months.	98,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		175,000

13. Program Performance

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

The primary goal is to strengthen the well-being and stability of low-income working families in Miami-Dade County by providing preventive mental health support, education, and intervention services to parents, guardians, and children, fostering stronger family relationships and improved mental wellness outcomes.

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



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- a. Mental health awareness and substance abuse prevention workshops.
- b. Co-parenting and positive discipline sessions to strengthen family relationships.
- c. On-site clinician support and crisis intervention services.
- d. Follow-up and referral to long-term mental health and family services.
- e. Youth empowerment and emotional wellness activities.
- f. Community outreach and educational events promoting mental wellness.

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

- a. Bilingual individual and family counseling sessions.
- b. Crisis intervention and short-term mental health support.
- c. Case management and referral to long-term services.
- d. Parent coaching and family mediation sessions.
- e. Youth mentoring and resilience-building activities.

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

The program serves approximately 1,500 low-income working families in East Little Havana, Miami-Dade County, an area where a significant percentage of households live below the poverty line. The median household income is about \$38,500, and many residents face barriers such as limited English proficiency, high stress, and single-parent household challenges. The community also experiences elevated rates of family instability and domestic violence. Centro Mater provides preventive mental health and family support services to help address these economic, linguistic, and emotional barriers and strengthen overall family well-being.

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 quality of life, mental health awareness, and family relationships among low-income working families in East Little Havana. Expected outcomes include reduced stress, stronger coping skills, and increased access to mental health resources. Progress will be measured through direct family engagement, referral tracking, consultations with mental health professionals, and follow-up evaluations, consistent with best practices in psychology and family support services.

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?

No penalties anticipated

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



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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)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.



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19. Lobbyist Contact Information

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.