



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1935

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Tiny Talkers Initiative:
Our Tiny Talkers Initiative aims to provide an additional 600 Duval County 2 - 6-year-olds, located at 30 more preschools, with diagnostic screenings, evaluations and treatments (as needed) of speech/language disorders including: oral motor speech disorder, receptive and expressive language disorder, stuttering/disfluency, and apraxia. Our early intervention speech-language initiative leverages community partnerships with preschools, which allow us to utilize their space so we can serve the children in the place that's most convenient for them and their caregivers.

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	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

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)	350,000	47%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	387,610	53%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	737,610	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	350,000	80	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.

We currently receive the City of Jacksonville, Kid's Hope Alliance grant funding for \$387,610. The requested funds will allow us to continue to maximize our impact on preschoolers in the county.



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1935

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	Speech-Language Pathologist Lead-Salary and Benefits Speech-Language Pathologist-Salary and Benefits Speech-Language Pathologist-Salary and Benefits Speech-Language Pathology Assistant-Salary and Benefits	312,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Assessment and therapy materials, mileage, education materials for parents, caregivers, and childcare facility staff.	38,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		350,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1935

Continuation of the Tiny Talkers Initiative, which aims to provide 600 Duval County 2 - 6-year-olds, located at 30 more preschools, with diagnostic screenings, evaluations and treatments (as needed) of speech/language disorders including: oral motor speech disorder, receptive and expressive language disorder, stuttering/disfluency, and apraxia. Our early intervention speech-language initiative leverages community partnerships with preschools, which allow us to utilize their space so we can serve the children in the place that's most convenient for them and their caregivers. The top reasons provided by underserved populations for not seeking needed healthcare services are lack of time, transportation concerns, lack of insurance or insurance coverage, and high healthcare costs. Our Tiny Talkers Program addresses all of these concerns.

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

Provide speech-language screenings, evaluations and treatment (if needed) to children identified as most in need of speech-language support and provide educational materials to parents, caregivers and childcare facility staff to identify children with speech-language deficits, understand the importance of evaluating and treating it and support the work done in therapy sessions, with clinicians.

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

Provide speech-language screenings, evaluations and treatments (if needed) to preschool aged children identified as most in need of speech-language development so they may enter elementary school with identical communication skills as their same aged peers.

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

600 Duval County 2 - 6-year-olds

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

Improve quality of education:
For every child entering into therapy, a unique set of goals is set based on standardized testing. Progress is monitored and recorded on each of those goals. Goals are updated accordingly. Preschool Language Scales, Fifth Edition (PLS-5) or other standardized age-appropriate assessments are used to identify any deficits and develop an individual plan for each child. The PLS-5 provides a comprehensive development language assessment for children from ages birth to 7. It assesses nine major areas of auditory comprehension.

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?

Our organization is requesting service-based funding determined by the number of preschoolers that are screened for speech/language disorders within a 12-month period. If we fail to meet and comply with the activities/deliverables established or to make appropriate progress and they are not resolved within two weeks of a written request for correction, the contract manager may withhold payment proportionate to the deficient service or performance until the deficiency is cured or a reduced payment by the rate established under this contract proportionate to the deficient service or performance.

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1935

- ☐ 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

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

☐ For Profit Entity

☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1935

☐ 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.