



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1981

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The specific purpose of the funds requested is to develop and implement a comprehensive training program for school personnel, focusing on early mental health intervention. This initiative is accomplished through a formal Certificate in School Mental Health Support. The focus is on equipping them with skills to effectively recognize, assess, and respond to the early mental health needs of middle school students, fostering a healthier and more supportive learning environment. Activities and services provided include interactive workshops, access to mental health toolkits, and ongoing support from mental health professionals. These services aim to ensure that educators are well-prepared to meet the mental health needs of their students effectively.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	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	500,000	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	250,000	105	Yes

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Scholarship for 35 school personnel to attend Certificate Program 10% of Social Work Faculty to teach program 10% of Counseling and School Psychology program to teach 10% of Clinical Psychology program to teach	500,000
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)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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This grant will increase access to mental health support within school systems by equipping school personnel with the skills and knowledge to act as first-level interventionists. Through specialized training, school personnel will learn to recognize the early manifestations of mental health concerns in their students and respond effectively. This training will empower educators to de-escalate challenging behaviors, provide initial support, and identify when and how to connect students with appropriate mental health resources. By enhancing school personnel's capacity to intervene early, the program addresses a critical gap in mental health services within schools, ensuring that students receive timely and appropriate care.

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

This initiative involves the completion of a Certificate in School Mental Health Support by 35 school professionals, which activities include curriculum development, training in evidence-based practices for mental health support, early intervention, and resilience-building strategies tailored to middle school students. It will also include crisis intervention skills, resource development, mentorship and networking opportunities, as well as follow-up support, assessment and program outcomes on both the direct participants as well as the students they serve.

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

The initiative will provide the following direct services to participants: a) Mental Health Training for School Professionals: Prepare 35 school personnel with the skills to recognize and address mental health issues in middle school students, b) Crisis Response Preparedness: Enable school staff to handle mental health crises effectively, fostering safer school environments for all students, d) Support for Middle School Students: Directly impact the well-being of middle school students in Miami-Dade County by providing them with better access to mental health services within their schools. e) Resource Access for Schools: Supply trained personnel with toolkits and ongoing resources, enhancing the mental health infrastructure across the district. f) Pathway to Advanced Mental Health Careers: 15 graduate level credits earned can be applied to earning an advanced mental health degree.

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

The primary target population for this initiative includes 35 school professionals and will impact approximately 6,000 students. These students represent a diverse demographic with varied cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, many of whom face barriers to accessing mental health services. By training these school professionals, this initiative will indirectly serve these students by significantly increasing the mental health support available within their schools.

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

The Uplifting School Mental Health Initiative will have a transformative impact on Miami-Dade's middle school students. By training 35 school professionals, the program will enhance the availability and quality of mental health support within schools. Specifically, it will increase access, promote early intervention, improve academic performance, and foster resilience. The following methods will be employed to measure the success of the initiative: Pre- and Post-Training Assessments, Student Impact Surveys, School Performance Metrics, and Follow-Up Evaluations.

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?

Options if deliverables or performance measures are not met: 1) Withhold payment of the portion of contracted payment impacted by not being able to complete deliverables, 2) Reduction in Contract Scope or Budget. Grant may need to be realigned with the resources and ability to complete the deliverables not yet met, and, 3) A structured Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) can be implemented, containing specifics of goals, objectives and action steps within specified timeline. Failure to continue to not meet deliverables may mean contract termination.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? ☐ No

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)



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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

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

☐ For Profit Entity

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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☐ 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.