



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2028

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This program is an artificial intelligence education and workforce readiness program serving both collegiate and high school students. At the collegiate level, it provides hands-on, applied AI experiences through industry-aligned projects and professional mentorship that strengthen technical skills and prepare students for technology-driven careers. At the high school level, it introduces foundational AI concepts and applied learning, within the first-year student teams are participating in President Trump's Presidential AI Challenge and additional AI development project competitions, giving students sustained exposure to real-world problem-solving and emerging technologies.

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	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	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	300,000	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		

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	Project Director Salary and Benefits	90,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Technical Director, Accounting and Bookkeeping, Managing Directors	135,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Staff travel for visiting schools and stakeholder meetings, Cloud & AI Infrastructure, software licenses, regional training & research. Travel expenses associated with industry engagements, training and conferences.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Industry mentors from businesses and academia	25,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The funds requested will support the launch of an artificial intelligence education and workforce readiness program designed to prepare students for careers in the growing AI and technology sectors. The program's goal is to build a sustainable talent pipeline by providing college students with applied, industry-aligned AI experiences while introducing high school students to foundational AI concepts and real-world applications.

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

Our organization will use the funding to plan, administer, and deliver a structured artificial intelligence education program serving collegiate and high school students. Program activities include designing and managing industry-aligned, project-based AI learning experiences; coordinating professional mentorship and instructional support; and facilitating applied learning pathways for college participants. At the high school level, activities include implementing foundational AI instruction and organizing team-based projects and AI-related competitions in future years.

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

The appropriation project will deliver direct educational and workforce readiness services to students through structured artificial intelligence training and applied learning opportunities. Services include hands-on AI instruction, project-based skill development, facilitated mentorship, and guided exposure to real-world technology applications. High school and college students will receive organized instruction and participate in collaborative AI projects designed to build foundational knowledge, technical competencies, and career awareness aligned with current and emerging workforce needs.

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

The target population served by this project includes high school students and college students with an interest in artificial intelligence, technology, and workforce readiness. The program is expected to directly serve approximately 100 - 200 students, with capacity to scale in future years as additional cohorts, partnerships, and learning opportunities are added.

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

The expected benefit of this project is increased student readiness for AI- and technology-related education and careers through strengthened foundational knowledge, applied technical skills, and real-world project experience. Participants will gain exposure to collaborative problem-solving and industry-relevant applications of artificial intelligence. Outcomes will be measured through participant enrollment and completion rates, evaluation of student project deliverables, pre- and post-program skill assessments, and feedback from mentors or instructors.

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?

Revert state appropriations and withhold future funding for this initiative

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



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- ☐ 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
- ☐ University or College



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☐ 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.