



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 2598

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The Younger at Arts (YA!) program is an evidence-informed public health intervention designed to combat the senior isolation crisis in Homestead, a community with a high concentration of at-risk, economically disadvantaged older adults. Social isolation is a recognized public health epidemic linked to a 50% increased risk of dementia, a 32% increased risk of stroke, and higher healthcare costs for the state. This project directly addresses this state priority by serving 400 seniors annually through a holistic, cost-effective model. YA! integrates three core, evidence-based components: 1. Creative Engagement: Over 400 hours of professionally-led arts workshops (music, painting, theater) to improve cognitive function and provide social connection. 2. Wellness & Resilience: 12 workshops focused on life coaching, nutrition, digital literacy to empower seniors to live independently and safely. 3. Intergenerational Connection: Two large-scale community projects pairing seniors with local youth.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	399,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	399,000

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)	399,000	61%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	197,800	31%
Other	50,000	8%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	646,800	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.**

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



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This is a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year. We expect to need two additional years of State support for this program. Nonrecurring amount per year: Year 2 (FY27-28): \$250,000; Year 3 (FY28-29): \$150,000. The organization is actively pursuing various funding opportunities to secure future support and ensure the program's sustainability. Our sustainability plan includes: 1. Private Foundations 2. Local Government Contracts 3. Corporate & Individual Giving.

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	The full time Executive Director oversees the YA! program's administration, programs, and strategy, while leading fundraising, marketing, and community outreach efforts. Responsible for strategic planning, grant compliance, and organizational leadership, the Executive Director ensures the program's success in enhancing seniors' well-being, to mitigate social isolation among seniors.	62,000
Other Salary and Benefits	A full time Program Coordinator manages the organization's federal, state, and local programs, coordinating contracted services, specialized offerings, and logistical support for this initiative.	39,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	*Facility costs, arts, and technology supplies. *Equipment: Computers and specialized software, audio/visual gear for workshops. *Travel: Transportation for senior participants. *Supplies: Art materials, office equipment, program resources *Other: Outreach, marketing, evaluation, indirect costs.	32,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The YA! Program Curricula Design role is instrumental in shaping the psycho social educational content and structure of the "Younger at Arts: Creating Social Connections" initiative. This role requires an individual with expertise in this kind of curricula development, an understanding of the arts, and a commitment to fostering social connections among seniors.	30,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	2 part-time facilitators with background checks for elder care, food safety certification, nutrition training, and extensive knowledge of community/federal assistance programs for adults.	58,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Vehicle for program participants transportation, and related transportation program expenses. Occupancy and related expenses.	68,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The program employs certified specialists including social workers, facilitators, IT, transport, and arts/crafts instructors to provide comprehensive direct and support services. The YA! Program will engage specialized consultants and contracted services to enhance the program's scope and ensure its alignment with best practices in senior engagement and arts-based social interventions.	110,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		399,000

13. Program Performance

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

The primary goal is to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs by mitigating the effects of social isolation among 400 at-risk Homestead seniors by implementing an evidence-informed program that enhances participants' physical, mental, and social well-being.

Specific, measurable goals include:

- 1.Reduce Loneliness and Depression: Decrease loneliness and depression by at least 30% among participants, as measured by validated instruments (UCLA Loneliness Scale, Geriatric Depression Scale).
- 2.Improve Physical & Cognitive Health: Increase engagement in activities to improve mobility, delay cognitive decline, and reduce the risk of falls and chronic disease.
- 3.Strengthen Social Support Networks: Foster new, durable social connections, with 80% reporting increased sense of community belonging.
- 4.Enhance Digital Literacy: 75%+ of participants will use technology to connect with family, friends, and telehealth services, reducing geographic and mobility barriers.

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

TOA will deliver a program for 400 seniors, with over 400 hours of direct service:

- 1.Creative Engagement Workshops (200 hours): Bi-weekly (Music & Memory, Expressive Painting, Oral History & Theater, Creative Writing), therapeutic activities designed to stimulate cognitive function, foster emotional expression, and increase social bonding.
- 2.Wellness & Resilience Workshops (12 sessions): Monthly sessions on health and well-being: nutrition, fall prevention, mindfulness, stress management, and navigating healthcare systems.
- 3.Digital Literacy & Connectivity Training (40 hours): Computer lab and coaching on using tablets and smartphones, video calls, online resources, and telehealth.
- 4.Intergenerational Community-Building Projects (2 major projects): Two semester-long projects partnering seniors with high school students. Projects will include a "Life Stories" multimedia exhibit and public mural in Homestead, fostering community pride and breaking down age-related stereotypes.

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



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The "Younger at Arts (YA!) Program" will deliver the following direct services to seniors in Homestead:
 Creative Arts Education: Over 400 hours of hands-on arts and culture classes, including painting, music, creative writing, and theater, tailored to seniors' interests and abilities.
 Wellness Coaching Workshops: 12 group sessions focusing on physical health, nutrition, mental well-being, and strategies to overcome social isolation.
 Intergenerational Collaboration: 2 projects designed to connect seniors with younger generations, fostering shared learning and bridging generational divides.
 Cultural Engagement Activities: 4 cultural outings to museums, galleries, and live performances, providing opportunities for social interaction and physical activity.
 Artistic Showcase Opportunities: 2 exhibitions where participants can present their creative work, boosting self-esteem and community recognition.
 Personalized Wellness Support: 160 hours of individualized coaching.

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

The target population is 400 senior citizens (age 60+) residing in Homestead, Florida, a community designated as a Rural Area of Opportunity. This population is characterized by significant risk factors that this project is designed to mitigate: •High Risk of Social Isolation: Many are homebound, have limited mobility, or lack family and social support networks. •Economic Disadvantage: A significant portion live on fixed incomes below the federal poverty line, limiting their access to paid social or recreational activities. •Vulnerability to Health Disparities: This population experiences higher rates of chronic disease, food insecurity, and mental health challenges such as depression and anxiety, which are exacerbated by loneliness. We will partner with the City of Homestead, local senior centers, and community health clinics to recruit participants with the highest level of need. The project is designed to be culturally sensitive and accessible to Homestead's diverse population.

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

Expected Outcomes: The project will produce measurable improvements in public health and quality of life, yielding a significant return on investment for the state by reducing long-term healthcare costs.
 1.Improved Mental Health: A 30% average reduction in reported symptoms of depression and anxiety.
 2.Reduced Social Isolation: A 40% average reduction in loneliness scores.
 3.Enhanced Physical Health & Independence: A 25% increase in self-reported physical activity and mobility, contributing to fall prevention.
 4.Increased Social Connectivity: 80% of participants will report forming new, meaningful friendships.
 5.Greater Digital Inclusion: 75% of participants will demonstrate proficiency in using a digital device for communication.

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?

Corrective Action Plan: For a minor shortfall (e.g., falling 5-10% short of a target), we will submit a detailed Corrective Action Plan within 30 days, outlining the reasons for the shortfall and the specific steps we will take to get back on track.
 2.Withholding of Final Payment: For a significant shortfall (e.g., failing to serve the target number of seniors by more than 15% or missing a key outcome measure by more than 20%), we agree to the withholding of the final 10% of the contract payment until the deliverables are met or a revised plan is approved by the Department.
 3.Pro-Rata Fund Return: In a case of severe non-performance, we would agree to return funds on a pro-rata basis, commensurate with the specific deliverable that was not achieved. For example, if we serve only 80% of the target individuals, we would return 20% of the funds allocated for direct service delivery.

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)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):



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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)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- 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.