



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 3269

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Family Initiative Autism Community Center will offer evidenced-based therapy services such as Applied Behavior Analysis, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy to individuals with autism from birth through adulthood. The Center will also host community-based programs to support early intervention services, social skills settings for adolescents and adults, and workforce readiness programs to teach independence of the individuals served at this location. The center will be built to ICC 500 standards and will serve as the only special needs shelter in the region during a storm.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	2,500,000	42%
Other	500,000	8%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	6,000,000	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



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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?

Multiple revenue streams include fundraising, donations; fee for service, insurance billable services, private pay services. This model was used for the current Ft. Myers location which has successfully maintained appropriate funding.

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.

Family Initiative, a not-for-profit governed by a board of directors.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of the center providing evidenced-based therapy services for families and children with autism, community programs such workforce readiness.	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

Building a community center which provides evidenced-based therapy services such as Applied Behavior Analysis, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. The center will also host community-based programs to support early intervention services, social skills settings for adolescents and adults, and workforce readiness programs to individuals. The center will serve as the only special needs shelter in the region and will be built to ICC 500 standards to withstand hurricanes.

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



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The services will include evidenced-based therapy services such as Applied Behavior Analysis, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy for families. It will also host community-based programs, such as social skills play groups, teen and young adult groups, arts and sports programs as well as sibling and parent groups. The center will also provide early intervention services, diagnostic evaluations for parents with infants and will offer workforce training, vocational opportunities, and internships.

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

In addition to the activities and services described above, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Family Initiative collaborated with local municipalities and stakeholders to determine how to help recovery efforts and resiliency activities for the special needs community. The need for a special needs family support and shelter facility is great.

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

Individuals with autism and their families will be the primary population served. Over 800 individuals are expected to be served.

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

Individuals with autism will be able to access programs uniquely designed to support their needs and their caregivers will be able to access support services. Children with autism will receive medically necessary services to help them achieve greater independent functioning. Young adults with autism will participate in workforce training, internships, and job placements. Families with special needs children will have a safe place to ride out a natural disaster. The success will be measured by tracking the number of individuals and families served and individual measures of success depending on their need/goal.

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?

Recoupment of funds for failure to meet deliverables.

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

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:



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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.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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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.