



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 3727

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Fund ongoing operation and expansion of the Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program (LEAP) sponsored by the Florida Deputy Sheriffs Association (FDSA). FDSA is the sole sponsor of LEAP, which was registered and certified with the Florida Department of Education in 2023. Funds will provide statewide support to train, certify and retain apprentices in law enforcement and related occupations who lack the resources to obtain certified training. This effort, while statewide, will prioritize fiscally constrained counties and areas of great need with the goal of building a sustainable law enforcement workforce in the State of Florida.

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	10,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	10,000,000

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)	10,000,000	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	10,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2025-26	0	2,500,000	1177	No

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.**

This program is projected to sustain strong demand as it removes entry barriers for those seeking to begin a career in law enforcement. Potential federal funding sources for this registered apprenticeship may be identified.



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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	Continued Position, Program Administrator salary: \$60,000, Taxes \$4,500, Health Insurance \$18,000, Retirement \$2,500. As predicted last fiscal year, FDSA has experienced a significant increase in administrative functions as the apprenticeship program continues to gain popularity. The pilot phase and soft roll out were successful, LEAP is steadily gaining momentum with increasing demand.	85,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Apprenticeship program management software \$10,000, phones \$2,000, workflow hardware and software \$3,000, office and promotional supplies \$2,000, outreach events \$3,000 and travel expenses \$5,000.	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultants for administrative support \$43,000, facilitate state approved training \$45,000, create training material \$5,000, create promotional material \$2,000, branding, social media and promotion \$5,000.	100,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries and benefits for an apprentice based on a base salary of \$48,300 and associated benefits for an FTE cost of \$81,497 annually. The apprenticeship period is projected to last approximately 9 months to include law enforcement academy and a field training program. This period's FTE cost for S/B is estimated to be \$61,123.20. Base salary is subject to change by agency.	8,150,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Each apprentice will need a minimum amount of equipment, IT expenses, and supplies to include but not limited to ballistic vest, firearms, ammunition, uniforms, BWC, laptop, software, cellphone, and other costs deemed necessary by each agency based on agency policy. FTEs will also require tuition. This cost is estimated to be \$15,224.97 per LEO but subject to change by agency	1,640,000
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)		10,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

The state's total legislative investment of \$3,025,000 in this program to date is already showing a return, supporting the training of 117 Deputy Sheriffs and Correction Officers across 22 counties. Specific long-term goals include continued operation and expansion of the statewide Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program operational since 2023 and supporting Florida's mission to be safest in the nation. Funds will be used to support the recruitment, training, certification, and provide wage or stipend reimbursement for apprentices registered in LEAP. This will forge an earn-and-learn apprenticeship pathway for candidates who lack the financial resources to obtain Florida certified law enforcement training. This effort, while statewide, will prioritize fiscally constrained counties and areas of great need.

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

Recruitment, vetting, hiring and training of Deputy Sheriffs, and related law enforcement personnel within the State of Florida. As the state's population continues to grow, so too must Florida's law enforcement capacity and commitment to public safety. This project constitutes a strategic investment in developing a skilled and sustainable law enforcement workforce consistent with Florida's values of low crime and strong law enforcement partnerships; ensuring public safety readiness for years to come

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

The program provides promotional, outreach, and hands-on support in identifying Florida residents, transitioning service members, or individuals relocating to our state interested in serving fellow Floridians but lack the financial resources to attend a certified law enforcement academy or obtain Florida certified training. The program allows candidates to be recruited, trained, certified and hired with no cost to the candidate or the county sheriff for a specified period.

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

This project is designed to serve Florida's entire resident population as well as the more than 143 million annual tourists who visit the state. It supports individuals who aspire to careers in law enforcement and related law enforcement occupations but lack the necessary funds. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year the program supported 43 Deputy Sheriffs and Correction Officers, and is currently serving 74 Deputy Sheriffs for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, this number is expected to increase to over 100 next fiscal year.

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

In fiscal year 2024-2025, the Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program received a sub-award of \$750,000 which supported wage and stipend reimbursement during training for 43 law enforcement apprentices. For the current fiscal year, the \$2,500,000 appropriation resulting from FDSA's advocacy efforts is supporting the training of 74 Deputy Sheriffs. Based on current demand, the number of law enforcement apprentices is projected to increase by more than 100 in the next fiscal year. As Florida's population continues to grow this investment will strengthen the State's ability to maintain a competent and highly trained law enforcement workforce. With increasing statewide recognition, LEAP continues to gain momentum as Florida's only formally registered apprenticeship program designed to successfully address shortages in law enforcement and public safety.



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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?

Performance measures include the continued assignment of a full-time FDSA staff member to administer and monitor all aspects of the Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program. This includes statewide outreach, program promotion, program compliance, apprentice registration and the ongoing monitoring of progress and completion. Corrective action may include withholding or suspension of disbursements, data submission verifying activity and progress, implementation of a targeted action plan, and reimbursement of unused or improperly expended funds.

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):

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



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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

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.