



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1678

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

4. Project/Program Description

Language & Literacy Academy for Learning is a public charter school in Winter Haven, FL. This charter school serves only students with disabilities from Pre-K to 12th grade. The current enrollment is 350 with a waiting list. We are the only school in Polk County that exclusively caters to students with varying exceptionalities from mild-profound disabilities at all grade levels. Language & Literacy Academy for learning has recently renewed their charter for another 5 years. The current facility has been purchased by another organization and has to vacate their current facility by June 30, 2024. A new location has been identified; however, it requires extensive tenant improvements to bring the building up to code. Major tenant improvements include adding a covered stairwell on the East side of the building and install a sprinkler system. Language & Literacy Academy is requesting funding to help offset the cost of these major tenant improvements.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	13%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	3,300,000	87%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,800,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Language & Literacy Academy for Learning received about \$1,000.000 PPP loans and ESSER funds. The PPP loans were used to retain therapists and staff on payroll during while schools were closed during the pandemic. ESSER funds were used to increase capacity of students & staff through multiple purchases of supplemental curriculum & technology.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

12. 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.

13. 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: Other		
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	The funds will assist with tenant improvements that will satisfy the building codes for educational use. The building is currently zoned for medical/business use but will need to be permitted for educational purposes. Major renovations will include adding an additional covered stairwell and a sprinkler system to the building. It is a 2-story building, approximately 22,000 sq feet.	500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance



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

Receiving the \$500,000.00 will ease the burden of covering unanticipated tenant improvements and qualifying for the amount of money being financed. The total project is approximately 3,800,000.00. This will help the school stay within their affordability and offset any other unexpected costs during the renovation of the building.

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

Once Language & Literacy is relocated in the new building, specifically designed instruction, therapeutic activities, behavioral health services, mental health services, and other rehabilitative/restorative practices will continue for the 350 students & families we serve.

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

We provide services according to each student's Individual Education Plan which includes physical, occupational, speech & language therapies, registered behavior tech services, mental health services, social work, guidance counseling, and direct instruction in all academic areas. We cater to students with ADHD and Autism; however, we also serve a population of students who require intensive behavior supports due to severe behavior and mental health disorders. We provide transportation across the entire Polk County area, not just Winter Haven.

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

The target population is any student who has an Individual Family Service Plan or an Individual Education Plan. Students can enroll as early as 12 months and do not have to withdraw until they have reached the age of 21. We expect to continue serving 350+ annually through the first 2-3 years. After which, we plan to expand and serve up to 500 students.

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

The expected outcome of this project is to relocate Language & Literacy Academy to the new location at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. The expected benefit is to have a safe place that is conducive to learning for the students and a pleasant workspace for the staff. For me, the Principal, I will not have to worry about another organization purchasing a building from us. This will create an environment of stability for all of the stakeholders. The uncertainty from staff will decrease and this will reduce staff attrition and turnover rates. We will also see increased and steady enrollment with families so they don't have to also worry about having a place for their child to go to school.

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 the contract?

If we are unable to qualify for the full amount of financing for this project, we will not have a place to relocate 350 families at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. At the time of the search, this was the best option for ownership. The advantage of this project, after 20 years, the facility will be bonded back to the organization. This will allow Language & Literacy to be sustained with or without the current leadership.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number