



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2029

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

4. Project/Program Description

Dyslexia is the most common language-based learning disability. Nearly 20% of the population experiences dyslexia-related difficulties learning to read. Dyslexia makes it challenging for students to succeed in a typical instructional environment, and its effects extend beyond the classroom; the "school to prison" pipeline is full of dyslexic individuals, and 80% of incarcerated persons nationwide have an undiagnosed reading disorder. There are more than 30,000 children with dyslexia in Duval County alone. Our mission is to bring the opportunity for literacy to anyone who needs it. We aim to open the DePaul Dyslexia Literacy Center to simultaneously be the place where teachers from the community can learn the Orton-Gillingham method, where dyslexic adults can come for reading remediation, and where reading specialists involved with the jail/justice system can learn critical teaching skills to help illiterate incarcerated individuals become more confident readers, too.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
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	17%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,500,000	83%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,000,000	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.

We have a number of private organizations and donors who support our mission. This includes Delores Barr Weaver and several other local individuals.



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

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

DePaul School received \$119,000 during the pandemic. This money supported teacher salaries and overhead costs during the time the school was closed.

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	30% of DePaul School staff salaries for Center support (total staff of DePaul is 13 members: 1 head of school, 2 admissions/finance staff, 2 teaching assistants, and 8 teachers)	240,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment (\$100k), Travel (\$35K), Supplies (\$50K)	185,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Orton-Gillingham Fellow Mentorship and Associate-level training for current DePaul staff.	75,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Funds will help create the DePaul Dyslexia Literacy Center, where teachers from around Florida can learn the Orton-Gillingham method, a multi-sensory and data-driven approach to teaching the dyslexic brain. All kids can learn with this method; dyslexic kids can ONLY learn with this method. 20% of the population is dyslexic. In Duval County, there are 30,000 dyslexic students without resources. 80% of incarcerated people have a reading disorder. This systemic issue affects all Florida districts.

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

The Center will provide Orton-Gillingham training to area and regional teachers and graduate students in education. Professional development workshops and seminars will occur throughout the year. Trainings will be overseen by an Orton-Gillingham Fellow and be offered in-person and virtually. The courses will meet certification standards for all Orton-Gillingham Levels.

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

The DePaul Dyslexia Literacy Center will be a resource for all Florida teachers who seek Orton-Gillingham training (in person or virtually), for dyslexic adults throughout the State who seek reading remediation, and for the training of reading interventionists who work with incarcerated individuals.

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

We aim to serve preschool, grade school, and high school dyslexic students, college/graduate level students pursuing careers in Special Education, at-risk youth who are close to dropping out of school due to difficulties related to learning differences, jobless individuals who cannot read, economically disadvantaged persons / homeless persons who need to learn literacy skills, adult learners who are not confident readers, and incarcerated (or formerly incarcerated) individuals who cannot read. We expect over 800 individuals (and likely many, many more) to be served by our initiatives.

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

By teaching educators how to utilize the Orton-Gillingham method, we expect to directly improve the quality of education and the mental health/self-esteem of dyslexic children. We can measure this via high school graduation rates for students with IEPs as well as by studying the numbers of students requiring RTI programs. The Literacy Center will draw visitors to our community, thus improving local economic activity as measured by business profits/revenues and economic growth. By teaching dyslexic adults how to read, we will directly enable them to obtain higher paying jobs, improving their economic self-sufficiency. This can be monitored via studying unemployment rates and median household incomes. By teaching incarcerated people to read, we can reduce recidivism rates and substance reliance. Perhaps most importantly, by addressing dyslexia at a young age, we can reduce school drop-out rates and keep kids from entering the juvenile justice system in the first place.

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 deliverables and performance measures are not being met, the contracting agency could consider financial penalties during the invoicing process or, if appropriate, reallocation of funding.

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



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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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number