



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2985

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

4. Project/Program Description

Teens struggling with addiction have hope. Florida Recovery Schools of TAMPA BAY, Inc. is a non-profit that opened two private non-profit Recovery High Schools: Victory High Schools, in Pasco and Pinellas Counties. Our mission is to empower students ages 14-19 through a therapeutic, emotionally, socially, and spiritually safe environment with high-quality education to grow academically. Our primary goal is to save young people's lives. Our goals are to improve school attendance, reduce dropout rates, increase graduation rates, reduce relapses, improve mental health, reduce costs to society and improve emotional wellness and self-regulation. The majority of our students are from economically disadvantaged families. Funding will provide students Education, Mental Health Services, and Recovery Support to succeed substance free and graduate with a diploma. After graduation, Victory High Schools provide a mentorship opportunity to graduates and job coach them to serve other students.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	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 2024-2025	250,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	100,000	378	No

9. **Is future 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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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.

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	The Executive Director is the key management leader of Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, Inc. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing administration, fundraising, volunteer management, programs, implementation of the strategic vision of the organization, and supervision of staff and volunteers. The Executive Director is selected by, reports to, and is accountable to the Board of Directors. ED primary job is compliance management of funds.	40,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Mental Health and Behavioral Specialists and Teachers will assume the major roles in recovery support and mental health wellness. Specialists and Teachers will facilitate all academic advising, teaching, and recovery support for each student. Academics Manager will train teachers, advise students, develop academic plans, and graduations. Caregiver Advocate will provide monthly support groups and individual sessions to Parents as a certified peer recovery specialist.	207,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equine Therapy, our students work with horses and it will be provided to all of students. Each session consists of one and half hours of grooming horses, establishing a bond with the horse, and ultimately training the horse through fostering social skills by learning to recognize emotional changes in their horse. Horses are very perceptive and reactive to human emotion. Students learn patience, leadership skills, and how to effectively communicate in a positive way.	3,000
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)		250,000

14. Program Performance

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

We are respectfully requesting your consideration for support toward our 3-year old non-profit to continue classes to restore lost childhoods, rebuild self-esteem and revive the lives of our teens struggling with addictions. Victory High Schools are our non-profit, private Recovery High Schools in the Tampa Bay area where our students will receive a second chance and a recovery focused education in a healing centered environment with mental health services, and recovery support. Our goals are to improve school attendance, reduce dropout rates, increase graduation rates, reduce relapse, improve mental health, reduce cost to society and improve emotional wellness and self-regulation.

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

We are confident through our wraparound services of mental health services, recovery support and an education, we will fill the gaps in services in Tampa Bay for this population of unique young people as well as meet their unmet needs. The most powerful tool to compact isolation with COVID19, Substance Use Disorders, Co-Occurring Disorders and mental illness is connection. Victory High Schools, with your help, will create a safe, healing centered learning environment fostering a sense of connection and will save lives!

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

Our students will be provided a second chance with the following direct services: Academics, Counseling, Equine Therapy, Individualized Recovery Plans, Trauma Informed Care, Brain Performance Coaching, Vocational Job Training, Performing Arts Classes, Leadership Training, Expressive Art Therapy, Support Groups, Fitness and Wellness Classes, Recovery Coaches, Mentors through our Community Leader Lunch N Learns, Yoga, Asset Building Community Development, Financial Skills, and many more opportunities to set them up for substance free success.

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

Females and males ages 14-19 years old with substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders will receive an education, mental health services and recovery support. The majority of 50 students will be from economically disadvantaged families in Pasco and Pinellas Counties. According to research, 94% of students in a Recovery High School have survived childhood trauma. If a student has been affected by childhood trauma, it will disrupt their way of learning effectively. The need for mental health services is life or death for our students struggling with addictions. Their stabilization both emotionally and mentally is crucial to create a safe, learning environment.

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

Improve attendance for students to be 80% or higher. Attendance will be recorded daily by the teacher. Improve recovery rate centered on long-term abstinence from drugs and alcohol will be 60% or higher. Each student will be randomly drug tested. Results will be documented in file by counselors and reviewed weekly among mentors. Facilitate measurable and positive change in youth behavior. Each student will self-report on protective factors in their lives. Counselors and teachers will communicate results with one another and document in file. Provide youth with effective mental health services, interventions, skills, and treatment with demonstrated success. 90% participation rate of students.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties



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for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

The balance of expended funds will be returned to the state if deliverables or performance measures are not met.

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

- 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