Requester Information

Legislator Name: McKell, Michael K.

Created Date: January 30th 2026

Submitted Date: January 30th 2026

Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

Funding Request Description (5 sentences) Funds are requested to support three coordinated pillars of the Becoming Your Best (BYB) Academy: delivery at the Utah State Correctional Facility, post-release re-entry programming in the community, and workforce-aligned services in partnership with Workforce Services and TANF. Together, these pillars provide a continuous pathway of leadership development, workforce readiness, and personal accountability from incarceration through re-entry and employment. The one-year initiative will serve approximately 825 individuals who complete the program during the funding period. The total funding request is $1.5 million for one year to support program delivery, coordination, and outcome measurement across all three pillars. All or a portion of the program budget is expected to be TANF eligible. Please screen for TANF eligibility.

Legislative designee contact information:

   Name: Jamie Thorup

   Organization: The Lead With Light Foundation

   Position: Executive Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Personnel Services	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
In-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Out-of-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $325,000.00	$0.00
Technology Purchases	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $1,175,000.00	$0.00

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	**$1,500,000.00**	**$0.00**

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	$0.00
2027 (One-time)	$900,000.00
2027 (Ongoing)	$0.00

Federal Funds

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	$0.00
2027 (One-time)	$600,000.00
2027 (Ongoing)	$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	$1,500,000.00	$0.00

Is this a multi-year project?

No

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

Yes. The Lead With Light Foundation has the operational capacity to scale the program up or down based on the level of legislative funding provided. The program is intentionally designed with three coordinated pillars—corrections-based delivery, community re-entry for recently paroled or at-risk individuals preparing for the workforce, and community-based services for underemployed individuals and unstable families. If full funding is not provided, resources can be flexibly allocated among the three pillars to align with state priorities and maximize impact. This scalable design allows the State to adjust investment levels while maintaining program integrity, accountability, and measurable outcomes.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Economy

01938

Agency:

710 / Cultural and Community Engagement

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

Private Not for Profit

Grant recipient

Yes

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

The Lead With Light Foundation

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

This request will benefit justice-involved individuals, among those preparing for release, individuals transitioning from incarceration into the paroled community, and underemployed adults served through Workforce Services and TANF, consistent with state and federal program guidelines. Participants often face barriers including limited education, inconsistent work history, and lack of personal leadership, planning, and accountability skills. Families and communities benefit from increased stability, reduced recidivism, and stronger workforce attachment. Employers and taxpayers benefit from a more prepared labor force and reduced long-term correctional and public assistance costs.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

The program is intended to reduce recidivism by strengthening personal leadership, accountability, and workforce readiness among participating individuals. It delivers structured, evidence-based training focused on vision, goal setting, work habits, and decision-making capacity. By integrating correctional, re-entry, and workforce systems, the initiative provides continuity of support rather than isolated interventions. The program's objective is to support sustained employment, self-sufficiency, and upward economic mobility following program completion.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

Program success will be measured through clearly defined performance metrics, including enrollment, program completion, and graduation of approximately 825 participants during the funding year. Additional indicators will include participant engagement, workforce readiness measures, and recidivism outcomes compared to baseline data where available. Regular reporting will provide transparent updates on outcomes, program implementation, and use of funds. Results will be evaluated to inform future legislative decisions regarding continuation or expansion.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Previous Funding Documents

Full Time Employees

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