



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1529

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

To provide adaptive and inclusive therapeutic programs for developmentally disabled and low-income youth/at-risk youth. Therapeutic components include functional life skills, communication and social skills, gross and fine motor skills, health, wellness, fitness and character building. An instructional component is incorporated into the program to train certified racquet sports professionals and certified therapists to serve these individuals in this environment.

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	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>400,000</b>

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)	400,000	67%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	75,000	12%
Other	125,000	21%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

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.

Fundraising, grants and donations.

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.



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### 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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	25 Coaches, Regional Program Coordinators, Lead Program Director, Clinical Director	250,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Modified Racquet Sports Equipment, Uniforms, Background Screenings, Staff Training, Curriculum and Data Reporting, Accounting	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Certified Therapists (Speech/Occupational/Physical/ABA)	75,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>400,000</b>

**14. Program Performance**

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

To provide adaptive and inclusive therapeutic programs for intellectually/developmentally disabled and low income/at-risk youth and to train certified tennis professionals and certified therapists to serve these individuals. Establish Florida as an international hub for adaptive/inclusive sports.

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



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Funding will expand life skills, community inclusion, and independence of individuals with ASD and DD. LSA teaches social communication and adaptive behavior on the tennis court, strengthening skills for community settings such as the workplace and social gatherings. Funding will provide for coordination, training of coaches and therapists (and college students in training), and outreach/inclusion of under-represented populations, including individuals who would not otherwise have access to these (and other) opportunities for inclusive, individualized therapeutic sports. LSA will also educate companies and promote the employability of individuals with ASD and DD, helping to address our workforce demand and shortages.

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

To provide adaptive and inclusive therapeutic programs for developmentally disabled and low-income youth/at-risk youth. Therapeutic components include fine and gross motor skills, communication and social skills, health, wellness, fitness and character building. A instructional component is incorporated in the program to train certified tennis professionals and certified therapists to serve these individuals in this environment. Services will include 1) training for coaches/therapists (and college students in training) on inclusive/therapeutic sports, 2) no/low cost, personalized multidisciplinary therapeutic tennis instruction for individuals with ASD and DD, 3) consultation, networking, support for families of individuals participating in LSA tennis programming, and 4) education of employers on the benefits of (and resources for) hiring individuals with ASD and DD. Funding will increase the participation of diverse, underserved populations in tennis, the community, and the workplace.

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

Youth and adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and at-risk youth. 1500 individuals will be served with this project.

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

1) 85% of 1500 participants will show measurable improvements in tennis skills, fitness, adaptive behavior, social communication, and measures of well-being, according to personalized therapeutic plans/metrics. Therapists collect, monitor and report data for individualized treatment plans, tracked via HIPAA compliant electronic medical records. 2) Community/tennis participation rate of neurodiverse individuals will increase by 15% annually, increasing diversity and inclusion in Florida communities. The Flipcause registration platform will assess the number (and percentage increase) of LSA program participants per location in FL annually. 3) Family members of neurodiverse individuals will report 95% satisfaction with Florida's efforts to meaningfully enhance diversity and inclusion, according to results of brief quarterly surveys. 4) 90% of (50) employers participating in educational activities/events will report increased knowledge of the benefits of employing persons with ASD/DD.

**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?**

Suspension after opportunity to cure.

**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**