



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2987

1. Project Title Greater Apalachee Ridge Estates Technology & Learning Center Digital Integra Initiative

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

3. Date of Request 03/07/2023

4. Project/Program Description

The Greater Apalachee Ridge Estates Neighborhood Association along with multiple grassroots community and non-profit partners have created a plan of action to address the current state of usage, equipment upgrade needs, and community access to the Apalachee Ridge Technology and Learning Center (Tech Center) This facility was established in 2007 by the Apalachee Ridge Estates community during a federal, state and locally funded Neighborhood Renaissance Plan process that took place from 1999-2005. This citizen driven process strategically addressed neighborhood blight, safety, infrastructure needs and economic opportunity/human service gaps for neighbors within Census tract. The Tech Center was established to support intergenerational digital education, student tutoring, technology engagement, community-based STEAM integration and economic development opportunity within this designated opportunity zone and to support the ongoing work of community engagement and neighborhood connectivity.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Economic Opportunity

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	301,700
Fixed Capital Outlay	50,000
Total State Funds Requested	351,700

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	351,700	72%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	30,000	6%
Other	110,000	22%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	491,700	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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 250,000

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



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Private Foundation Grants
City/County Community Health Service Partnership Funds
Children's Service Council of Leon

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

Yes

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

\$20,000 from Leon County ARPA funds to upgrade Technology and hire personnel to staff Center for use by parents who needed a safe place to bring school aged children to access their school's technology-based instruction during COVID shutdown.

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

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

3/7/23

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

3/30/23

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.

We are in a lease agreement with the City of Tallahassee for the use of the facility; the lease stipulates that upon successful execution of programming for three (3) years that the ownership of the asset would be transferred to the Greater Apalachee Ridge Estates Neighborhood Association.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	\$55,000 gross + \$5,000/yr paid benefits (health insurance allowance, life insurance, dental)	40,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies- \$15,000 (miscellaneous office supplies needed for facility) Equipment (non-technology)- \$15,000 (furniture, appliances, etc) Equipment (technology)- \$10,000 (community computer distribution, facility technology upgrade equipment, etc.) Other: \$30,000 (conference travel, subscriptions, organizational memberships)	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Facility Inspection (Annual): \$700 Community Technology Audit (Annual): \$2500 Community Needs Assessment (Annual): \$2,500 GARENA Board Strategic Planning: \$5,000 Auditor: \$5,000	15,700
Operational Costs: Other		



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Salary and Benefits	Programs Coordinator/Manager (\$45,000 + \$5,000/yr benefits package) Community Engagement Specialist (part-time,	58,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Technology Director \$20,000 (subcontracted) Consultants for STEAM and Digital Education courses (4 hrs/day x 5 days/wk, 46 wks) \$93,000	113,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Facility upgrade/renovation: \$50,000	50,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		351,700

14. Program Performance

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

We anticipate serving a minimum of 2500 residents within our targeted community (Leon County Census Tract 10.01 via in-person and virtual digital education/literacy training that will take place utilizing the equipment provided through this funding. The Apalachee Ridge Technology & Learning Center facility will provide up to hybrid digital training sessions daily in partnership with community-based organizations; we can host up to 12 persons per session. Our annual reach goal for hybrid direct training and engagement is 4800 participants (120 persons/week x 40 weeks).

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

Technology education and STEM engagement will happen 5 days a week and open to all residents and stakeholders within the identified target area. Community engagement, health and career/opportunity navigation, and technology skills training in the areas of personal financial education basics, basic software skills/certifications, digital financial tools series for micro-enterprises and minority mom & pop operations, and intergenerational connective learning via social media and other popular applications. A drone technology education cohort will take place in 3 month cycles as well as access to financial counseling via partnership with Envision Credit Union. We will also host quarterly Tech Forums for the community to learn about programs and opportunities to gain career or enhanced learning from our technology provider and education partners.

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

In addition to access to education opportunities at the Tech Center:

- Door-to-door neighborhood technology surveying to ensure that neighbors have up-to-date computer systems in their homes.
- Digital and technology assistance hotline to help residents with home-based technology.
- Community based tutoring sessions will be made available for Pre-K and school aged children/teens who are residents.
- One-on-one financial counseling to be made available in partnership with Envision CU.
- Access to community-based computing center and technology whenever needed.

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

Our target population is Leon County Census Tracts 10.02 (Greater Apalachee Ridge Estates Neighborhood), 10.01 residential (South City neighborhood), and adjacent neighborhoods Beacon Hill, Lakewood and Campbell Park. We expect to reach over 4500 families within this established target area, and over 12000 individuals directly with the opportunities available through this initiative. This facility will serve be neighbors within the surrounding area, with a focus on intergenerational reach (youth 5-11, teens 12-19, young adults 21-30, adults 30-55, and seniors 55 and older.) According to 2020 Census data, 28-percent of this neighborhood is experiencing some level of poverty, and the average age of our neighbors are 22 years; there is also a significant 21% poverty rate among seniors 65 and older so our focus will be to reach these groups specifically with technology resources to increase their economic viability and access to relevant services.

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



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It is our hope that this program will set the standard for programming of digital advocacy in historically underserved communities. Too many tech centers in our communities are functioning with substandard programming, equipment and internet access that hinders quality learning experiences. We hope that this proposal and subsequent approval will set the standard for what is deemed acceptable for Technology Centers within disinvested communities. We ultimately want to see

at least 250 youth obtain employment and/or certifications that build employment value; 500 seniors engage in digital security and smart phone application training; 4000 instances of at-large community members engaged and informed of the interactive training and learning available at the facility.

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?

Suggested penalties included a 60 window to correct all compliance issues, suspension of program funding receipt within guidelines established based on existing state statute and recipient understanding.

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