



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1384

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Skills Center is building a state-of-the-art facility in east Tampa's minority community. Developed using the existing shell of a historic skating rink, the new 55,000 square foot facility will use the Skills Center's proven model of sports-based youth development to build a future for many of Tampa's struggling youth. Facility features will provide the local community with safe, quality activity and education spaces, health promotion, venue for special events, technology access and training, co-working space, and more than 100 new job opportunities. Especially unique to the project is the intentional collaboration with four key Black-led nonprofits who will share space in the facility. Each partner will deliver their own specialized services in concert with the core Skills Center services to amplify the overall success for young people.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

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)	2,000,000	9%
Matching Funds		
Federal	3,000,000	13%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	12,375,000	53%
Other	5,925,000	25%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	23,300,000	100%

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.

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



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Yes

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

Hillsborough County Rapid Response for COVID-19 safety improvements and reimbursements: \$7,373; PPP 2020: \$44,220 and PPP 2021: \$49,530 (both have been forgiven).

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?

In progress

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

10-1-2023

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.

The Skills Center, Inc. will receive the requested funding. The facility is owned by The Skills Center Group, Inc.

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	Salary and taxes/benefits for program staff to initiate Skills Center services for the community for the first year of programming (includes training and preparation for opening and services on-site for youth and families).	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment and supplies to fully open the facility including sports equipment, office furniture, copier, technology to support youth enrollment, tracking and reporting, event staging supplies (tables, chairs, table cloths, PA system), healthy living supplies, and safety equipment including AEDs, alarms, building control system, and infection control devices.	300,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Rehabilitation of the existing building on the property and construction of an addition to build out the entire facility. Completion of building exterior parking, fencing, safety lighting, and landscaping.	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000



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14. Program Performance

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

The Skills Center will use a national model to create opportunity in education, health, and workforce readiness for young people, especially the east Tampa community; build a strategic alliance between five Black-led nonprofit organizations to leverage resources, programming, funding, and impact; and create a social enterprise venture that provides sustainability. The facility will include a job training/education room, health/nutrition demonstration kitchen, gymnasium, multipurpose areas, co-working offices, and event space. Serving 3,500 youth, and produce an economic impact of more than \$25 million in east Tampa over the next five years. The requested funds will assist in the facility's construction and initial operation.

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

All youth will receive a single intake and enrollment, individual educational plan to determine and direct the youth's participation in the program, and case management services to provide supportive services and to evaluate progress. Trained sports coaches will intentionally incorporate activities to address the identified needs of each youth. In addition, the Academic Café will provide youth educational programs that support academic success. The Café will have interactive-learning zones that encompass both collaborative group and independent work areas. Services would include tutoring, homework assistance, GED prep, and ACT/SAT prep. The Café will empower parents to advocate their children from middle to high school.

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

In addition to core sports-based youth development, the Skills Center will provide other essential services. The facility will offer venue space for sports and wellness activities and family and community gatherings. The Esports arena is a resource to all who want to learn and compete with peers in their community and across the globe. Esports provides students with hands-on training in broadcast production, online streaming, audio engineering, video editing, and game development. There is "co-work space for local business and a teaching kitchen for promoting health and nutrition. Agreements are being forged with charter schools, senior groups, and others to use the facility during non-sports hours to maximize community opportunity.

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

Services to a projected 3,500 annually will be open to youth living throughout Hillsborough County with a target to serve youth living in zip codes 33603, 33604, 33605, 33610, and 33612. There are four specific groups of students: Pre-K to elementary, middle school, high school, and young adults. Younger youth will have the opportunity to participate in limited programming. The intent is to build a strong academic foundation, create healthy habits, and promote life skills through access to sports and programming for middle/high school youth. It is important to support youth at critical transition points like middle to high school and high school to young adult as they experience physical, emotional, cognitive, and social development.

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

The Skills Center's goals for every participant is: 80% program retention, 100% on-time grade promotion, and 100% high school graduation fully prepared for either college, vocational training, career, or the military. The Skills Center IMPACT is long-term employment and increased earnings; reduced poverty, increased tax generation, and decreased cost for health care, substance abuse and incarceration. The Skills Center has secured a proven participant enrollment, tracking, and reporting system, Scoreboard, courtesy of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation through our relationship with the Toronto Raptors.

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?

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name



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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