



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1008

1. Title of Project: STEM Starts...at USF St. Petersburg

2. Senate Sponsor: Darryl Rouson

3. Date of Submission: 01/24/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming in the state of Florida focuses on school aged children, with some recent efforts to develop appropriate curricula for Pre-K. The state has not provided supports for early STEM learning during the first three years of life, a time during which 85% of all brain wiring and development has been completed. The STEM Starts...initiative at USFSP will provide infants and toddlers, their families, and the agencies and childcare centers that support them with resources, training, and supports to strengthen early cognitive and socioemotional development and readiness for school. By capitalizing on young children's curiosity and capacities for logical, scientific reasoning from the earliest years of life, STEM Starts...will fill a gap in the state's efforts to promote excellence in education. The initiative will be implemented by USFSP's Family Study Center, a leader in the promotion of mental health and school readiness for all children.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Board of Governors

State Agency Contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	300,000	100.0%
Federal		0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.0%
Local		0.0%
Other		0.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	300,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 300,000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Assistant Director/Project Head	108,000
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Program support personnel	147,825
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Events and student tuition support	34,175
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Expert consultants who will contribute to 2019 STEM programs and IFMH/Baby Talk/Listening to Babies events	10,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The purpose of the STEM Starts...initiative is to deliver supports and resources to families throughout the region who are expecting, or parenting, an infant or a toddler-aged child. The initiative will also provide supports to area agencies serving families, including home visiting and fatherhood programs and childcare providers so that they will be better equipped to recognize and leverage infants' and young children's early emerging STEM capabilities and talents. Funds will directly support Centers and families with ongoing trainings and consultation to agencies as well as innovative programming for pregnant mothers and families of infants and toddlers, and young children in the child welfare system, among others; and to develop new partnerships to sustain generation of necessary grant support that share the STEM Starts... mission. Funds will help support a coordinated network of care advancing the intellectual, social-emotional, and behavioral development of children ages 0-3.

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

Specifically, STEM Starts...funds would be used to provide direct service; ongoing trainings and consultation to area agencies serving children and families; innovative programming for families of infants and toddlers, infant-toddler preschool programs, and infants and young children in the child welfare system; and to pursue relevant grant support from state and federal agencies and foundations that share STEM Starts...interests and ambitions.



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

Over 350 children and families would receive direct benefits from STEM Starts... services, with the approximately 25,000 children ages 0-3 in Pinellas County all benefiting from better informed and coordinated learning and socioemotional supports for children ages 0-3 years.

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

STEM Starts... efforts will promote inquiry, exploration and the bases of early-emerging capacities in young children. Numbers of families and professionals served by targeted trainings will be recorded, as achievements will be brokered through advances in the sensitivity of the adults who guide infants' and toddlers' everyday learning environments: parents, caregivers, and childcare providers. Benefits will be assessed through relevant protective factors scores on the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) for ages 1 to 18 months and ages 18 through 36 months. Specifically, following relevant intervention (trainings, workshops, consultations), 80% of young children reported on by parents and professionals served by the program will score in the top quartile for age-relevant norms. Additionally, the initiative's workforce development program will provide STEM Starts...training to area infant-family specialists to maximize impact to support STEM skills and school readiness.

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 in the contract?

Return funding to State

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** HELEN LEVINE
- b. **Organization:** University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- c. **E-mail Address:** hlevine@usfsp.edu
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)230-6017

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- b. **County:** Pinellas
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)



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- d. **Contact Name:** HELEN LEVINE
- e. **E-mail Address:** hlevine@usfsp.edu
- f. **Phone Number:** (813)230-6017

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** HELEN LEVINE
- b. **Firm Name:** University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- c. **E-mail Address:** hlevine@usfsp.edu
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)230-6017