



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1119

1. Title of Project: Online, tablet-based, high school pgm for inmates

2. Senate Sponsor: Dennis Baxley

3. Date of Submission: 01/24/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

The program will provide a secure, online, tablet-based solution delivering a fully accredited high school education to Florida inmates. The educational program will be fully AdvancED/SACS accredited and include a career-based online high school education component to prepare adult inmates for transition into the workplace. Inmate students enrolled in the program will receive transfer credit for previous high school credits earned and for GED tests that have been successfully completed. The educational program will be open to inmate students considered low education-level (e.g., 5th - 9th Grade) and/or have previously failed the GED.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Corrections

State Agency Contacted? No

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

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

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)	1,500,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	1,500,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2016-17		750,000	124	No

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

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 1,500,000



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Fully accredited, tablet-based, online high school diploma and career certificate program for 400 inmates (initially); potentially for 70,000 inmates.	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The specific purpose of the program will be to serve individuals within Florida's adult drop out population that are incarcerated. The intent of the program is to improve their employment and earning prospects upon release; and to reduce their likelihood of returning to prison by providing them an opportunity to obtain high school and career credentials through an accredited online school district.

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

The activities and services provided will consist of a full services online portal, accessible with a tablet, and offering 92 semester courses (academic and career training), transcript analysis, academic coaches (certified teachers), learning management system, near real-time reporting of student progress, student support services, issuance of high school diplomas, and workforce certificates.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Direct services provided will consist of online high school instruction, online academic coaching (by certified teachers); transcript analysis for those inmate students that have completed some high school and/or some GED tests; issuance of high school diplomas, and workforce certificates.

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

This project focuses on those low education-level inmates (i.e., 5th - 9th grade level) that lack a high school diploma or an equivalent (e.g., GED). Florida's correctional system has limited capacity for educational services (e.g., of the 99,000 inmates housed by DOC in FY 2015-16, approximately 80% received no educational



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programming). An online high school program that leverages tablet-based delivery can provide DOC with the tools necessary to address the unmet educational needs of low education-level inmates (5th to 9th grade level). This project would provide tablet-based educational services to approximately 400 inmates initially; it could potentially expand to approximately 70,000 inmates.

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

In addition to the inmates, the Florida taxpayers will benefit. The typical lifetime cost of each high school dropout to taxpayers is approximately \$292,000. Approximately 60% of Florida's prison inmates, and nationally 50% of persons on death row, are high school dropouts. A high school diploma and a career certificate will reduce the probability of going to prison, open opportunities for post-secondary education, and assist them in joining the ranks of taxpaying citizens. Program performance will be reported to the DOC program manager on a monthly basis. This data includes the number of credits earned towards high school graduation by each student; the number of high school diplomas and career certificates awarded to students who complete the program.

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?

Maintain system availability of 95% or greater during a monthly reporting period; 99% or greater each year. Monthly uptime, measured as the total percent of classroom time the system was available to inmate students that month must be 95% or greater. Annual uptime, measured as the total percent of classroom time the system was available to inmate students throughout the reporting year must be 99% or greater. A \$250 credit to the State will be assessed for each occurrence that fails to meet the monthly Acceptable Standard. Any credit assessed will be deducted from a subsequent payment. A \$1,000 credit to the State will be assessed for each occurrence that fails to meet the annual Acceptable Standard. Any credit assessed will be deducted from a subsequent payment.

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:** Robert Miller
- b. **Organization:** Darwin Global, LLC
- c. **E-mail Address:** dr.rob.miller@darwin-global.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (580)678-2634

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Darwin Global, LLC
- b. **County:** Escambia
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)



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- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: Robert Miller

e. E-mail Address: dr.rob.miller@darwin-global.com

f. Phone Number: (580)678-2634

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name: Chip Case

b. Firm Name: Capital Advocates

c. E-mail Address: chip@capadvocates.com

d. Phone Number: (850)544-2222