



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1156

1. **Project Title** Inclusive Transition & Employment Management-ITEM2. **Senate Sponsor** Manny Diaz3. **Date of Request** 10/29/20194. **Project/Program Description**

ITEM is an industry certification program licensed by the DOE Commission for Independent Education to promote employment opportunities for teens and young adults with disabilities, ages 14 to 30. Held at Marino Campus sites throughout Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, ITEM assures greater access to competitive employment. In designing the program, significant effort was taken to examine the long-term economic forecast for industries in the region which serve as employer bases. National certification courses in Technology and Hospitality are offered, and Career Services assist with job placement, coaching, and benefits counseling. ITEM connects corporate partners through internships in the participant's field of study with the goal of employment. Mentors and behavior supports are offered with core courses in social/employability skills and financial literacy. Technology is embedded throughout; ViTA DMF is a unique virtual reality system using avatars to increase job interview skills.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of EducationState Agency contacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	000
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	750000	60.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	00	0 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	00	0 %
Other	492,932	40 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	1,242,932	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2019-20	750,000	750,000	32	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 750,000



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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	Staff Accountant - 75%, HR Coordinator - 75%	35,714
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Academic Director (1), Academic Managers (2), Career Manager (1), Career Services Director (1), Campus Instructors (10), Student Support (1), Student Admissions (2), Job Coaches (8), Employment Specialists (4), plus Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	673,886
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Mileage, Staff Training, Security Screening, Conferences, Academic Costs/Curriculum and Supplies	40,400
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000



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11. Program Performance

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

People with autism or other disabilities are capable of employment but are noticeably underemployed when compared with the general population (83% unemployment rate - 4 times the national average). This rate is driven by physical or cognitive challenges, lack of a standard high school diploma, or the inability to pass testing for admission to technical centers. Transportation, accessibility, and limited financial resources also present as obstacles and postsecondary options are limited, and many individuals remain unemployed or end up earning sub-minimum wages. By providing the opportunity to earn industry certifications with wraparound services and long-term employment support, ITEM has proven outcomes including 70% employment of alumni, 96% program completion, and 91% industry certification exam passage.

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

Provide academic instruction and supports to students with disabilities according to national industry standards and licensing requirements toward the goal of passing certification exams; Adapt instruction time needed, modify teaching methods and materials geared to individual learning styles of students, and increase hands-on experiential learning through labs on employer worksites; Infuse virtual and mixed reality technology to enhance learning and natural supports (e.g., virtual interviewing with avatars, mixed reality job coaching, and assistive technology); Provide necessary social and self-advocacy skills, employment readiness training, on-the-job industry specific internships, intensive job coaching, and placement.

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

As part of the programs, students complete 760 clock hours comprised of 150 clock hours of preparation toward industry certification through hands-on coursework, 300 clock hours in core courses that provide preparation for employment, business etiquette, and independent living and 310 hours of internship. At completion of courses and internships, students continue to benefit from ongoing career supports including intensive job exploration and coaching, as well as benefits counseling. Short-term programming for a younger population geared to transition is offered during school breaks including these components.

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

Individuals living in the State of Florida, ages 14 to 30, with a diagnosed developmental disability. 201-400 participants will be served.

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

Training that leads to employment reduces the need for reliance on government funding for respite care and behavioral supports. Employed consumers are added to the economy. Isolation, depression, stress, and mental health issues can be reduced by successful employment and inclusion into society. Travel training offsets the need for transportation supports provided by the government. Outcomes are measured by: 1) At least 60% employment; 2) At least 80% program completion; 3) At least 80% certification exam passage; and 4) 100% ViTA interview practice. Measurement tools include certification passage rate, grades, progress notes, and job development logs all collected on a learning management system (LMS). Satisfaction surveys will be completed by students, families, and employers, and a database maintained with the results. ViTA includes a secure network for capturing, storing, and reviewing data to drive research and evolve the system to adapt to user needs.

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?

Possible future funding adjustment.



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12. 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.

Mary Partin

13. Requestor Contact Information

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. 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

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.