



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1270

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Center for Disease Control reports 1 in 59 children are diagnosed with autism in the United States each year, a 15% increase since 2014. As the prevalence of this devastating developmental disability continues to rise, The Victory Center continues to advance its mission to empower a brighter future for individuals affected by autism and other related developmental disabilities by offering a host of evidence-based services that provide hope, education, and opportunities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted? Yes No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="150,000"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="000"/>
Total State Funds Requested	150,000

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)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="150,000"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="7.0"/> %
Matching Funds		
Federal	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Local	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Other	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="1,966,113"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="93"/> %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	2,116,113	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		
<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes No
- If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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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	To subsidize the total cost of \$287,785.35 in salaries and benefits for the administrative staff that support the evidence-based educational programs for students affected by autism and related disabilities. This accounts for 35% of overall funding request.	37,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	To subsidize the total cost of \$1,402,472.70 in salaries and benefits for the evidence-based program instructors and teachers for students affected by autism and other related disabilities. This is 75% of overall funding request.	112,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		150,000



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11. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will allow the organization to equip students on the autism spectrum with the resources needed to acquire critical skills that enable them to:

- 1) Mainstream to less restrictive learning environments when applicable.
- 2) Engage in higher ratios of instruction as they matriculate through their primary and secondary education.
- 3) Lead the most independent lives possible as they transition out of the education system.

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

The organization will advance a host of evidence-based and individualized educational programs based upon the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), a scientifically proven form of therapy for individuals affected by autism. More specifically, the organization will utilize a small intensive 1:1, 2:1, and 3-5:1 student-to-teacher ratio approach to provide early intervention services geared towards young children acquiring key skills at a critical time in childhood development, self-paced grade level instruction to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or employment opportunities, and vocational/daily living skills training to promote and generalize independence as students age out of the education system.

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

Lead by professionals highly qualified in the areas of education, behavioral therapy, and supervised by doctoral-level Board-Certified Behavioral Analysts, the organization will provide the following direct services: 1) Intensive verbal and non-verbal communication skills training; 2) Social skills training; 3) Daily living skills training (toileting, cooking, cleaning); 4) Computer literacy instruction; 5) Reading comprehension instruction; 6) Individualized mathematics instruction; 7) Individualized language arts instruction; 8) Specialized physical education; 9) Vocational/employment skills training; 10) Public transit navigation training; 11) Scheduling skills training; 12) Parent trainings; 13) Internships; 14) Supervision/Practicum Hours for professionals seeking certification.

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

In 2015, the Florida Governor's Task Force on Autism reported that nearly 10% of all children with disabilities ages 3-21 who received special education services in Florida have autism. Additionally, the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) reports that 30-50% of individuals diagnosed on the autism spectrum manifest symptoms of other developmental or attention deficit disorders such as ADHD. In direct response to these rising statistics, the target population for this allocation project is children ages 3-22 who have been diagnosed with autism and other related developmental disabilities, including individuals with dual diagnosis such as Down syndrome, ADHD, and Cerebral Palsy. The organization anticipates 120-180 individuals being served through this allocation project each year, including a maximum of 60 students and 60-120 parents and caregivers.

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

If achieved at full-scale, we anticipate students on the autism spectrum developing key skills that better positions them to mainstream to less restrictive learning environments, to learn at a higher instructional ratio, and/or demonstrate the level of independence necessary to navigate everyday life as they transition to adulthood. To measure these outcomes, instructors will routinely collect skill acquisition data utilizing the Catalyst system, a powerful digital platform specifically designed for autism professionals to track, monitor, and measure student progress. Each student will have a personalized Catalyst profile that is used to document key areas of development that require improvement such as language or verbal ability. Program instructors digitally collect relevant data, update student profiles as new skill acquisition targets are met, and analyze the data quarterly to report on program outcomes.

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?

In addition to the organization's standard procedure of returning allocated funds as a penalty for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures as contracted, the organization suggests the additional penalty to be relinquishing future funding eligibility for one fiscal year.



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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.**

The request does not include an allocation for fixed capital outlay funding.

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.