The Florida Senate
Local Funding Initiative Request
Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1826

1. **Project Title** FIE: Florida Rural Early Learning Exchange Network

2. **Senate Sponsor** Bill Montford

3. **Date of Request** 11/12/2019

4. **Project/Program Description**

The FIE: Florida Rural Early Learning Exchange Network is designed to increase access to and use of community resources to improve outcomes for children birth to age five in other rural counties (e.g., Liberty, Madison, Wakulla, Taylor, and Gadsden) by:
 • Creating a community-researcher partnership designed to strengthen and leverage access to existing resources and identify needed programs and services that address the limited support available to rural counties;
 • Collaborating with rural partners to identify community desired outcomes and set a shared agenda to achieve those outcomes, and;
 • Working with public libraries, schools, child care centers, other community agencies, and families to increase children's literacy readiness and use executive functioning that help children acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in school and life.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Education

   State Agency contacted? ○ Yes ● No

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

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

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)	500000	100.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	00	0 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	00	0 %
Other	00	0 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	500,000	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** ● Yes ○ No

   If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount Recurring	Amount Nonrecurring	Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
2019-20		300,000	85	Yes

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** ● Yes ○ No

   If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 500,000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries include 2 part-time personnel: 1 part-time project coordinator, 1 part-time senior grants specialists to support project implementation	55,000
Expense/Equipment/ Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries include 5 part-time personnel:3 part-time researchers with expertise in early literacy, building individual and organizational capacity, program development, and evaluation; and 2 part-time student assistants	175,000
Expense/Equipment/ Travel/Supplies/Other	Educational materials, supplies, printing, and duplicating to support and implement program activities, conduct mini pilots that address agreed upon problems/issues, travel to partner rural communities, conduct community focus groups and activities, laptops for part-time researchers, and graphic services.	260,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Provide needed specialized expertise in key problem areas identified by partner counties (e.g., trauma informed care, cognitive science and brain development, infant mental health, executive functioning, action-based learning, and experiential and deeper learning)	10,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/ Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

11. **Program Performance**

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

Improve school readiness outcomes for children living in rural communities by partnering with public libraries, schools, child care centers, businesses, government agencies, other community agencies, and families to provide programs and services designed to help children enter kindergarten ready to read, ready to learn, and ready to succeed.

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

• Expand the successful, existing, literacy-focused partnership model in Jefferson County to other rural counties (e.g., Liberty, Madison, Wakulla, and Gadsden). • Establish a community-researcher partnership (e.g., set a shared agenda, identify common measures of student progress, collect benchmark data, identify existing and new resources to support shared initiatives). • Increase community awareness (e.g., kickoff rally, community dialogue) of the importance of helping children acquire knowledge and skills they need to be successful learners. • Initiate a family- and child-focused program that help families become involved in their children's literacy growth at home and in the community. • Implement a volunteer reading program for preschool, kindergarten and first-grade partner classrooms.

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

Types of services to be provided will be jointly decided by anchor rural partners based on identification of a shared agenda and problem/issues identified as "best" starting point for the FIE: Florida Rural Early Learning Exchange Network.

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

The target population includes rural economically disadvantaged birth to five-year-old children and their families, library staff, teachers, and community organizations serving children birth to five (e.g., Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care centers). Year 1 start up will serve approximately 400-800 children and adults.

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

1. Improve Quality of Education: In Year 1, the measures will be: (a) establishment of Florida Rural Early Learning Exchange Network; (b) setting a common agenda with agreed upon measures; (c) gathering baseline VPK assessment results; and (d) developing and implementing at least one Rural Network practice-focused mini-project that addresses an agreed upon problem/issue. 2. Improve Economic Activity: The Network will help children acquire and use the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to be successful readers. Evidence continues to mount that high-quality, intensive early childhood interventions - particularly for children from low-income families - have lasting positive impacts and are much more cost effective than later remediation efforts. The economic return for high-quality interventions is higher than any other youth-centered remediation intervention. High-quality early childhood programs can yield a $4 -$9 dollar return per $1 invested.

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?

None.

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.**

NA

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

   a. First Name   Cheryl   Last Name Fountain

   b. Organization   Florida Institute of Education

   c. E-mail Address   fountain@unf.edu

   d. Phone Number   (904)620-2496   Ext.

14. **Recipient Contact Information**

   a. Organization   Florida Institute of Education

   b. Municipality and County   Statewide

   c. Organization Type

   ○ For-profit Entity

   ○ Non-Profit 501(c) (3)

   ○ Non-Profit 501(c) (4)

   ○ Local Entity

   ○ University or College

   ● Other (please specify) State-wide, practice-focused research center

   d. First Name   Cheryl   Last Name Fountain

   e. E-mail Address   fountain@unf.edu

   f. Phone Number   (904)6202496

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

   a. Name   Heather Duncan

   b. Firm Name   Vice President for Governmental Affairs at UNF

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