



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1366

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

4. Project/Program Description

B.E.S.T. was founded in 2004 by Dr. Dexter Frederick; recently named Education Volunteer of the Year for the State of Florida. B.E.S.T. intentionally seeks to educate, inspire, guide, and mentor students under our Medical Pathway Paradigm (MPP). Funding will be used to support development of its interconnecting programs that begin at the elementary school level by conducting in-school instruction on anatomy, medical careers, and self-development. Students matriculating to middle and high school will experience medicine by learning anatomy, various medical and health care professions, participating in surgical and memory clubs, attending medical workshop presentations, experiencing medical-related field trips, and virtual surgical procedures while learning more about the medical pathway they need to journey on to become a medical professional. Funding additionally, will be used to explore collaborative education and innovation opportunities in surrounding counties (Pasco/Pinellas).

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	900,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	900,000	76%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	150,000	12%
Local	100,000	8%
Other	50,000	4%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,200,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.
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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

Planning
 Design
 Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List 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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director - Responsible for the supervision and oversight of the program and ensure effectiveness, include hiring; training, and managing all staff; and communicating with state, hospitals and university leaders; Salary is reasonable and directly related to the delivery of programming to elementary, middle school and high school aged youth.	65,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Data Entry and Management specialist – Provides back office function to include direct support for payroll, IT, accounting support, HR Support and other corporate level functions including research.	65,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Office Supplies, Printing/Coping/Postage, Travel Expenses, Training , Operational/Administrative fees and functions, and Liability Insurance.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Compensation for Accountant, Audit/Bookkeepers, and Program Instructors; contracted services are reasonable and directly related to the delivery of programming to elementary, middle school and high school aged youth. These wages will be for all staff providing direct program services to the youth we serve.	45,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Five(5) Program Directors including Medical Mentors Recruiters and Trainers Community Engagement – These team members will engage the community for the purpose of creating experiential learning opportunities for participants.	550,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program-wide field trips to places like hospitals, science centers, medical school, nursing schools and simulation labs in Florida and Other Medical Educational Facilities.- Subcontract with community partners to sustain projects, develop programs and extend outreach opportunities.	40,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Curriculum Developer – Social Media Manager – Program Evaluator	85,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		900,000

14. Program Performance

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

The purpose and goal of this program is to nurture and prepare high school and college students to become nurses and doctors and other health care professionals in order to meet workforce needs. This will provide qualified health care professionals that are critical to the health of the citizens of Hillsborough and Pinellas county. B.E.S.T. will draw on its 17 years of successful evidence-based programming in working with under represented and minority youth in the development of a highly trained talent pipeline in medically related careers for our local community and throughout the state of Florida. B.E.S.T. is the only minority youth -serving non profit advancing medical related professions where the students classroom are hospitals.

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

Without interconnected programs that begin at the elementary school level by conducting in-school instruction on anatomy, medical careers, and self-development. Students matriculating to middle and high school will experience medicine by learning anatomy, various medical and health care professions, participating in surgical and memory clubs, attending medical workshop presentations in hospitals.

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

Increase capacity to deliver more graduates who are prepared to impact the health care workforce. Services includes:
 - Monthly seminars on social determinants;
 -A summer medical/surgical enrichment experiences;
 -Educational and college readiness enrichment workshops;
 -Volunteerism at free health clinics;
 - Shadowing experiences at hospitals and clinics.

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

B.E.S.T. Project will serve 575 males and female youth ages 14-24 in Hillsborough and Pinellas County. A portion of that group are economically disadvantaged and at risk. Most students will be from underrepresented and minority backgrounds. The target population are students attending mostly public high schools in Hillsborough/Pinellas Counties. District and school staff will focus on recruitment of students who plan to pursue a health related career after high school including special populations such as at-risk youth, and students who are economically disadvantaged. The need is well beyond the current capacity of existing regional programs and leaves a large gap to be filled.

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

The expected benefit or outcome of this project is an increase in the number of graduates who complete career experiences in health care, an increase in the number of graduates who identify a health career as their career pathway, an increase in the number of certifications earned, and an increase in the number of minority graduates entering medical related professions. The methodology will be to analyze district collected records related to student job shadowing/pre-apprenticeship experiences; survey students participating in STEM Courses; analyze exit surveys of graduating seniors about local hospital shadowing regarding their satisfaction of 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 the contract?



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B.E.S.T. should receive the standard penalties for not meeting the deliverable or performance measures provided for in the contract. Not meeting individual deliverable will have financial consequences.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. **First Name** **Last Name**

b. **Organization**

c. **E-mail Address**

d. **Phone Number** **Ext.**

16. 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**

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name**

b. **Firm Name**

c. **E-mail Address**

d. **Phone Number**