



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1743

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Jacksonville School for Autism (JSA) is a not-for-profit private school established in 2005 in support of children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Since then the school has seen tremendous growth. JSA started with 2 students and 2 staff and has slowly and intentionally grown to support 60 students with over 50 teachers and therapists! With 1 in 44 children diagnosed with Autism, JSA continues to experience significant growth in student enrollment and program development. A core focus for JSA's Supportive Transition and Employment Placement (STEP) Program is creating transition-supporting, mission-based enterprises. JSA provides job skill training and coaching to young adults with developmental disabilities. These students are from the Northeast Florida area, including the following counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. Through our programs, JSA continues to make a positive impact in the lives of children and families within greater NE Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	300,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	250,000	26	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

JSA does not have a source of funding in lieu of state funding at this time.



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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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	6 Full-Time Vocational Instructor Salaries 1 Education Department Director Salary	175,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transition skills evaluation protocol; vocational and functional daily living skills training equipment and program development; curriculum for job skills development; on-site enterprise development materials.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	1 Transition Support 1 Behavior Support	75,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The specific purpose of the JSA Vocational STEP Program is to provide students with job seeking skills, job development and placement, functional daily living and social skills, and employment coaching. Funding will be used to create on-campus enterprises where the skills and interests of the students are aligned with professional job skills to meet the individual's ability and overcome disabilities. JSA offers vocational opportunities both on campus & in the community to earn income.

For all other students, the goal will be to align student interest to completely immerse them in community job sites. Studies have shown positive results from immersion learning, provided students also receive explicit instruction of the skill.

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

We propose to use this funding to secure mission-based enterprise sites and additional on-campus enterprises for our vocational students to expand their working capabilities. These additional on-campus enterprises will provide an efficient location for them to perfect their job skills and work on various employment tasks like screen printing, shredding confidential documents, cottage farming, freeze-dried products, creating apparel and merchandise items, etc.

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

JSA vocational students will provide services to the Northeast Florida community through a variety of outlets. They will provide confidential shredding services to local businesses. They will sell apparel and merchandise to local vendors and individuals throughout the community. The on-campus agro enterprise within the gardening program will not only consist of weekly therapy sessions, but monthly markets, workshops, trainings, community engagement, and so much more. It will focus on the vocational development behind production and bringing products to market, including but not limited to, growing & harvesting, cleaning, preparation and production, packaging, labelling, order fulfillment, deliveries and shipping, stocking & preservation, etc. The list will go on and on as our business opportunities to continue to expand through the use of additional funding and resources. Several enterprise options will be tested in an effort to solidify a long term sustainable funding model.

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

The group of people that this project will serve are students age 14 to adulthood. Program participants include current pre-vocation and vocation students at JSA as well as post-secondary students from other private and public programs. JSA serves populations of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We enroll individuals from the surrounding counties of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns. Our current placement of families crosses all ethnicities and economic backgrounds; autism does not discriminate by whose lives are impacted!

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 of JSA's Vocational STEP Program is to essentially provide our vocational students with more and more job opportunities and supportive employment placements. Our students and young adults have the skills necessary to be successful and productive members in both their home and community; we just need to provide additional resources for them to be able to THRIVE! JSA uses a real time software program called Central Reach that helps develop individual goals and programs and it has the capability to track skill development over multiple job coaching environments.

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?

N/A

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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