



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1013

1. **Title of Project:** Juvenile Reentry Virtual Interviewing Prog.-JRVIP

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Manny Diaz

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/09/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The Juvenile Reentry Virtual Interviewing Program is used as a component of the offender’s pre-entry services. JRVIP provides job interview practice by using customizable virtual humans as potential employers. The diversity of training options that the system provides using six avatars, three behavioral dispositions (soft-touch, neutral, and hostile), and interchangeable backgrounds (including a restaurant, warehouse, office, break room, and hotel) creates a variety of interview experiences. These scenarios allow for progressive difficulty and customizable training geared to the needs of the user. JRVIP is a novel approach to support youth’s successful re-entry into the community and to reduce the rate of recidivism using virtual technology.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Juvenile Justice

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>250,000</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	250,000	63.23%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	145,413	36.77%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>395,413</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		175,000		No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year.** 250,000



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	10% of total grant - Staff Training, Audit Fees, Supplies	22,727
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Program Operators (7), Program Manager, Tech Support, Support Staff (data entry, staff accountant)	191,073
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Computer Equipment, Marketing/Print Collateral, Travel/Mileage, Computer Services	36,200
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>250,000</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

Offenders often report being stressed when interviewing for a job especially when asked to formulate responses discussing their incarceration history. Getting a job can make a big difference for an offender, their families, and their community. Employment is key to a successful transition. However, the job interview can present the biggest challenge to employment in this population. This issue is addressed with vocational interview skill training, delivered as part of the offender’s pre-entry services. The specific goal will be to reduce recidivism, by gaining employment.

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

The JRVIP coordinator will meet with youth before beginning the Virtual Interactive Training Agent (ViTA) interview process. After the initial meeting, the youth shall participate in his or her first video recorded ViTA interview. After the interview is conducted, staff will review the recorded interview to provide feedback, coaching sessions will be provided, and specific areas of improvement will be identified. Within a one - three month period, there will be a second, third, fourth, and final face-to-face interview with the youth.

**c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

The ViTA is a virtual-reality practice system initially designed to build job-interviewing competence and reduce anxiety in persons on the Autism Spectrum and with U.S. Veterans. The Dan Marino Foundation has customized the content of this system to address the challenges that are specific to offender populations. The program will teach the students to effectively communicate during a job interview.



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

Youth between the ages of 14 to 21 who are currently detained in a Florida residential facility or detention center, or attending a prevention or probation program, be on community supervision or in a diversion program residing in the State of Florida. These services are delivered to the youth as a condition of his or her community supervision or as part of the diversion program's individualized service plan. There will be 1500 or more interviews to assist between 200 and 300 youth.

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

Employment is shown as a factor leading to reduction in recidivism. Isolation, depression, stress, and mental health issues and the associated treatment costs can be reduced with successful implementation and integration. More career education combined with life and soft skills will lead to decreased antisocial behaviors and improve functioning levels (e.g. employment, school, and family relationships). Outcomes will be measured by: task analysis, progress notes, and job development logs. Satisfaction surveys will be completed by participants, and a database will be maintained with the results. Pre- and post-measures will be conducted in the areas of self-determination, self-advocacy, and employment-related social skills. Measurable outcomes include: Attendance/Program Completion - 90% of participants will successfully complete the program; 100% of youth will not recidivate within one year after program completion.

**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.

**12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

Not Applicable

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Mary Partin
- b. **Organization:** The Dan Marino Foundation, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** mpartin@danmarinofoundation.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (954)368-6013

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** The Dan Marino Foundation, Inc.
- b. **County:** Statewide
- c. **Organization Type:**
  - For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College



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Other (Please specify)

**d. Contact Name:** Betsy Christy

**e. E-mail Address:** bchristy@danmarinofoundation.org

**f. Phone Number:** (954)368-6016

#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

**a. Name:** Rob Schenck

**b. Firm Name:** Legis Group

**c. E-mail Address:** rob@legisgroupfl.com

**d. Phone Number:** (352)585-7338