



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1617

1. **Project Title** SWFL Autsim Project for Community and Clinical Support2. **Senate Sponsor** Lizbeth Benacquisto3. **Date of Request** 12/06/20194. **Project/Program Description**

We are requesting funding for community-based autism treatment for school-aged children and adolescents. The community-based treatment will include autism-related therapies, including occupational and applied behavior analysis services for treating underserved children in Southwest Florida diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Without treatment, families report their children have limited to no safety awareness as well as engage in behaviors such as refusal to go to school, high level levels of aggression, or antisocial behaviors. As these children grow into teenagers and young adults, their parents report increasing difficulty managing their children safely due to their size and age. Law enforcement reports they respond to numerous residences due to domestic disturbances, which turn out to be ungovernable children/adolescents on the Autism Spectrum. By providing these support service, we will be able reduce the number of children engaged by the criminal justice and dependency system.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Agency for Persons with DisabilitiesState Agency contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	401,660
Fixed Capital Outlay	000
Total State Funds Requested	401,660

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)	401,660	89.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	00	0 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	50,000	11 %
Other	00	0 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	451,660	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		

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	Program Director to coordinate and supervisor the delivery of clinical services and autism support programs. To lead community outreach and integration with behavioral health providers and law enforcement.	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	The community-based treatment will include autism-related therapies, including occupational and applied behavior analysis services. This program will include a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Licensed Occupational Therapist, and two Registered Behavior Technicians.	231,660
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The project funding will also support equipment, supplies, building occupancy, and administrative costs associated with the program.	120,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		401,660



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11. Program Performance

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

1. Reduction in the number of discipline referrals received through educational system.
2. Reduction in the number of referrals, baker acts, arrest records after services.
3. Improvement of knowledge and skills of law enforcement officers and reduced confrontation.
4. Pre and post tests will be used to assess skills including: pre-employment, social functioning, independent functioning, and life skills.
Communication and behavior reduction will be assessed through baseline measures and progress made over consecutive sessions with clinicians.

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

The community-based treatment will include autism-related therapies, including intensive occupational and applied behavior analysis services for treating school-aged children, adolescents, and young adults on the autism spectrum who are underserved in Southwest Florida.

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

Direct services which will be received are as follows; Applied Behavior Analysis, Occupational Therapy, Autism education, care coordination, and counseling services.

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

Children and adolescents diagnosed on the autism spectrum in Southwest Florida. The program anticipates serving 100 clients through both clinical and support services.

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

Outcome #1 Reduction in the number of discipline referrals received through educational system. Outcome #2 Reduction in the number of referrals, baker acts, arrest records after services. Outcome #3 Improvement of knowledge and skills of law enforcement and reduced confrontation. Outcome #4 Skill assessment including: pre-employment, social functioning, independent functioning, and life skills. Outcome #5 Communication improvement/maladaptive behavior reduction. Methodology #1 Collaborate with community providers and organizations to gather/tack critical incidents. Methodology #2 Collaborate with community providers and organizations to gather/tack critical incidents. Methodology #3 Track educational workshops conducted and community engagement opportunities. Methodology #4 Pre test and post test for skills; communication and behavior reduction will be assessed through baseline measures and progress made over consecutive sessions with clinicians.

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?

Elimination of per deliverable unit funding for failed outcomes.



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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.

no

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.