



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1015

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

4. Project/Program Description

The JAFCO Children's Ability Center provides quality family enrichment, resources and respite services to families raising children with developmental disabilities. The overall goal of this program is to reduce the stress of parents who are raising a child with a developmental disability while increasing the socialization and skills of the children, thereby helping to preserve the family unit and reducing the need for costly out-of-home placements for the children. The Ability Center is a "one-stop-shop" for developmental disability services and is the only center of its kind in the United States providing intensive support, enrichment and respite services under one roof not only for children with developmental disabilities but focused on the entire family. The center is open 24/7/365 to provide overnight out-of-home extended respite care and intensive case management.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	850,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	850,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	850,000	29%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,100,000	37%
Other	1,000,000	34%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	2,950,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	500,000	248	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?
- 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?



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Yes

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

The Children's Ability Center received a PPP Loan in the amount of \$569,772.00 which was used for payroll expenses allowing us to maintain 100% of our staff and provide services throughout the pandemic.

11. 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	90% of the funds will be used for program staff to provide 24 hour care for the children in the respite program. These staff include psychologists, social workers, therapists, BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), nurses and direct care staff.	755,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	10% of the funds will be used for food and other supplies for the children and the programs including iPads for communication, computer software, art supplies and music therapy.	95,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		850,000

12. Program Performance

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

The overall goal of this program is to reduce the stress of parents who are raising a child with a developmental disability while increasing the socialization and skills of the children, thereby helping to preserve the family unit and reduce out-of-home placement of children.

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

Day and overnight out-of-home respite at the Ability Center including two weeks a year per child and and comprehensive support services to families raising a child with a developmental disability including intensive case management, parent behavior training, and social and life skills training for the children.

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

Services include out-of-home day, evening, weekend, overnight, emergency or extended respite services that allow the children to enjoy exciting enrichment activities while the parents take a much needed extended break from the often overwhelming demands of parenting a child with a developmental disability. Additional services include a formal social skills and life skills training program that prepares children to work and live independently. Furthermore, therapeutic support groups are held throughout the week for the entire family (mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents). Parent education, behavior training and parent/family socialization activities are provided to increase parenting skills, improve the parent-relationship and strengthen the connection between families to develop a sense of community.

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



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The program will benefit youth ages 0-22 years with any developmental disability and their families. The entire family of the child with a disability will benefit by receiving support services. This program will provide support to families who are on the waiting list for Med-Waiver, many of whom are currently in crisis.

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

The goal is to maintain the child in the home for as long as possible thereby avoiding more costly out-of-home residential placements at a huge savings to the state. As a result of this program, 85% of parent / caregivers will report reduced stress, 90% of children served will be maintained in the home 6 months after starting respite services and 90% of children served will maintain or enhance developmentally appropriate skills through use of respite. Outcomes will be measured using pre-and post-test scores on the Parenting Stress Index for the parents and on a developmental skills assessment for the children.

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?

Standard penalties only-to include return of funds.

13. 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.

N/A



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name
b. Organization
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name
b. Firm Name
c. E-mail Address
d. Phone Number