



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1020

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

MacDonald Training Center joins with non profit and business partners to offer a critically needed spectrum of vocational education and job placement programs assisting youth, first time job seekers, recently furloughed and unemployed citizens with disabilities to get back to work, advancing in careers in targeted, fast growing industries in Florida.

MTC's elevated job training, workplace skills development and industry-based certification programs are more critical than ever, as Florida citizens with disabilities enter a hyper-competitive job market after the COVID-19 crisis. Entities from the UN to the WHO decry the terrible impact on employment.

The Tampa Bay Partnership states "individuals with a disability may be disproportionately affected by social distancing and stay-at-home measures, as well as potential job loss." If the post-pandemic jobless rate mirrors that of the Great Recession, it will be 10% or higher than the national unemployment rate for disabled job seekers.

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	260,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	260,000

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)	260,000	44%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	250,000	43%
Other	74,552	13%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	584,552	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

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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Private Foundations and local City and County grant support.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

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

\$100,000 from Hillsborough County CARES Act to retain residential program staff.
\$76,000 from Hillsborough County CARES Act for online instruction and to create safe, healthy classrooms for in-person learning including summer and winter camps for youth.

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	Transportation remains a major obstacle for people with disabilities. According to Vocational Rehabilitation's 2016 State Plan, the greatest barriers to employment for job seekers with disabilities are: • Job seekers need transportation (personal or public) (76.16%) MTC proposes a limited time voucher system for new employees who do not have personal vehicles or other means to get to employment sites on an as needed basis.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Requested state funds will be used to partially fund the following costs: Certificate Program Manager 100% \$63,360.00 Board Certified Behavior Analyst /Soft Skills Training 100% \$79,200.00 Lead Technology/Instructor 100% \$59,387.33 Technology/Instructor 50% \$21,964.80 Logistics/Instructor 100% \$58,080.07 Bi-Lingual Career Success Coach *	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Requested state funds will be used to partially fund the following costs: 100 students, certification testing fees \$1,400 each. \$140,000 total	40,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		260,000

12. Program Performance

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

People with disabilities, many forgotten during the COVID crisis, receive the tools needed to return to work, advance on their chosen career track, and mitigate skill set losses caused by unemployment and isolation. MTC's elevated employment training programs align with four high-growth sectors of Florida's economy: technology, manufacturing, healthcare and hospitality. Each track is taught by college level educators, and industry professionals. Graduates earn globally recognized post secondary credentials demonstrating to a future employer that the job seeker has the skills and emotional intelligence needed for employment. We carefully match our business partners workforce needs with qualified, skilled, motivated team members that will enhance and diversify their workforce. Neurodiverse work environments that are flexible and open to the talents of all qualified individuals, including those with disabilities, actually promote workplace success for everyone.

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

Get Back to Work is an innovative solution to the sky high unemployment rate following the COVID-19 crisis. Individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment have the opportunity to earn post-secondary credentials at two in-person locations or online through customized instruction adapted to their unique learning styles. Business partners involved in the program's curriculum assist in workplace readiness and employment outcomes. MTC's elevated training is an evidenced based "bundled" approach to providing short term; post-secondary education leading to career opportunities; basic financial skills education; career employment counseling; case management and /or workplace supports to help adults with disabilities obtain and maintain employment, complete career ready post-secondary education and/or increase knowledge of financial stability concepts. Long-term follow services ultimately allows them to earn, keep and grow assets and live financially secure lives.

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

Elevated secondary education, geared to the varying learning styles of people with disabilities from Autism to developmental disabilities, and those who are deaf, or blind is a game changer in the lives of those who come through the program, leading to more opportunities, higher wages, and career advancement. The program includes:

- o Education: students are taught and certified in globally accredited industry standards by college educators or industry experts. On the job training for students helps master those work related tasks that they may encounter at their job. Professional development classes teach and explore different career opportunities and employment paths to help students, including youth unsure of their potential, understand their own vision of a career.
- o Employment :Customized job development, job placement coaching transitions students from classroom to work site.
- o Ongoing Support: Follow along support ensures future success, employer confidence and career advancement

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

MTC programs are unique in the Tampa Bay area. MTC program partners such as The Learning Academy at the Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD) at the University of South Florida, Disability Resource Hub, and Lighthouse of Pinellas, offer related and complementary programs and services. But the focus on globally recognized, industry-certified training for this discrete population of persons with disabilities in the Tampa Bay area is only found at MTC. This unique and innovative model enables people with disabilities who became unemployed during of the crisis and who might otherwise remain stagnant as entry-level workers to develop their skills and move into higher-paying jobs as a concrete strategy for returning to the workforce, career advancement and climbing the ladder to career success, independence and full equity.

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



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"When everyone works, everyone benefits." For FY21, MTC has capacity for 144 participants to achieve one or more of the following: graduate from a short term postsecondary certificate program, obtain employment and/or increase access in the community. Increased financial independence leads to decreased reliance on State and Federal benefits from food stamps to SSI, lessening the burden on taxpayers. In response to the COVID crisis, MTC opened highly specialized training in sanitation, and logistics (central to the increase in online shopping), to clients at Feeding Tampa Bay, Lighthouse for the Blind Pinellas, and CareerSource Tampa Bay. MTC is one of only two certified logistics testing sites in the area and is a certified Microsoft testing site. MTC uses grading, evaluation and assessment tools to measure progress, such as class quiz and final exam scores class attendance and participation. Students need a passing grade of 70% to earn certificates from most accrediting bodies.

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?

Reasonable time to solve any problems and then withhold funds as may be applicable.

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