



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1035

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

The funds requested will be used to purchase and re-purpose a community building in order to create a campus on which to house LiFT Academy, LiFT University Transition Program, and the LiFT Day Program. Currently, LiFT is renting space at two separate properties: one campus is used to operate LiFT Academy and the other to operate LiFT University/Day Program. Relocating would allow all LiFT students to be served on one uniform campus; and the increased campus size would allow LiFT to better serve the needs of its growing student population that has increased more than 600% in less than 7 years. The new property would make it possible to introduce additional programs (after-school clubs, art, music, athletics) for LiFT students; allow for the expansion of its existing programs (such as the LiFT micro-businesses and established Day Program); and provide the opportunity for growth of our Family Resource Center.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	800,000
Total State Funds Requested	800,000

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)	800,000	62%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	38%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	1,300,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	400,000	118	Yes

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.**

LiFT, Inc. is actively recruiting a Director of Development to work in partnership with the Executive Director and LiFT Board of Directors to develop, implement, and execute a capital campaign of \$5 million.



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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.

LiFT received a PPP Loan totaling \$318,233 in April 2020.
All funds were used in accordance with CARES Act guidelines and used for salaries & benefits for LiFT Team Members, enhanced cleaning supplies and PPE, and direct program assistance for students.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds will be used exclusively for the purchase & required renovations for the new campus. LiFT is seeking to expand services and double in size over the next 3-5 years. LiFT has now identified a property and seeking to re-purpose the existing building by employing a 3-phase process in securing, renovating, and opening a new space. Phase 1 would entail down payment to secure property using 2019 legislative funding. Phase 2 would be to complete all required renovations. Phase 3 is opening.	800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		800,000

12. Program Performance

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

LiFT (DBA LiFT Academy & LiFT University Transition Program) has grown by a combined 600% since its founding in 2013. Serving more than 140 students with neurodiversity (including autism, ADHD, & learning disabilities), LiFT is seeking to find a permanent home to meet the growing enrollment to support the educational, social, interpersonal, and independent living & life skills preparation for students Kindergarten through age 22. LiFT is seeking to expand services to include pre-K, more robust adult day programming, and residential care.

LiFT is seeking to expand services & double in size over the next 3-5 years.
LiFT has now identified a property and seeking to re-purpose the existing building by employing a 3-phase process in securing, renovating, and opening a new space.
Phase 1 would entail down payment to secure property using 2019 legislative funding.
Phase 2 would be to complete all required renovations in which LiFT would use 2021 legislative funding.
Phase 3 is opening



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

LiFT projects 25% growth in the student population each year for the next 5 years. As LiFT has grown 600% over the past 7 years, we have outgrown our available space. Moreover, LiFT is enhancing its programmatic service array to include pre-K services, more robust adult day programming, a Family Resource Center, and enhancements to current elementary, middle, high, and post-secondary educational opportunities for students with neurodiversity.

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

Same as above.

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

Children ages 0-17 (LiFT Academy), young adults ages 18-22 (LiFT University Transition Program), and adults ages 23 and beyond in LiFT Day Program.

LiFT anticipates the ability to serve more than 250 in LiFT Academy, 75 in LiFT University Transition Program, and 25 in the Day Program.

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

Enhanced educational, social, interpersonal, & peer development, employability skills, and more robust access to community resources and services.

LiFT utilizes many methods to track these outcomes including MAP Testing and Assessments, Individualized Support Plans, Attendance Reports, and other data collection tools.

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?

Should LiFT fail to meet the deliverables or performance measures outlined in the contract, LiFT would not be permitted to apply for future State Appropriations funding for a period of 3 (three) years.

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.

Funds will be used exclusively for the purchase & required renovations for the new campus to benefit the students, families, and community of LiFT.



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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