



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1066

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

4. Project/Program Description

ITEM is an industry certification program licensed by the DOE Commission for Independent Education to promote competitive employment opportunities for teens and young adults with disabilities, ages 14 to 28. Curriculum is designed for the hospitality and technology industries with core courses in financial literacy, social/employability skills, and internships with corporate partners. Additional services include behavioral support, job placement and coaching. As part of ITEM, STEM Works will be offered to schools and social service agencies in South Florida. This program encourages critical thinking while using engineering and technology in developing creative approaches to real-world situations. ITEM's online platform will continue the ongoing delivery and enhancement of virtual learning tools for individuals, schools and nonprofits throughout Florida. Programming for a younger population geared to transition offers pre-employment and self-advocacy skill training during school breaks.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

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)	400,000	23%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	750,000	41%
Local	0	0%
Other	658,018	36%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	1,808,018	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	750,000	750,000	35	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** No
- 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?

Yes

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

Paycheck Protection Program: \$450,300
Salaries, mortgage, interest and utilities.

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	Staff Accountant - 25%, HR Manager -14%	19,047
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Dir Educational Services (1), Campus Manager (1), Project Manager (1), On-Line Developer (1), Research Analyst (1), Program Coordinator (1), Tech Support (1), Campus Instructors (4), Internship Instructors (2), Campus Safety Officer (1), Student Services Coordinator (1), Student Admissions (1), Employment Specialist (1)	334,558
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Mileage, Staff Training, Security Screening, Utilities, Conferences, Computer Services, Professional Services, Academic Costs/Curriculum and Supplies	46,395
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)		400,000

12. Program Performance

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

The unemployment rate for adults with disabilities is over 80%. ITEM provides participants with the opportunity to earn industry certifications in Technology, Business Administrative Office and Hospitality with wraparound services including employability, social skills, internships, and career coaching. Specific goals to be achieved by ITEM include: Program Completion of 80%; Certification Passage of 60%; and Job Placement of 60%. STEM Works participants will be measured by pre- and post- assessments on: (1) Increased understanding and use of mathematical skills and concepts like data graphing and multi-digit computations; (2) Increased understanding of science concepts like speed, motion, and interactions; (3) Increased problem-solving, communication, and project management skills; (4) Enhanced use of digital media; and (5) Increased confidence in presenting by participating in exhibitions and competitions.

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

Provide academic instruction according to national industry standards and licensing requirements in business office, technology, or hospitality fields; Adapt the amount of instruction time needed, vary instructional methods and materials, and increase experiential learning; Provide the skills necessary toward gainful employment including social and self-advocacy skills and employment readiness training; Prepare participants for employment with field-specific internships; Provide access to the on-line platform for extended learning and training; Facilitate the creation of resumes using on-line tools; Practice interviewing using a virtual system; Provide STEM curriculum paired with skill training in employment, leadership, time management and independent living; Provide participants with the opportunity to showcase their products at community exhibitions.



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

Certification programs give participants 300 clock hours in industry certification courses, 310 clock hours of internships, and 150 hours of core/elective courses, independent living skills, and social skills training. Online tools and STEM Works will provide courses in Robotics, Web Development, Graphic Design, and Computer Repair and support additional non-traditional learners seeking employment including public/private secondary schools, nonprofit organizations, government agencies throughout the State of Florida.

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

101-200 individuals living in the State of Florida ages 14 to 28 with a diagnosed disability.

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

Statewide benefits include: Offers a model enhancing delivery of service, addressing the needs of Floridians, leading to increased employment outcomes for nontraditional learners; Lessens reliance on government benefits, such as SSI, through employment leading to greater independence; Isolation, depression, stress, mental health issues, and the associated treatment costs may be reduced through successful employment and individual's integration into the community; Best-practice models for instruction in technology, employment, and financial literacy shared statewide through the on-line platform; Add consumers that support local economies; Increase the number of qualified people to the workforce promoting an inclusive culture.

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?

Possible future funding adjustment

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.

No



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Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1066

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