



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1073

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

Operation G.R.O.W. is an internship program providing real-world and simulated work experiences to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) with the goal of obtaining competitive, integrated employment. In the course of the internships, Operation G.R.O.W. Employment Coaches provide job skills training, supported employment, and customized employment in an effort to assist the intern with obtaining competitive, integrated employment. In addition, the interns have the opportunity to learn basic life skills and job skills through classroom instruction.

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	352,323
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	352,323

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)	352,323	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	352,323	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	300,000	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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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Inspire of Central Florida received \$89,000 through the Payroll Protection Program. These funds were used to assist with staff salaries and operational costs from March to June 2020 while Inspire's facility was closed due to COVID. Inspire was also reimbursed \$31,000 through the Seminole CARES Act for COVID-19 expenditures incurred during 2020.

11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	30% of the Executive Director's salary, including FICA.	31,290
Other Salary and Benefits	30% of the Finance Officer and Administrative Assistants salary, including FICA.	21,403
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Workman's Comp fees and 15% Administrative Costs	53,820
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Program Coordinator and two Employment Coaches salary, including FICA.	100,625
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Upgraded classroom and computer lab technology, software, enhanced RMS system, classroom chairs and computer desk with safety dividers, transportation to and from job sites, staff training, 30% of facility insurance, utilities, PPE and janitorial supplies, maintenance and equipment leases. Also, establish inventory and equipment for two locations of Inspire Your Day Café.	117,585
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Health, wellness and music programs for the clients. Also, Behavioral Analyst consultant.	27,600
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		352,323

12. Program Performance

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

Operation G.R.O.W.'s goal is to build upon existing skills and to develop additional life and job skills to prepare interns for competitive, integrated employment. Due to the ongoing concerns associated with COVID, we recognize that programmatic adjustments may need to be made in order to ensure the safety of the participants.

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

The interns will be able to achieve the desired goal of competitive, integrated employment by participating in real-world work experience. This experience is provided through internships with our community partners, which include Northland Church, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, Meals on Wheels, and The Sharing Center. Operation G.R.O.W. has also partnered with Seminole County Government and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office to provide the interns with the opportunity to gain work experience in the two locations of the fully-operational Inspire Your Day Café. Due to COVID-19, we have found new ways to safely provide services with the addition of Meals on Wheels and classroom instruction via Zoom. We have also partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) to assist our interns in obtaining competitive integrated employment.

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



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The interns will be able to obtain practical employment skills through internships with our community partners. By providing this real opportunity to work, the interns can develop the following skills: workplace socialization, customer service, supervisor and co-worker interaction, attention to task, cashier responsibilities, and custodial duties. The interns will have the opportunity to learn job skills, such as completion of job applications, resume building, professional etiquette, and mock interviews through classroom instruction. In addition, the interns will learn life skills related to employment such as hygiene, appropriate attire, time and money management, basic math, and accessing different forms of transportation in an effort to build their self-esteem and employability.

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

The target population is adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We expect to serve twenty-five interns throughout the fiscal year. With the assistance of the Seminole County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), we are able to provide program services to nineteen Seminole County residents. In the absence of the CDBG funding, these residents would likely not receive services. Of those nineteen residents, five (26% of the residents) of the individuals participate in Operation G.R.O.W. We anticipate an additional five (53%) Seminole County residents to be enrolled in Operation G.R.O.W. during FY 21-22. Currently, there are nearly 900 individuals with IDD residing in Seminole County. Twenty five of these individuals are currently enrolled in Operation G.R.O.W. With the assistance of this special appropriations funding, Inspire possess the capacity and resources to enroll additional Seminole County residents in Operation G.R.O.W. in the upcoming fiscal year.

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

The expected benefits of this projects are as follows: on-the-job training, computer software training, travel training and continuing education. The expected outcome of the project is assisting the interns in gaining successful competitive, integrated employment. The methodology that will be used to measure the project's outcome are pre- and post-tests to measure the interns' individual growth as well as quarterly reporting to document each intern's participation.

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?

The increments of financial consequences that shall apply must be based upon the severity of the noncompliance, nonperformance, or unacceptable performance. The financial consequences shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total project payments. Noncompliance involving the provision of service not having a direct effect on client health and safety may result in the imposition of a five percent (5%) financial consequence. Noncompliance as a result of unacceptable performance of administrative tasks may result in the imposition of a two percent (2%) financial consequence.

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.

We are not requesting any fixed capital outlay funding.



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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