



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1278

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

4. Project/Program Description

The FDI is a support organization to the FDOE's newly created Florida Civics and Debate Initiative, and has provided funding in 2020 to support their efforts. Funding from the FDI for the FCDI has helped to facilitate the mission of creating access and opportunities for all students to have the best civics education including curriculum, debate programs, and high-quality teachers that are catalysts for students becoming great citizens who can preserve our constitutional republic for future generations. With further funding, FDI will continue to educate coaches and students, train judges, and establish competition standards for existing organizations to provide ample educational opportunities. Competitive speech and debate can be a tool to bridge the education achievement gap and instill students with high-level critical thinking skills, in addition to exposing participants to robust civil discourse and with a diverse array of peers and competitors.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	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	500,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	925,000	114	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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No

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

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The creation of a full-time Executive Director is necessary to support the expansion of the Florida Debate Initiative, at an anticipated minimum salary of \$6,000/month (\$72,000 a year). This position would be responsible for day-to-day operations, including grant management, accounting, and community relations. FDI is currently paying \$1,500/month from FDI's private funds for a grant manager to ensure compliance with state reporting rules and regulations.	72,000
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	State funds will be used to cover expenses incurred to provide educational resources and developmental tools to new and existing Speech and Debate programs across Florida, with an emphasis on civic education.	428,000
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)		500,000

12. Program Performance

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

FDI's primary objective is to act as an educational non-profit that educates and trains coaches, establishes competition standards for existing programs, and aids in the incubation of new speech and debate programs across Florida. Successful speech and debate programs enrich the education experience of students and are key contributors to developing lifelong skills such as high-level critical thinking, communication, and teamwork. Offering affordable speech and debate opportunities can also be used as a tool to bridge the educational achievement gap for targeted populations who would traditionally be unable to participate.

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

FDI aims to offer several services and activities, but will be focused on ensuring accessible, monthly debate competitions for students across the state, hosting a National Civics and Debate Championship, professional development opportunities for speech and debate coaches, and student workshops to develop their skills.

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

FDI will utilize state funding to establish education and training program for middle and high school speech and debate coaches. FDI has also created regional leagues for debate competition that are accessible to populations that may not traditionally be able to partake in such opportunities.

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



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Middle and high school students across the entire state will be served by the expansion of speech and debate opportunities provided by continued funding.

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

Further state funding will ensure that all students are given the opportunity to participate in speech and debate programs regardless of geographic location and socio-economic status. As FDI's presence across the state continues to grow, more students will be introduced to the value of civics education.

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?

Funds shall be allocated in coordination and partnership with the Florida Department of Education. While we cannot foresee an applicable scenario under this question arising, if some unforeseeable event occurred that standards were not being met, the FDOE would have the discretion to restrict access to funding.

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