



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1340

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

For over 30 years, Great Explorations Children's Museum has been encouraging hands-on learning for ages 0-10 through creativity, play, and exploration. But what happens when they age out of the learning demographic? Hands on learning is far more appealing to kids than sitting in front of a computer or whiteboard. Studies show that 74% of middle school girls express an interest in engineering, science, and math. However, if those interests are not nurtured that is all they become – interests. Great Explorations would like to bring science back to St. Pete with a focus on continuum of care and bridging the age gap of hands on learning. Great Explorations is requesting funding to support renovating, repairing, and bringing to code the existing building that once was the Pinellas County Science 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	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	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	1,000,000	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.

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



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Yes

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

PPP = \$300,800 - Used primarily for payroll as well as facility expenses (power, water, internet).
Expect 100% forgiveness
EIDL = \$500,000 - Used to make up an operating deficit from being closed and at lower capacity
in all programs.

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	Renovations on existing building located at 7701 22nd Ave N, Saint Petersburg, FL 33710. The current building needs to be repaired and brought up to code.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

Great Explorations Children's Museum would like to bridge the gap when children and families advance from current learning demographics and move into higher education. While partnering with local educators, astronomers, public libraries, schools, and the neighborhood college, Great Explorations could stimulate learning through the continuum of care which will result in ultimate success of future leaders. Studies show that careers in STEM have grown 79% since the mid-1990s. Currently, Saint Petersburg has no science-focused informal learning organizations. The already existing location has a Title 1 middle school along its property line and with an existing relationship with Pinellas County Schools, Great Explorations would like to use the existing property to engage the middle and high school age children with the excitement of science in hopes to stimulate the need of STEAM in the community and future

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

The requested funds will be used solely to get the building located at 7701 22nd Ave N, Saint Petersburg repaired, renovated, and up to code. Great Explorations Children's Museum is prepared to seek private support or grant funding for other expenses.

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

Great Explorations Children's Museum will be providing science classes, hands on learning, and other programs to engage children in STEAM.

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



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Children ages 6-13 in programming and young adults 14-18 through volunteer and intern programs. Although Great Explorations is inclusive to all children and families, Great Explorations would like to focus on serving low-income, at-risk, minority families and will be targeting Title 1 schools as well as their surrounding neighborhoods.

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

Great Explorations would like to increase engagement of advance education in children ages 6-13 with a focus on STEAM and to provide professional training and opportunities through internships and volunteer programs for children ages 14-18. Outcomes will be measured by working with Pinellas County Schools conducting surveys with the students before and after each visit to determine appropriate learning techniques. Great Explorations will work with teachers after visits to encourage continued learning of curriculum taught during their visits. Overall education will be evaluated on a quarterly basis for all long term programs. Measuring educational outcomes at the beginning, middle, and end to ensure certain learning marks are being met. These evaluation measures will allow Great Explorations to adapt all programs as needed to ensure the best outcomes possible.

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?

Revert funds back to state.

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.

Pinellas County owns the building that will be renovated.



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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