



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1606

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Hope Center for Autism, Inc. is requesting funding to offset the cost of a facility with the supports needed to meet the health and safety needs of the students and staff at the school; decrease the number of students and families waiting for placement at the school; provide an area for teens and young adults with autism to meet, socialize, acquire needed vocational skills and engage in counseling groups; resource center that families can access to find information and supports for people with autism of all ages; provide a model of evidence based supports proven effective for students with autism that will act as a training ground for educators and families; provide support and awareness for members of the community who engage with individuals with autism through employment, law enforcement, commerce, health care and other aspects of our community; instruction for neurotypical peers in facilitation of appropriate strategies designed to promote appropriate social skills.

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	1,340,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,340,000

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)	1,340,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	282,250	10%
Other	1,097,101	40%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	2,719,351	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.**
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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 loan was acquired to offset payroll due to the inability to fund raise and engage in events. We have a very low student to teacher ratio, 3 speech language pathologists, 2 behavior analysts and 2 occupational therapists on staff that provide the intensive supports our students need to support their academic progress. The intensity of services required and other specialized supports are traditionally funded through donors, but the pandemic prevented that option.

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 requested will offset the cost of purchasing a 17,000 square foot building large enough to increase enrollment, reducing the number of families waiting for services, providing a healthy and safe environment for students and community.	1,340,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,340,000

12. Program Performance

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

Students with autism who choose to attend The Hope Center will be provided with a safe facility that has adequate space and resources to support their learning needs. Teens and adults with autism will be provided with a dedicated area to learn social and vocational skills needed for successful participation in the community. Families, educators and community members will have an opportunity to engage in professional development and awareness activities that build their capacity to support the growing population of people with autism.

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

To offset the cost of a 17,000 square foot building allowing the school's capacity for serving people with autism to more effectively meet the growing need in our community. Offsetting the cost of the facility allows the school to continue to provide the resources proven effective for people with autism.

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



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An evidence based education implemented through a model of continuous problem solving to ensure the growth of students in prekindergarten through 6th grade enrolled in the school. Our Next Step program for teens with autism, facilitated by adults with autism will be provided with a designated space that supports their vocational and social learning needs. Additional supports including parent training, community awareness, peer facilitator support, educator professional development and counseling specific to autism will be available.

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

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities as well as their families, educators, friends, neighbors and employers will be served through this project. At least 200 individuals will be provided direct service annually through a variety of supports and services. With additional funding this number will grow to meet the increasing number of people with autism in our community.

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

This project will allow for an appropriate and safe facility for children with autism increasing enrollment in our prekindergarten - 6th grade public charter school from 40 students to 100. Engagement and participation in the Next Step program for teens and young adults will increase and lead to consistent participation and decreased behavioral incidents due to increased space and decreased sensory input. Families and community members will feel safe and supported in the environment increasing their engagement and awareness about the needs of people with autism.

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?

Based on the Department of Education's guidelines, a 15% penalty will be levied for failure to meet deliverables or performance measures.

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.

The Martin County School District will receive the funds directly which will then be passed on to The Hope Center for Autism, Inc. Board of Directors.



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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