



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1028

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Individuals with autism and differing abilities who earn certificates and/or degrees from post-secondary education institutes are 80% more likely to remain unemployed or underemployed in their field of study. The ITEM program is uniquely designed to address this crisis. ITEM programming uses a hybrid approach to support AWD in preparing for, securing, and retaining employment. Initially, coaches and mentors provide hands-on assistance at job sites, allowing for immediate, in-the-moment feedback and training in the natural environment. This direct support is then coupled with a mobile application, DailyCoach. This app allows in-person coaching to fade out as it supports participants' ability to independently navigate and address situations that arise on and off the job. Pairing in-person supports and technology is game-changing and addresses the unemployment crisis AWD face, along with the long-standing staffing shortage seen in direct service to AWD.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

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

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	400,000	24%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	750,000	43%
Local	0	0%
Other	575,910	33%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	1,725,910	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	750,000	400,000	31	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1028

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 (November, 2020) \$396,868 (August, 2021) 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 -10%	19,047
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Dir Educational Services (1), Director of Creative Technology (1), Project Manager (1), On-Line Education Coordinator (1), Tech Support (1), Campus Instructors (4), Internship Instructors (2), Campus Safety Officer (1), On-line Education Support (1), Student Admissions (1), Employment Specialist (2)	226,257
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Mileage, Staff Training, Security Screening, Utilities, Conferences, Computer Services, Professional Services, Academic Costs, Office Supplies, Printing/Copying and Postage	154,696
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 objective is to prepare adults with autism and differing abilities to obtain and, just as important, retain/sustain employment in their field of interest that provides a livable wage. AWD are often reliant on others to navigate the ins and outs of daily living successfully. Through training, mentoring/coaching, and technology, ITEM gives AWD the tools (initial in-person supports and mobile app) to manage situations as they arise, increasing their independence and the likelihood of retaining employment. The unemployment rate for adults with disabilities is over 80%. Specific goals to be achieved by ITEM include employment readiness training 70%, employment of 60%, and feedback collection on technology support 90%.

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

Individualized, career-specific mentoring/coaching provides training around the skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment. Training areas include social and self-advocacy skills and employment readiness; Preparing participants for employment with field-specific work experiences; Facilitating access to technology to practice interviews through simulations, learn about employment readiness, develop social skills with online learning, and provide independent living support; Coaching on the job, which provides realtime data, not projected, or simulated results in each participant's progress; Conducting satisfaction surveys, and organizing focus groups and interviews to enhance the support provided.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1028

1. Technology that includes programming for AWDs including -Vi-ready, EduEx and DailyCoach.
2. Coach/Mentoring: Job coaching, On-the-job training to prepare adults with autism and differing abilities for gainful employment, social competence, and independent living through individualized mentoring.
3. Employment: Extended support for interview practice and employment readiness preparation.

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

51-100 unemployed or underemployed Florida adult residents 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 online 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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1028

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