



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1204

1. Project Title Love Serving Autism's INTERACT Therapeutic Tennis and Multi-Sport Facility

2. Senate Sponsor Lori Berman

3. Date of Request 10/22/2021

#### 4. Project/Program Description

The INTERACT therapeutic tennis and sports facility will enable Love Serving Autism (LSA) to provide year-round, inclusive therapeutic sports programming for youth and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Developmental Disabilities, as well as typical individuals. A dedicated, customized facility will serve as a national model to increase accessibility, diversity, inclusion, and impact of community based programs for underserved individuals. Facility programming will enhance participants' fitness, health, and life skills, especially functional communication, through specialized therapeutic tennis instruction, increasing community inclusion, employability, and independence of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Developmental Disabilities (DD). Its presence will serve as a beacon celebrating individual differences, promoting diversity in employment, and fostering community inclusion.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Agency for Persons with Disabilities

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	319,521
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>319,521</b>

#### 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)	319,521	51%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	302,000	49%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b>	<b>621,521</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 244,021

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



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Fees for tennis classes can help reduce reliance on state funding, however, LSA is striving to reach more low-income under-served and under-represented individuals. LSA is also working to gain approval to provide payment for therapeutic tennis via public healthcare.

**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.**

LSA received \$25,000 through United Way CARES funding, which provided operational support to enable new virtual programming.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Director, INTERACT Therapeutic Tennis and Multi-Sport Facility - Coordinate programming; develop revenue streams for sustainability; hire and supervise contractors; manage facility scheduling/maintenance/safety; develop facility protocols; grow facility partnerships; etc. (FT Salary = \$65,000, Fringe = \$4,973)  Administrative Assistant part time (.5 FTE) salary @ \$20/Hr. = \$20,870  Administrative Assistant part time (.5 FTE) salary @ \$20/Hr. = \$20,870	69,973
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	One time set-up expenses: Director's office: computer, router, desk, chairs, small table, file cabinet, credenza = \$4,800	4,800
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Accounting services (\$1,000 x 12 months) = \$12,000 Setting up systems to manage appropriations and the ongoing expansion of revenue sources such as fees for classes, training for coaches, therapists, and graduate students/interns; tournaments; consultation for local program development; etc.	12,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Facility maintenance (PT) - ongoing cleaning, minor repair/replacement (PT Salary = \$24,000 , Fringe = \$1,836) = \$25,836  Outreach/Engagement/Social Media Coordinator for facility-based programming (PT) (Salary = \$18,000, Fringe = \$1,377) = \$19,377	45,213
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	One-time set-up expenses: Sports + therapy equipment/supplies + storage (rackets, balls, nets, targets, etc.) = \$16,200 Signage (internal and external) = \$4,300 Storage/supplies for cleaning and minor maintenance = \$2,200	22,700
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Internet service (annual, nonprofit rate) = \$2,544 Annual facility lease (\$8,466 sq ft. x \$13.50) = \$114,291 One-time costs: Customization of facility (painting/surfacing) of floors and walls + portable dividers for tennis, other sports, and related therapies = \$48,00	164,835
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		319,521

#### 12. Program Performance

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

Establish and operate an inclusive indoor therapeutic tennis and multi-sport facility for both typical and neurodiverse children to 1) advance fitness, life skills, sports, and diversity, 2) provide a global model for community inclusion, therapeutic tennis, and other sports programming, 3) establish Florida as the international hub for the growing industry of adaptive sports (leading to conferences, college education/certifications, international tournaments, etc.), and 4) increase community awareness of the aptitude of individuals with ASD and DD for employment, volunteerism, etc. The facility would serve 2,000 sports participants in year one and an additional 400 in professional training, virtually and in-person.

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

A portion of local warehouse/office facility (approximately 8,600 sq. ft.) will be set up to provide a dedicated site for state-of-the-art inclusive, therapeutic tennis and other sports programming for typical and neurodiverse individuals. The facility will provide for year-round therapeutic tennis classes; tournaments; professional development for tennis professionals, coaches of multiple sports, and therapists; other inclusive sports. The facility's therapeutic tennis and other sports programming will expand life skills, community inclusion, employability, and independence of individuals with ASD and DD and will enhance skills, fitness, and well-being of ALL participants.

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

Services will include 1) training for coaches/therapists on inclusive/therapeutic sports, 2) no/low cost, personalized multidisciplinary therapeutic tennis instruction for individuals with ASD and DD, 3) consultation, networking, and support for families of individuals participating in LSA tennis programming. Funding will increase the participation of diverse, underserved population in adaptive tennis/sports, 2) professional training in adaptive sports for tennis pros, therapists (speech/language pathologists and adaptive behavior, occupational, and physical therapists), college faculty/students, 3) increased community/employer awareness of the skills of individuals with ASD/DD for employment, volunteerism, etc., 4) info/supports for family/employers

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

The INTERACT facility will serve approximately 2,000 Florida residents including youth and adults with ASD and/or DD, as well as typical individuals. Participants will be likely to reside in or near Palm Beach County. The facility will also serve 400 tennis professionals, providing both in-person (local) and virtual (global) training and mentoring to effectively coach individuals with ASD and DD, including training for nationally recognized credentials. 20+ area therapists will be served by providing an inclusive, community-based setting for therapy. Over 1,000 families, caregivers, and community members will benefit by learning of new strategies and resources to encourage successful, inclusive engagement of atypical individuals.

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

1) 85% of participants (1,700 of 2,000 atypical and typical participants) show measurable improvements in tennis and/or other sports skills and fitness measures, according to personalized therapeutic plans and assessment measures.  
2) 85% of ASD and DD participants show measurable improvements in adaptive behavior, social communication, and related measures of well-being and employability, according to personalized therapeutic plans.  
3) 90% of community members/employers will report increased knowledge of the benefits of and resources for hiring and volunteerism among individuals with ASD and DD, as measured by quarterly surveys of participants in educational activities/events.  
4) INTERACT will be established as a state/national hub for adaptive/therapeutic tennis/sports, as measured by the numbers of professional trained (400+), testimonials, and requests for consultation.

##### 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?



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If deliverables are not met due solely to Love Serving Autism performance, LSA will forego a commensurate percent of funding and immediately implement an improvement plan with associated measurable results.

If deliverables are not met due to circumstances beyond the organization's control (such as a pandemic), Love Serving Autism will coordinate with the sponsoring legislative representatives to negotiate acceptable terms for deliverables, timelines, and/or appropriations.

- 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.**

NA



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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