



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1257

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida Debate Initiative is an educational non-profit designed to meet the following goals: assisting schools without existing programs to develop speed and debate; supporting schools with existing programs; providing affordable academic competition opportunities for all, and most importantly to foster civic engagement through participation in competitive speech and debate activities. The FDI serves as the educational support organization tasked with educating and training coaches and students, training judges, and establishing competition standards for existing organization to partner with to provide ample educational competition opportunities. Competitive speech and debate can address the need for both bridging the educational achievement gap and instilling critical thinking skills in students, in addition to instilling higher-level critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

| Type of Funding | Amount |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operations | 1,000,000 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | 0 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 1,000,000 |

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) | 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 2022-2023 | 1,000,000 | 100% |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

| Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy) | Amount | | Specific Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | Recurring | Nonrecurring | | |
| 2021-22 | 0 | 500,000 | 110 | 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.

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 | | 0 |
| Other Salary and Benefits | The FDI is comprised predominately of unpaid volunteers. However, there are necessary costs for administrative staff, a grant manager and Director of Civics and Debate in order to ensure the statewide efforts are run most efficiently and effectively. | 300,000 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | | 0 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | Costs for necessary professional independent contractor services, such as outside legal and accounting services for compliance with all applicable reporting and other regulations. | 50,000 |
| Operational Costs: Other | | |
| Salary and Benefits | | 0 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | Program expenses for funding the development and educational resources necessary for public schools to create and/or support speech and debate programs with a focus on civics education. Such expenses shall include, but not be limited to, costs for competitions, educational resources, professional development. | 650,000 |
| 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) | | 1,000,000 |

12. Program Performance

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

The FDI is an educational non-profit designed to meet the following goals: assisting schools without existing programs to develop speech and debate; supporting schools with existing programs; providing affordable academic competition opportunities to all, and most importantly to foster civic engagement through participation in competitive speech and debate activities. Competitive speech and debate can address the need for bridging the educational achievement gap and instilling higher-level critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills.

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

The FDI serves as the educational support organization tasked with educating and training coaches and students, training judges, and establishing competition standards for existing organizations to partner with to provide ample educational competition opportunities.

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

Services include establishing education and training programs for coaches and students and creating regional leagues for speech and debate competition opportunities.

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

Middle and high school students across the state.



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

Presently, the geographic location of a student often dictates their ability to compete in speech and debate. This funding will help to equalize those opportunities statewide to provide access to speech in debate in all counties over time.

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 the 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.

There is no fixed capital outlay funding requested.



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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