



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1524

1. Project Title AMIkids Recovery of Education Disparities

2. Senate Sponsor Debbie Mayfield

3. Date of Request 11/24/2021

4. Project/Program Description

The AMIkids Recovery of Education Disparities Program will serve youth enrolled in an AMIkids programs who are at risk for or have already fallen behind in school. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on learning gains this past school year, with one study finding that students lost about three months of learning in math & one & a half months of learning in reading. These figures are higher for students of color, who were three to five months behind in their learning. Helping students catch up will require a combination of more individualized, intensive instruction & access to digital tools that will enhance their learning experience. Our most recent program analysis found that youth completing services increased one full grade level in math, & nearly a half grade level in reading. We seek funding to cover the costs of education liaison specialists, online course-ware, assessments, & computers for students, as well as additional professional development for our educators.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,200,000

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)	1,200,000	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	1,200,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	0	125,000	110	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 1,200,000

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

AMIkids continues to fundraise through private dollars and apply for federal grants, however, this money is used to enhance the work of supporting at-risk youth and does not supplant other dollars.



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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.

Four AMIkids programs that currently receive state funding received a total of \$1.6M in PPP. The funds were used to retain staff while incurring a reduction in school board and treatment funding. In addition, in order to best protect youth from COVID-19 & prevent outbreaks at our facilities, COVID funding was used to fund PPE, facility cleanings, and additional expenses, including staff overtime, incurred when youth quarantine or alternative services were necessary.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Oversight will be provided by existing education administrators and program Executive Directors.	0
Other Salary and Benefits	Education administration; Administrative services such as budgeting, human resources, risk management, benefits administration; training; payroll services; financial reporting; student data management, contract administration, and technology services; etc.	88,889
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Education Liaison specialists, Teachers/Directors of Education for enrichment services	605,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Academic Supplies, professional development platform for teachers, travel, telecommunication, online instructional tools and digital libraries, technology-related noncapitalized equipment	506,111
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	N/A	0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,200,000

12. Program Performance

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

AMIkids Recovery of Education Disparities puts students on track to re-enter school and earn a diploma. Additional academic support is critical given the impact that COVID-19 pandemic has had on learning. Based on the belief that high academic performance is influenced by quality teachers and effective instruction, this program provides a multi-prong blended instructional approach that includes skills training, online learning, and teacher professional development. This approach meets and challenges students at their current performance level while allowing them to advance with guided support.

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

Funding will support classroom instruction and teacher professional development (PD). The model will provide blended instruction and small group and cooperative learning. The blended format provides students extended time to master concepts through actively practicing and applying the content. The PD model focuses on assessment and intervention skills teachers need to effectively teach at-risk youth.

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



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Students will receive digital and direct instruction to enhance their reading and math skills. This will be accomplished through a blended learning environment which provides both digital and direct instruction in a small focused school environment staffed by certified and competent teachers.

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

At-risk youth enrolled in AMIkids programs across the state of Florida will be served by this project. On average, AMIkids serves around 900-1,000 youth in Florida. Among the youth served in 2020, an estimated 93% were male, the average age was 16 years old, over 74% were youth of color, and over 90% were living in poverty. Youth enrolling in the programs often have had contact with the juvenile justice system, with an average of 9 or more arrests and adjudications. Youth are typically engaged with the program between 6-7 months and nearly 80% remain crime free for a year or more after completing the program.

With this project, an estimated 401-800 individuals are expected to be served.

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

#1: Number of students who earn additional course credits, GEDs/HS diplomas and measurable skills gain in math or reading. AMIkids will measure the number of course completions, credits earned, GED or diplomas awarded based on FL middle school matriculation and high school graduation requirements as well as grade level increase.

#2: Increase the number of youth actively attending school and reducing truancy among at-risk youth and involvement in criminal offenses among those enrolled in the program. AMIkids monitors student attendance and academic performance as indicators of prevention and diversion from criminal engagement. The Justice Research Center (JRC) independently measures standard outputs and outcomes for each AMIkids program and its services nationwide. The JRC advances quality program performance and informs continual quality improvement.

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?

AMIkids may be subject to corrective action plan or financial consequences for not meeting specified outcomes/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.

N/A



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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