



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1985

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA), a project of the Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Federation, proposes to build on the momentum generated in 2021 to bring various sectors of Florida's economy back to pre-COVID levels. FIBA will continue to focus on connecting innovative technology solutions from Israel with Florida's tourism, hospitality, and retail industries, as well as with partners in space, agriculture, and health care, in order to address their most pressing operational challenges. These cross-industry challenges include labor shortages, employee burnout, hygiene, and safety, and remote access to personal, and professional services.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	100,000	20%
Other	150,000	30%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	500,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	250,000	2245A	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.

Hillsborough County - \$100,000
Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Federation, Inc. - \$150,000

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

PPP1 - \$1,409,721
 PPP2 - \$1,410,225
 ERTC 2021 - Q1 \$646,060, Q2 \$663,398, Q3 \$516,900
 Used for payroll and payroll related expenses, utilities, interest on secured equipment, rent, cloud based software costs, HR costs, PPE supplies.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Salary for FIBA's co-Executive Directors to represent the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA) throughout the State of Florida.	90,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries for a Marketing Coordinator and Office Manager/Executive Assistant.	70,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Admin. services, office equipment, supplies, and admin travel.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Fees for various types of professional service providers and Executive Advisors.	40,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Support for recruitment of Israeli and Florida companies, professional membership subscriptions, conference attendance, IT, and program infrastructure, marketing, media, and communications support, event promotion, and production equipment.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultants to assist with recruitment of Israeli and Florida companies; professional service companies to assist with event management and operations, website management, and media strategy.	10,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

12. Program Performance

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

FIBA will work with its Florida industry partners to identify their technology pain-points (shortfalls) and then curate Israeli technologies that map to those needs. FIBA will then facilitate the deployment of Israeli technology to various Florida industry sectors including tourism, hospitality, and the retail sector, as well as within the space, agriculture, and health sectors. These technology advancements will enable businesses in the Sarasota-Manatee region and throughout the state to continue a robust economic recovery and expansion.

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



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FIBA proposes to coordinate with its key industry partners in Florida in order to determine their most pressing challenges in drawing visitors back in the post-COVID economy. This endeavor will focus on the Sarasota-Manatee area with statewide application for its solutions. The project will include:

- Identifying and connecting proven Israeli technology companies to Florida-based industry partners in need of innovative solutions to help them achieve a full post-COVID recovery;
- Commercializing and deploying proven Israeli technology solutions to Florida-based industry partners that will enable local companies to reclaim, sustain, and grow their businesses thus contributing to the overall economic recovery in Florida;
- Building partnerships between Israeli and Florida companies or investors that encourage Israeli companies to open US subsidiaries in Florida thus creating high-skilled/high-wage jobs; and
- Collaborating with Florida economic development organizations.

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

The growth and expansion of Florida's economy through increased efficiencies and productivity utilizing Israeli technological advances will benefit Floridians in a variety of ways including increased employment opportunities, keeping employees at their jobs (especially in health care), and an increased tax base to benefit public services. The net effect of using Israeli technology to address challenges in returning the tourism, hospitality, and retail industries to their pre-COVID levels will be to aid in an overall economic financial recovery across the state, as well as assist in the ongoing economic expansion.

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

Statewide population will be positively impacted by the restoration of Florida's main economic engines: tourism, hospitality, retail, agriculture, and health.

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

Methodology includes partnering with key Florida industry sectors to overcome their immediate hurdles in drawing back visitors from around the world and restoring their pre-COVID level of operations, as well as in expanding their operations to meet the increased demand.

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?

Pro-rata reimbursement of appropriated funds.

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