



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2289

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

#### 4. Project/Program Description

The labor force participation rate in Florida for persons with disabilities is 20.4%, a gap of 45% compared to the general population. It is our goal to close this gap by 2030. Florida's VR Program conducts a three year needs assessment to determine the gaps between existing resources, capacity, and outcomes and those that are required to bring about the highest levels of employment for Floridians with disabilities. As the DSO to the state VR program, The Able Trust will provide maximum supports to assist VR in closing the gaps and ensuring Floridians with disabilities have the most opportunity for full employment. Able Inclusion Florida is a three-year plan to provide analysis of existing data and research, identify new areas of research, test hypotheses for solutions, develop more partners/funders, and most importantly provide the necessary resources and supports to the state VR system to fully realize our shared mission of employment for Floridians with disabilities.

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
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>250,000</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)	250,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	50%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

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.

The Able Trust investment earnings, private donations, business sponsorships, other foundations, federal/state grants



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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.

\$20,000 to fund the Leon County High School High Tech program.

#### 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel and other expenses for data collection and stakeholder input through listening sessions and focus groups, and partnership development including recruitment of advisory members	125,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contract for review and analysis of existing data/research.	125,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>250,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

As the Direct Support Organization to the state VR agency and in conjunction with the VR 3-year comprehensive needs assessment, conduct data analysis, stakeholder input, partner recruitment, and solution development all of which will lead to closing the workforce participation gap of Floridians with disabilities by 2030.

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

1. Design & implement supports for the VR system (state staff, contracted providers, businesses, education providers) to adopt, use, and sustain effective solutions to common workforce challenges of Floridians with disabilities.
2. Provide high-quality content and resources for the VR system that is based on current research and evidence-based practice.
3. Leverage technology to disseminate resources and ensure that every solution is cost-effective and scalable.
4. Forge the partnerships needed to effectively create, deploy, and institutionalize system/policy changes which result in closing the workforce participation gap.

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

1. Capacity building and professional development of VR staff, community employment service contractors, and other disability workforce development professionals.
2. Direct support of- and a talent pipeline for- Florida businesses.
3. Direct support and business connections for post-secondary institutions which result in an increase of the workforce attainment rate for students with disabilities in Florida.
4. A collaborative of Florida leaders committed to ongoing innovation and systems/policy change which positively affects the workforce participation rate of people with disabilities.

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



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1. Floridians with disabilities (5000+/year)
2. Florida VR Counselors and professionals including community employment service providers (1000+/year)
3. State Education institutions including state universities and colleges, technical schools, and private/independent colleges (100+/year)
4. Florida businesses committed to disability workforce inclusion (1000+/year)

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

Closing Florida's workforce participation gap for people with disabilities by 2030 (current gap between people with disabilities and the general population is 45%). Measured by annual economic data including VR employment outcomes.

**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?**

Review and/or amendment of contract/MOU with the Florida Department of Education - to ensure the efforts and resources of The Able Trust are best suited for the role of DSO to the state VR program.

**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