



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2639

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

To begin to address the ongoing teacher shortage in Orange County, the University of Central Florida (UCF) - working in partnership with Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) - seeks to establish "The UCF Para-professional-to-Teacher Pipeline Program." This program would allow UCF to recruit para-professionals who currently work in the OCPS district at Title I schools and who aspire to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Program participants will have their tuition costs covered while continuing employment at their current school to avoid any loss of income while working toward earning a degree. Despite an ongoing and concerted recruitment effort, OCPS currently has had 158 teacher vacancies across the district for the 2021-22 school year. This program would enroll up to 80 participants as a way to significantly address this teacher shortage.

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	1,001,736
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,001,736

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)	1,001,736	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	1,001,736	100%

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.**
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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.

To date, OCPS received \$863,987,580 of COVID-19 funding awarded under programs such as CARES, GEER and HEERF. The uses for this funding is limited to addressing the learning loss of students during the pandemic and the safe reopening of schools.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	One Program Coordinator housed at UCF to oversee, manage, and coordinate the program. To ensure success of the program the coordinator will provide daily guidance, serve as a mentor, assist with recruitment, and offer general support to students.	95,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	(1) Laptops for para-professionals at \$800 per laptop x 80 students totaling \$64,000. (2) Textbook sets at \$1,200 per set x 80 students totaling \$96,000. (3) Professional development and conferences at \$1,500 per student x 80 students totaling \$120,000.	280,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	(1) Tuition for participants at \$6,304.20 x 80 students (\$504,336) (2) Tutoring to prepare for teacher certification (\$100,000) (3) Certification exams for the General Knowledge at \$130 per exam x 80 students (\$10,400) (4) Subject area tests at \$150 per test x 80 students (\$12,000).	626,736
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,001,736

12. Program Performance

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

The purpose of this initiative is to address the teacher shortage in Orange County. UCF, working in partnership with the OCPS, seeks to establish "The UCF Para-professional-to-Teacher Pipeline Program." This program would allow UCF to recruit para-professionals who currently work in the OCPS district at Title I schools and who aspire to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Education. These program participants will have their tuition costs covered while continuing employment at their current school to avoid any loss of income while working toward earning a degree. The project would enroll up to 80 students as a way to significantly address the 158 teacher vacancies recorded in the district for school-year 2021-22.

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

Para-professionals in Title I schools will be offered the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Tuition costs will be covered by this funding request. Laptops and textbooks will be provided to each program participant. Also, tutoring services will be offered for participants desiring help to prepare to become certified. Certification exams and subject areas test costs will also be covered. Each program participant's current employment will continue - avoiding income loss as the participant earns a degree. One Program Coordinator - hired by UCF - will oversee the program.

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



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Up to 80 para-professionals will receive support to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Education through "The UCF Para-professional-to-Teacher Pipeline Program." All para-professionals currently work in Title I schools, do not have a teaching credential, and face numerous financial and professional barriers. This program will remove those barriers and positively impact teacher vacancies in Orange County.

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

Para-professionals currently working at Title I schools within OCPS.

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

Benefits: UCF will operate a pipeline program for para-professionals to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Up to 80 para-professionals will be eligible for this program. All program participants who obtain a degree will be offered employment as a classroom teacher in Orange County. Program participants who earn a Bachelor's Degree in Education and accept a position as a classroom teacher will see their earning potential improve from an average of \$29,836 to a starting salary of \$47,500. Outcomes: Up to 80 para-professionals who obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Education will receive employment as a classroom teacher at a Title I school in Orange County based on employment contract records. A new cohort of para-professionals will be selected to complete the pipeline project and assisted as they work toward earning a Bachelor's Degree in Education and certification to teach based on coursework records. Payroll records will be used as documentation of increased earnings.

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?

As appropriate to this project and determined by the Florida Department of Education, UCF and Orange County Public Schools will comply with any penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures proposed in this contract.

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.

Not applicable.



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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