



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2666

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Gainesville Empowerment Zone (GEZ) Family Learning Center, jointly sponsored by Gainesville for All and the Alachua County School District, will seek to transform public early learning education to meet the needs of struggling families. Our center aims to close the racial and economic achievement gaps, offering high quality education to infant through preschool age students. Families will only pay \$1 per week for each child who attends. Our center will begin working with families at pregnancy. As part of our early intervention efforts on behalf of families, this program will assist pregnant women to receive high-quality prenatal care. Our center will also connect families to a variety of other community services like parental coaching and skill-building, employment counseling, mental health services, addiction counseling, and housing assistance, if needed.

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	90,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	210,000
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	35%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	536,650	62%
Other	27,000	3%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	863,650	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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The Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County has already agreed to subsidize our operating costs by paying the fees for qualified children from low-income backgrounds. We will continue to seek funding through private grants, and build relationships in the community to steward individual donations.

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

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	A portion of the full-time executive director's salary.	20,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries to employ two teachers.	70,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment, furniture, and consumable supplies to start up the GEZ Family Learning Center.	210,000
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)		300,000

12. Program Performance

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

The Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center aims to increase kindergarten readiness. We believe that by providing high-quality early learning education and a wealth of resources for parents and families, we can level the playing field for Black people in our community. These interventions will result in better academic achievement, higher paying jobs, fewer interactions with the criminal justice system, and increased healthcare and transportation for Black people in and around the Gainesville Empowerment Zone. These results will no doubt build a stronger and more equitable community for years to come.

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

Requested funds will be used to pay for a portion of the Executive Director's salary as well as the salary requirements for two full-time teachers at the Center. Furthermore, requested funds will be used to purchase equipment, supplies, and consumables necessary to open and operate the GEZ Family Learning Center in its first year.

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

The GEZ Family Learning Center will provide research based curriculum and quality education for low-income students from infancy to preschool residing in the county's lowest academically performing area. Furthermore, the Family Learning Center will offer support for families by providing development education opportunities and access to community resources. The program will also offer ongoing assessment of students to measure progress and plan for kindergarten readiness.



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

The GEZ Family Learning Center will operate out of Metcalfe Elementary School and will serve approximately 1.78 square miles that our organization has identified and targeted as an area where we can confront challenges that face Black and low-income families. The zone contains two of the district's lowest performing elementary schools: Metcalfe Elementary and Rawling Elementary. We expect to serve 67 students from infant to preschool age in our first year.

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

We anticipate this project will improve kindergarten readiness. The University of Florida's Anita Zucker Center will perform evaluations of the student's progress from when they enter the program to the time they move on to kindergarten. We are exploring options for measuring success in each of the age groups we serve like the Ages and Stages Questionnaire which assess the development performance of children, or the Florida Office of Early Learning VPK Assessment. By utilizing pre- and post- participation assessments we can quickly track and measure the program's success with improving school readiness for the children we serve.

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?

The penalty for failing to meet deliverables will be termination of the contract, and return of funding not spent.

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.

The Alachua County School Board owns the facility that will house the GEZ Family Learning Center. Gainesville for All is currently negotiating a three year lease agreement with the Alachua County School Board and which will be finalized by January 18th, 2022.



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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