



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2693

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

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Renovation of 22,500 sq. ft. building to create permanent home for Balance 180 Gymnastics and Sports Academy, a non-profit organization that serves children with or without special needs in our community. The renovation will include making additional space available for children to exercise and train, adding seating areas for parents, building out specialty areas for athletes of varying abilities as well as toddlers, and insulating and air conditioning the facility so children can stay cool year-round. Balance 180 currently serves over 700 children per year, with over 130 classes offered Monday through Saturday. The Academy offers adaptive classes and Special Olympics programming for children with special needs. Scholarships are available for families who demonstrate financial need. Balance 180 is at 95% capacity in the current space of 11,400 sq. ft. and the facility does not have A/C or heat.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</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)	500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<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.

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.

The organization received two PPP loans in the amount of \$100,000 (total) for salaries and rent/utilities to be able to continue to provide uninterrupted services in 2020 and 2021 as well as keep our staff employed during the pandemic.

#### 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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	\$500,000 to renovate a 22,500 sq. ft. building that includes large open areas with gymnastics equipment, exercise rooms, a sensory and toddler room, and office space.	500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

Balance 180 Gymnastics requests \$500,000 to renovate a 22,500 sq. ft. building that includes large open areas with gymnastics equipment, exercise rooms, a sensory and toddler room, and office space. Capacity is being reached in the current space and there is a waiting list of athletes that would benefit from our programs. The facility will allow the organization to double the class offerings to serve as many as 1,400 kids of all abilities every year in a safe and enriching environment. Our scholarship program will continue to be offered to families who demonstrate financial need and we will continue to partner with Special Olympics in offering programs for children with intellectual disabilities and autism.

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

The funds will be utilized to renovate the building (including insulating and air conditioning the facility), build rooms for enrichment programs such as dance and fitness classes, offer expanded seating for the parents, provide offices for staff, and create a sensory room as well as a safe and enclosed space for toddlers and children with special needs. The additional space will allow for more programs and ultimately accommodate twice as many athletes.

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

Balance 180 will expand its programs to offer more children with or without special needs individually tailored exercise classes. This includes group movement and exercise classes for children with autism, developmental delays and physical, and intellectual disabilities. The classes focus on improving motor, cognitive, and social skills, incorporating gymnastics equipment, and group activities. Children with special needs are paired with volunteers one-on-one during the group activities. Programs will also be created to promote the motor development of toddlers and improve the health, agility, and overall condition of typically developing children.

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



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The target population served by this project is the North Central Florida community, specifically families and children with or without special needs, minorities, and financially disadvantaged. The age of the children ranges from 2-18 years and 20% of the children have special needs. The Academy expects to serve 1,400 athletes of all abilities and their families a year. The median household income in our area is about \$18,000 below the Florida average. While Balance 180 is located in Gainesville many families travel from Waldo, Ocala, Fort White, Bronson, High Springs, Lake Butler, and surrounding towns. Balance 180 also offers the only Special Olympics competitive gymnastics program in North Central Florida.

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

Balance 180 will provide a safe and specialized environment for kids of all abilities to learn and grow through the sport of gymnastics, with over 1,400 athletes per year and over 200 classes.

1. Data including number of classes and athletes, retention rates, ages of children served, number of children with special needs, children enrolled in multiple classes, and other enrollment metrics will be measured.
2. The number of scholarships, number of families served and their financial status will be tracked.
3. Growth will also be assessed based on the size of the team: number of employees hired and volunteers trained/assisting.
4. Metrics from the website/social media channels and surveys will be used to assess satisfaction with the quality of the programs.

**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?**

Based on a performance evaluation, there would be a corrective action plan worked out together with the contracting agency.

**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.**

Balance 180 owns the facility to be constructed. The organization is a 501(c)(3).



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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