



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2156

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

AmSkills, Inc. launched a manufacturing academy with an FDOE-registered high school pre-apprenticeship. Our model blends curriculum and hands-on activities in Mechatronics, Machining, and Robotics. Experienced instructors support teachers. Certifications can provide 15-credit articulating hours for Engineering Technology or lead directly to employment within the manufacturing industry. We have created a scalable program for school districts. Our aim is to expand to a second school for proof of concept to prove it can be expanded to additional schools or school districts.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

| Type of Funding                    | Amount         |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Operations                         | 395,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0              |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>395,000</b> |

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

| Type of Funding                                      | Amount         | Percentage  |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)       | 395,000        | 89%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                |             |
| Federal  | 0              | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0              | 0%          |
| Local  | 40,000         | 9%          |
| Other  | 10,000         | 2%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> | <b>445,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  No

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
|                          |           |              |                             |        |

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?  No

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?

No



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

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction    
  N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List 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.

### 13. 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                    | Program budget would cover a small percentage of CEO/COO oversight.  | 51,950         |
| Other Salary and Benefits  | Program budget would cover some administrative services, grant management, and other indirect costs.   | 7,050          |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | N/A  | 0              |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | N/A  | 0              |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>  |  |                |
| Salary and Benefits  | Program budget would cover the salaries and benefits of technical instructors specializing in Machining, Mechatronics, Robotics, etc. These positions are essential to the success and execution of the program. Program budget would also cover Project Management costs, Administrative Services, and Project Oversight. | 125,000        |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Program budget would cover one-year curriculum funding, equipment for an additional high school, and supplies for 9th and 10th grades. It would also cover curriculum and testing costs for MSSC CPT + certifications.   | 206,000        |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Program budget would cover instructor training certifications.   | 5,000          |
| <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>395,000</b> |

### 14. Program Performance

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



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

AmSkills, Inc. will expand current High School Manufacturing Academy and Pre-Apprenticeship Program to another school in Pasco County. Funding specifically covers equipment, materials/supplies and first-year curriculum. We will also introduce Manufacturing Skill Standards Council's Certified Production Technician Plus Certification, foundational for pre-apprenticeships and advanced technical certificates, known for its hands-on approach.

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

Funding aids in providing citizens with curriculum, equipment, and materials in the program's first year at the new location. Introducing the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council's Certified Production Technician Plus Certification offers citizens a pathway for skill development and practical, hands-on learning experiences, essential for future manufacturing careers.

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

The target population served by this project are high school aged students (9th-12th grade) in Pasco County. This also includes at-risk youth, economically disadvantaged youth, and jobless individuals. Over the past year, our High School Manufacturing Academy & Pre-Apprenticeship Program has served 215 individuals. We currently serve/have 145 students enrolled in our program. We project at least another 145 to participate in AmSkills' High School Manufacturing Academy Program by expanding to a second school.

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

The project's objective is to enhance educational quality and opportunities in Pasco County. The focus is on boosting success rates in obtaining advanced certificates in Mechatronics, Logistics, Machining, Robotics, and related fields through MSSC CPT+ by AmSkills, Inc., achieved by completing standardized tests and practical, hands-on assessments. AmSkills, Inc. will also organize a Public Works/Utilities Bootcamp and Internship Program, providing valuable work experience and job prospects within Pasco County for junior and senior students, as well as recent graduates. Success will be measured through recruitment and marketing documentation, counting individuals reached, tracking equipment and instructor training, and capturing visual evidence via photographs. The ultimate aim is to replicate this model statewide, extending its benefits to education and workforce opportunities throughout Florida.

**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?**

If deliverables or performance measures are not met, AmSkills, Inc. will return the appropriate amount of funding.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

**16. Recipient Contact Information**

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- 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**

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**