



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1422

1. Project Title Jacksonville School for Autism Supportive Transition & Employment Placement (STEP)

2. Senate Sponsor Clay Yarborough

3. Date of Request 2/12/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Jacksonville School for Autism (JSA) is a not-for-profit private school established in 2005 in support of children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Since then the school has seen tremendous growth. JSA started with 2 students and 2 staff and has slowly and intentionally grown to support 60 students with over 50 teachers and therapists! With 1 in 36 children diagnosed with Autism, JSA continues to experience significant growth in student enrollment and program development. A core focus for JSA's Supportive Transition and Employment Placement (STEP) Program is creating transition-supporting, mission-based enterprises. JSA provides job skill training and coaching to young adults with developmental disabilities. These students are from Northeast Florida area including the following counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. Through our programs, JSA continues to make a positive impact in the lives of children and families within greater NE Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	300,000	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 2025-2026	300,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	300,000	28	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 300,000

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.



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JSA does not have a source of funding in lieu of state funding at this time.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. 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?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. 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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	8 Vocational Salaries 1 Transition Director Salary	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transition skills evaluation protocol; vocational and functional daily skills training equipment and program development; curriculum for job skills development; on-site enterprise development materials.	15,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	1 Transition Support 2 Behavior Support	85,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

13. Program Performance

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



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JSA's Vocational STEP Program offers students opportunities to explore various job skills, job development/job carving, functional daily living, social skills, and employment coaching. Funding will support the development and expansion of on-campus enterprises, aligning students' abilities and interests with professional job requirements while addressing individual needs and overcoming challenges. The program also provides both on-campus and community-based vocational opportunities through strategic partnerships with local organizations.

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

JSA seeks funding to develop comprehensive transition initiatives that expand vocational programs and opportunities, providing tailored pathways to nurture each student's unique skills and abilities. The vocational program will support students aged 14 and older by incorporating a practical daily living skills curriculum, maintaining a social and leisure program, and securing essential materials to ensure student success in both classroom and community settings.

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

The STEP program partners with a diverse range of local businesses, offering services such as confidential shredding, growing and harvesting locally sourced produce, creating art pieces that students can proudly showcase to the community, culinary projects, and more. Our program is dedicated to fostering independence and highlighting the unique abilities of individuals with autism, empowering them to make meaningful contributions beyond the school environment.

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

The group of people that this project will serve are students age 14 to adulthood. Program participants include current pre-transition, transition, and post-secondary vocation students. JSA serves populations of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We enroll individuals from the surrounding counties of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. Our current placement of families crosses all ethnicities and economic backgrounds; autism does not discriminate by whose lives are impacted!

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

The expected benefit of JSA's Vocational STEP Program is to provide transition and vocational students with expanded job opportunities, supportive employment placements, and on-campus job enterprises. Our students and young adults have the skills necessary to be successful and productive members in both their home and community; we just need to provide additional resources for them to be able to THRIVE! JSA uses Excel to track skill development over multiple job coaching environments.

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 in the contract?

Based on the Department of Education guidelines, a 15% penalty will be levied for failure to meet deliverables or performance measures.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- ☐ Yes, Applied



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- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

18. 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



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☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.