



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3534

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

\$500,000 request to continue \$350,000 non-recurring funding provided in the current year plus \$150,000 to allow for continued growth. The program now serves 442 K-12 schools and 17 colleges throughout the State of Florida. The program brings young people with and without disabilities together to compete in athletic competitions, to engage in youth leadership and advocacy activities, to promote whole school engagement through activities that further the acceptance of youth with disabilities, and to promote sports/play programs and opportunities for younger children with disabilities to improve physical, cognitive and social skills through the Young Athletes Program. There is both anecdotal and quantitative evidence that supports the effectiveness of the program in promoting participation of young people with disabilities in school activities and a reduction in harmful behavior such as bullying.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	23%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	250,000	12%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,400,000	65%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,150,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	250,000	350,000	106	No

9. Is future-year 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.

The program currently receives approximately 2/3 of its funding from corporate and other support. No additional alternative funding sources have been identified.



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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	Unified Champions Schools Manager, Young Athletes Manager	63,100
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to competitions; coaches' stipends; training supplies; facility rental; miscellaneous expenses related to school engagement and leadership projects	436,900
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)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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

The program furthers the State's goal to increase participation of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities(I/DD) in schools; instill lifetime understanding in future generations of the value of their peers with I/DD; reduce behaviors such as bullying; increase general physical fitness levels of children with I/DD; improve self-confidence and social skills of children with I/DD; provide opportunities for children with I/DD to participate in school leadership activities.

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



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Athletic competitions (some formally sanctioned by the FHSAA) that allow children and youth with & without disabilities to compete together; Leadership development activities that bring children & youth with & without disabilities together to plan & execute public service projects; whole school engagement activities promoting meaningful participation by children with I/DD in their schools.

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

Services as described in b. above are provided to students, faculty, support personnel, and family members.

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

K-12 and college students with and without disabilities. 600 students impacted in Special Olympics College programs and 218,897 students impacted via the Unified Champion Schools and Young Athletes Program and service projects throughout Florida.

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

Increase understanding and acceptance of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the school community. Improve self-confidence, social and motor skills, and improve physical fitness levels of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Data is managed based upon participation rates along with periodic surveys of young people, parents, and school system personnel to measure attitudes and outcomes.

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?

Reduced payment with contract termination for persistent failure to maintain acceptable performance.

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
- ☐ 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)?



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- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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



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