



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1004

1. Project Title ADE INC - CULINARY ACADEMY AND SENIOR PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM and DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2. Senate Sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez

3. Date of Request 10/15/2025

4. Project/Program Description

A) To continue to operate ADE, Inc. acclaimed Culinary Arts Program for adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. Through our programs, the adults with disabilities learn baking, restaurant maintenance, and other employability skills. Ultimately, we provide adults with autism and developmental disabilities a path of future employment in the culinary field.

B) To continue to operate ADE, Inc. Silver Program. We offer geriatric services to meet the needs of our seniors with developmental disabilities, and focus on an ambiance conducive of the special comforts and stimuli that the senior population demands. We provide services in physical and mental stimulation through exercising and constructive recreational activities, health and wellness etc..

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Agency for Persons with Disabilities

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	400,000	11%
Matching Funds		
Federal	530,313	16%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	2,121,694	62%
Local	171,200	5%
Other	188,000	6%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	3,411,207	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		
2025-26	0	400,000	241A	No

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

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 400,000

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



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Grants from local, state, and federal sources.

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	CEO-\$5,500 FICA \$421	5,921
Other Salary and Benefits	COO-\$4,000 Billing Specialist/AR Clerk-\$2,500 Book keeper - \$2,500 FICA \$ 689	9,689
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Educational /Social Service Staff-\$5,500, Educational Assistant-\$4,000, Culinary Staff-\$109,705 - Geriatric Staff-\$58,500, Supported Employment-\$10,000 FICA-\$14,359 - Workers Comp-\$1,151.23, Health Insurance-\$9,684.09	212,899
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Use of Space-Culinary -\$35,000 - Use of Space-Geriatric -\$17,480.25 - Repair/Maintenance -\$3,500 - Electricity-\$5,585 - Water & Sewer-\$2,000 - Transportation - \$31,365 - Van Use/Community Inclusion - \$6,000 - Ed/Programmatic Supplies-\$5,900 - Culinary Expense \$34,000 - Geriatric Expense-\$7,500, Umbrella Insurance Policy - \$23,161.00	171,491
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		400,000

13. Program Performance

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

ADE's acclaimed Culinary Training Program provides culinary, baking, restaurant maintenance skills, and employment training to adults with developmental disabilities. We have been operating this program through the support and funding from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The special appropriation has been granted for this project since 2013. We have a 98.2% competency score from APD's Qlarant Score. Parents and consumers are urging that The Florida Senate continue funding this much needed model program.
This budget request will also fund ADE's Silver Program, providing Geriatric Services to the DD population 55+ yrs . The program includes stimuli training in a tranquil environment with a Geriatric specialist and a licensed physical trainer.

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

Our Total Appropriation request is \$400,000 for the 2026-27 budget year. Same as 25-26.
1) \$275,000 will afford the ADE's Culinary Academy, which teaches our special population multiple areas within the culinary field. This will create a path towards economic self-sufficiency for our consumers of unique abilities. 2) \$125,000 of the funding request will be used to provide Geriatric Services to aging Seniors with Developmental Disabilities, no longer have the ability to join the workforce, but still need a meaningful and stimulating day activity. ADE will be monitoring the progress via Assessment, Progress Data taken 3 times a week, and a Monthly/Yearly Summary Report, as well as developing the goals yearly in the Individual Program Plan.
3) Other General Services: Educational Coordination, Case Management, Crisis Management, Counseling, Behavior Programming, Employability Guidance-training, and Transportation will also be offered through this appropriation.

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

1)The Culinary will include recruitment and skills assessment, and training, such as: measurements, food groups, kitchen equipment/tools, healthy eating, cooking on a budget, grocery shopping in bulk, food storage methods, kitchen safety/cleanliness, refrigerate/freeze and food rules. Chef Instructors, will guide our students in preparation of dishes that are integrated into our curriculum by Themes, such as: Foods of the World, Food prepared for Special Occasions, Savory vs. Sweet, the South Florida melting pot dishes, Quick 15/30 minute meals, Sandwich and Salad Prep, and Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner Favorites. Employability Skills are also incorporated in the curriculum.
2) Silver Program will include geriatric services/physical training. It provides a stimulating program with recreational skills to enhance quality of life for seniors with developmental disabilities. Includes: Educational/Case Management Services and Transportation.

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

The Culinary Arts Program will serve 24 to 30 adults, 21 and older, with developmental disabilities, and with the necessary abilities and behavior patterns, which allows the consumers to mange a high risk kitchen environment.

The Silver program will serve a minimum of 6 adults with developmental disabilities 55 or older.

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

1) The Culinary Program trains our special population in multiple areas within the culinary field. The Program offers a remedial culinary curriculum, so all individual levels of consumers may benefit from these courses. This will create a path towards economic self-sufficiency in the field of Culinary Services to all consumers, extending from chef assistant to restaurant maintenance.
2) The Silver Program provides geriatric services to aging seniors with developmental disabilities who no longer have the ability or desire to join the workforce, but still need a meaningful and stimulating day activity.
3) ADE will be monitoring the progress via assessment data taken 3 times a week, and a monthly summary, as well as developing the goals yearly in the Individual Program Plan for both Culinary and Silver Program. Monitored by The Agency for Persons with Disabilities.
4)Other General Services: Educational Coordination, Case and Crisis Management, and Transportation.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties



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for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

ADE, Inc. commits to presenting APD with clear outcomes and quantifiable deliverable goals and objectives that clearly define our services commitment to the programs that will be funded by this Special Appropriation. Should ADE not be able to fully comply with its target goals we will accept penalty by reduction of funding, quantifiable to the percentage of the unmet goal. ADE also commits to spend all funds allotted, as we have in the past. We have a history of not allowing lapse of funding. We realize how valuable this funding is, and it is our objective to use it to the maximum in order to serve the needs of the vulnerable population we serve, Adults with Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

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)?

- ☐ 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



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b. Organization (ADE, Inc.) Association for the Development of the Exceptional, Inc.

c. E-mail Address hdelmonte@ademiami.org hdelmonte5@gmail.com

d. Phone Number (305)505-3238 **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization (ADE, Inc.) Association for the Development of the Exceptional, Inc.

b. Municipality and County Miami-Dade

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 Helena **Last Name** Del Monte

e. E-mail Address hdelmonte@ademiami.org hdelmonte5@gmail.com

f. Phone Number (305)505-3238 **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name None

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.