



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1112

1. Project Title BOOST Program - Building Occupational Opportunities and Skills Training

2. Senate Sponsor Lori Berman

3. Date of Request 11/13/2025

4. Project/Program Description

The Boca Raton Achievement Center is dedicated to helping teens and young adults with autism and related disabilities learn the skills they need to successfully navigate a productive and independent life. The BOOST program focuses on teaching participants hard and soft skills necessary to obtain and maintain employment. Through the BOOST program, students explore and practice skills from a wide range of vocations, both on-campus and in the community, to help them identify their strengths and interests. The program includes comprehensive components to prepare them for productivity and success in the workplace. BOOST includes job training, employment coaching, scheduling, interviewing, appropriate communication skills, transportation and financial literacy training. The program assists students overcoming challenges and obstacles and ensures they have every opportunity to become dependable, valuable employees and prepares them for adult independence in a least restrictive environment

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Commerce

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	280,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	280,000

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)	280,000	74%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	100,000	26%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	380,000	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		
2025-26	0	70,000	2077	No

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

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 200,000

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



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We are trying to service as many as possible by fundraising in the local community, the but the population is increasing along with waiting lists for services.

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	2 instructors, and 3 full time job coaches	240,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Workplace environment simulation/replication for generalization of skills, augmentative enhancements, adaptive and virtual classroom supplies, communication and training materials, employer community partnerships, and transportation expenses.	40,000
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)		280,000

13. Program Performance

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



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BOOST is a Job Skills training and placement program for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and related disabilities. The Boca Raton Achievement Center is dedicated to helping teens and young adults with developmental disabilities learn the skills they need to successfully navigate a productive and independent adult life. The BOOST program focuses on teaching and training participants the necessary hard and soft skills and providing necessary supports to obtain and maintain employment.

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

The BOOST program will hone employment skills from a wide range of vocations, both on-campus and in the community, and includes comprehensive components to prepare participants for productivity and success in the workforce. BOOST includes job training, employment coaching, scheduling, interviewing, appropriate communication skills, generalization of skills to multiple environments, transportation and financial literacy.

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

community and promote acceptance and inclusion in a variety of occupations. Also, explore opportunities and training in small business creation and production of retail products and services, such as shredding, recycling, assembly, art and greeting cards, soap, candles, gardening, IT, etc.

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

Up to 50 individuals with Autism, physical, developmentally and intellectually disabled, high school and young adult participants.

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

Job training to increase chances of employment and provide income, self-sufficiency and increased commerce. Getting individuals with autism and related disabilities out of their homes and working in the community inspire many to patronize those businesses and support their independence. Many participants who are not excelling academically often have other skills and talents in addition to acute perseverance. Exploring other abilities and preferences to increase participants desire to perform certain jobs helps them become more proficient in targeted job skills. All training, performance and placement metrics will be tracked monthly with quarterly progress updates and an annual program report.

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?

Notification with opportunity to cure

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



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☐ 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

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name



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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.