



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1194

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Our program is designed to create and formulate a long term work experience training program for individuals with autism and other developmental and intellectual disabilities in an educational setting. Our objective is to enhance transition planning and career development for these individuals. Some of the innovative features of our program include: *Customized employment opportunities, work experience, and transition planning for each student, driven by the student's interests, support needs, strengths, and contributions rather than by generic job descriptions and available openings. Customized implies flexibility and creativity enabling support staff to modify parameters and desired outcomes as the student's interests and skills evolve. *Entrepreneurial options or self-employment as post school outcomes or career experience options for students, in addition to traditional wage employment. *Linking employment vendors to the school to promote collaborative funding of employment.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,200,000

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)	1,200,000	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 2026-2027	1,200,000	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		
2025-26	0	1,200,000	241A	Yes

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 Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1194

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	The Director will oversee and train individualized with developmental and intellectual disabilities to gain the necessary skills for competitive employment, contract work, and/or become self-employed using an entrepreneurial model. Medical, dental, life, disability, 401K	81,000
Other Salary and Benefits	CEO 30% admin cost	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Rent, office supplies, payroll taxes, indirect costs (10% admin overhead)	396,824
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Audit accounting	40,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	12 managers that will train individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to gain the necessary skills for competitive employment, contract work, and/or become self-employed using an entrepreneurial model. Indirect costs (10% for operating administrative overhead). Medical, dental, life, disability, and 401K	390,774
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Payroll taxes, program supplies, wellness and fitness program supplies	37,964
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing and product label consultant, labor attorney, web manager	203,438
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,200,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1194

To create customized employment opportunities, work experiences, and transition planning for each student, driven by student's interests, support needs, strengths, and contributions rather than by generic job descriptions and available openings. Customized implies flexibility and creativity enabling support staff to modify parameters and desired outcomes as the student's interests and skills evolve. Create entrepreneurial options or self-employment as post school outcomes or career experience options for students, in addition to traditional wage employment. And last, but not least, link employment vendors to the school to promote collaborative funding of employment and transitional activities.

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

To create a training program that focuses on the development of the general competencies required for work in competitive employment. To create a training program that focuses on the development of general competencies required to work in the child care industry. Procure contract work that would involve work for private businesses under contract for a price. The work will be utilized as a tool for on-the-job training. Activities may involve sorting, collating, assembling, and packaging products. To create innovative small business models designed around the skills to work in the food service industry (In Good Tastes), Crafters a training program that teaches the necessary skills to effectively manage, design, create, package, and sell candles for a bath and beauty business.

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

85% of the clients will demonstrate an increased awareness and knowledge of general competencies required for work during the term of the contract. 25% of the clients completing the program shall be competitively employed or self-employed within 6 months of completing the program, during the term of the contract. We are currently serving 75 clients.

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

This program makes possible the employment of individuals with disabilities that have been largely excluded from the employment market. In Executive Order 13-284, employment is the most cost effective and direct means available to help individuals achieve independence and self-fulfillment. A good job often makes the difference between successful community living and a high cost institutional placement at public cost. Employment is a critical component to successful independent living in the community. A more direct benefit to the State of Florida and taxpayers is the avoidance of institutional and other high cost residential placement that comes from reliance on expensive publicly funded deep-end services. Bottom line, individuals with jobs contribute to the economy. We expect to serve from 51-100 individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities.

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

By using the performance review from each individual client we can assess the effectiveness of their performance. This review is done on a monthly basis. The objectives are as follows: job knowledge, work quality, attendance/punctuality, initiative, communication/listening skills, dependability. The ratings are: progressing, needs work, satisfactory, good, exceptional.

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?

The agency's standard contract penalties are sufficient.

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):



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1194

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**

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)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

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LFIR # 1194

☐ 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

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