



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2422

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The request is for an appropriation to pilot an aerospace technician program in Palm Beach County (PBC) similar to the current program offered by Eastern Florida State College. Courses and classes will be provided at community centers in PBC (free of cost) to give youth (<18 yrs.) opportunities to learn about STEM/aerospace and give young adults (>16 yrs.) opportunities to gain essential technical certification and skills for the aerospace workforce. Based on data from the pilot program, the future goal is to identify and expand the program in areas of most need.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	350,000	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 2023-2024	350,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction

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?

12. 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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Coordination with Palm Beach State College and Community Center organizers	25,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Multiple certified and experienced college-level educators	300,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to community college campus if necessary for course requirements. Necessary classroom project and lesson materials.	25,000
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)		350,000

14. Program Performance

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



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This appropriation aims to increase access in under-served communities to aerospace education and technical training that will result in young adults with employable certifications and skills. These certifications will provide trainees with the skills required to be employed by local aerospace, defense, or engineering companies. Providing opportunities to these under-served individuals also bolsters the aerospace workforce by making highly skilled Floridians available to Florida aerospace companies. This pilot program will be funded for two years to test the effectiveness and feasibility of a program to provide opportunities to underserved communities for technical aerospace occupations.

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

Two main groups for classes and training: (youth) 11-17 year-olds immersed in aerospace, science, basic electronics training, robotics, and rockets. (Young adult) 16+-year-olds take the necessary classes and develop skills to gain credits toward aerospace technical certification. Coursework will include hands-on activities and project-based learning to engage students at PBC community centers such as Pleasant City, North Palm Beach Village, and Gaines Park. Experienced/practiced educators will teach youth students the fundamentals of STEM/aerospace. Certified college-level instructors will teach young adults the knowledge/application of technical aerospace skills for certification.

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

Under-served students will receive hands-on education at local community centers from experienced and certified educators. Students will have direct educator-to-student contact in a small classroom setting. Additionally, videos will be recorded and available on the web for registered students unable to attend. Quality education and training will result in skills, confidence, understanding, etc., and competence to pass certification tests. These members of the community will serve as role models to younger generations and instill hope in their peers.

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

The two target populations are youth (11-17) and young adults (17-25) in underserved communities. Any youth or young adult interested in classes and courses is welcome to attend free of charge. Classes will be daily/weekly depending on the type of program students are involved in. Since classes will be recorded, any student with access to the internet can view classes; however, to gain certification, students must meet course requirements and complete necessary assessments.

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

Increased interest in STEM and aerospace for youth students and completion of aerospace technical certification for young adults. Increased interest in STEM and aerospace is essential to keep youth students involved in future courses and projects. The completion of technical certification programs gives young adults the necessary employable skills to obtain a good-paying job in the aerospace workforce. This increase in highly skilled employees provides the aerospace workforce with young and competent individuals to replace retiring employees. The outcome of these efforts will be measured by the employment rate of students completing the training.

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 the contract?

If this program fails to meet deliverables, funding can be decreased incrementally. The decrease can continue if the program still is unable to deliverables over long periods. When deliverables are not met, it is essential to hold meetings with coordinators, community center operators, and community colleges involved to determine corrective action. If corrective action is not deemed feasible by all parties involved, all funding can be cut. As long as there is a reasonable effort with all parties involved to increase the success rate, it is highly advised to continue funding.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number