



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1453

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Florida Debate Initiative is an educational non-profit designed to meet the following goals: assisting schools without existing programs to develop speed and debate; supporting schools with existing programs; providing affordable academic competition opportunities for all, and most importantly to increase civic literacy by fostering civic engagement through participation in competitive speech and debate activities. The FDI serves as the educational support organization tasked with educating and training coaches and students, training judges, and establishing competition standards for existing organization to partner with and to provide ample educational competition opportunities. Competitive speech and debate can address the need for both bridging the educational achievement gap and instilling critical thinking skills in students, in addition to instilling higher-level critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

**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)	1,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	1,000,000	104	No

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.
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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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The FDI embraces operational efficiency and is comprised predominately of unpaid volunteers; however, there are necessary costs for administrative staff. The president serves as project head and has management duties, advancing the mission to provide comprehensive civics education & speech infrastructure across Florida. The president supervises all FDI activities.	140,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Website development, payroll processing, rent, payroll taxes, bank fees, technology, and travel.	74,400
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Costs for necessary professional independent contractor services, such as outside grants management, legal and accounting/auditing services for compliance with all applicable reporting and other regulations; administrative/programs and digital consultants to assist with the initiative's expansion into every Florida school district.	140,600
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program expenses for funding development and educational resources necessary for public schools to create and/or support speech and debate programs with a focus on civics education. Such expenses shall include, but not be limited to speech and debate team support and new team development, tournament operations, technology, facilities, travel, civics immersion program, marketing, and supplies.	937,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	FDI's civics and debate initiative focuses on creating access and opportunities for all students to have the best civics education including curriculum, debate programs, and high-quality teachers that are catalysts for students becoming great citizens who can preserve our constitutional republic for future generations. The program management consultant and professional development offerings for teachers/coaches ensures that this goal is met.	208,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,500,000</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

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

The FDI is an educational non-profit designed to meet the following goals: increasing civic literacy; expanding speech and debate classroom courses, competitive teams, and infrastructure to grow our national speech and debate civics competition to enhance critical thinking, persuasive speaking/writing and communication skills in over 243 schools in 54 participating Florida school districts this school year; scaling to all counties with emphasis on reaching elementary aged students, all with the cooperation and assistance of the FDOE.

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

The FDI serves as the educational support organization tasked with educating and training coaches and students, training judges, and establishing competition standards for existing organizations to partner with to provide ample educational competition opportunities. Educational services will be provided to over 240 schools in more than 40 counties this school year.

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

Services include establishing civics/debate education and training programs for coaches and students and creating regional leagues for speech and debate competition opportunities.

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

Middle and high school students across the state, scaling to elementary aged students this school year.

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

Presently, the geographic location of a student often dictates their ability to compete in speech and debate. This funding will help to equalize those opportunities statewide to provide access to speech and debate in all counties over time. Also, speech and debate provides confidence for students to be their own advocate and to have the critical thinking and communication skills to defend their views. Speech and debate provides the opportunity for students to be exposed to a variety of viewpoints, cultures, backgrounds and experiences and to engage in thoughtful and civil discourse with others. Speech and debate is an educational equalizer for students providing them the ability to learn beyond what classroom education alone can provide. Students will be able to critically analyze information and understand civics in a more meaningful way. The assessment process by which outcomes will be measured will be established by the FDOE.

##### 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?

While we cannot foresee an applicable scenario under this question arising, if some unforeseeable event occurred where the deliverables/performance measures were not being met, the FDOE would have the discretion to restrict access to funding.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name



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- b. Organization**
- c. E-mail Address**
- d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

#### 16. 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**

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name**
- b. Firm Name**
- c. E-mail Address**
- d. Phone Number**