



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1017

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The JAFCO Children's Ability Center provides quality family enrichment, resources and respite services to families raising children with developmental disabilities. The goal of this program is to reduce the stress of parents who are raising a child with a developmental disability while increasing the socialization and skills of the children, thereby helping to preserve the family unit and reducing the need for costly out-of-home placements for the children. The Ability Center is a "one-stop-shop" for developmental disability services and is the only center of its kind in the United States providing intensive support, enrichment and respite services under one roof not only for children with developmental disabilities but focused on the entire family. The center is open 24/7/365 to provide overnight out-of-home extended respite care and intensive case management.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	950,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	950,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	950,000	17%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	3,601,400	65%
Other	1,000,000	18%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	5,551,400	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	850,000	243	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.

Private funding sources such as grants, individual contributions and special events.



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

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

The Children's Ability Center received a PPP Loan in the amount of \$569,772 which was used for payroll expenses, allowing staff and programs to be provided throughout the pandemic.

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
 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?

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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	90% of the funds will be used for program staff to provide 24 hour care for the children in the respite program. These staff include psychologists, social workers, therapists, BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), nurses and direct care staff.	855,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	10% of the funds will be used for food and other supplies for the children and the programs including iPads for communication, computer software, art supplies and music therapy.	95,000
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)		950,000

14. Program Performance



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

The goal of the Ability Center is to reduce the stress of parents who are raising a child with a developmental disability while increasing the socialization and skills of their children, thereby helping to preserve the family unit and reduce out-of-home placement for children.

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

Services include center based respite as well as comprehensive support services to families raising a child with a developmental disability.

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

Services include day, evening, weekend, overnight, emergency or extended respite services that allow the children to enjoy exciting enrichment activities while the parents take a much needed extended break from the often overwhelming demands of parenting a child with a developmental disability. Additional services include a formal social skills and life skills training program that prepares children to work and live independently. Furthermore, therapeutic support groups are held throughout the week for the entire family (mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents). Parent education, behavior training and parent/family socialization activities are provided to increase parenting skills, and improve the parent-relationship.

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

The program targets youth ages 0-22 years diagnosed with a developmental disability and their families. This program provides support to families who are on the waiting list for Med-Waiver, many of whom are crisis.

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

As a result of this program, 85% of parent / caregivers will report reduced stress, 90% of children served will be maintained in the home 6 months after starting respite services and 90% of children served will maintain or enhance developmentally appropriate skills through use of respite. Outcomes are measured using pre-and post-test scores on the Parenting Stress Index and on a developmental skills assessment for the children served.

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?

Standard penalties.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

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)



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- 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