



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2889

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

4. Project/Program Description

The goal of NextStep at Endeavor Academy is to build an inclusive community where the benefits of educating and employing individuals with autism are broadly understood. Adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) will receive curriculum, services, and supports needed to complete intensive learning experiences to increase their ability to maintain competitive employment and live independently. NextStep's short courses also provide coaching and instruction for the neurodivergent population.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?** Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

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)	400,000	73%
Matching Funds		
Federal	150,000	27%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	550,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	400,000	27	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

Endeavor continues to secure private donors through the foundation. Some funds will be raised through tuition; however, tuition costs are kept at a low rate to provide greater access to students.

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

No



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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
 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	Program Director (\$103,300—including benefits) Office Manager/Instructor Assistant (\$52,607—including benefits) Instructor (\$76,513—including benefits) Transition Coach (\$56,015—including benefits)	288,435
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Learn4Independence® curriculum (\$5,000) Fuel, insurance, and vehicle maintenance (\$4,065) Building operating costs (insurance, maintenance, utilities, internet—\$40,000) Copier lease (\$2,500)	51,565
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services for job coaches (\$50,000) Contracted services for Board Certified Behavior Analyst—BCBA (\$10,000)	60,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		400,000

14. Program Performance

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



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

Direct instruction in Learn4Independence® coursework, applied learning in job settings (volunteer, paid and unpaid internships, competitive employment, and self-employment), direct instruction in independent living skills, and applied learning in the community and through the residential component of NextStep Academy; direct instruction in social competencies offered across all settings.

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

Direct instruction in both classroom and natural (applied) settings; job coaching; help with identifying and accessing natural supports at work and in the community; assessment; targeted goals (employment, social, communication, independent living); maintenance of goals; follow-up checks to measure long-term progress after completing the program.

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

The target population served by this project will include adults with autism who have aged out of the K-12 educational system but still need support for success. These individuals may be jobless, economically disadvantaged, developmentally disabled, and/or college students. The project will serve between 51-100 individuals.

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

Participants enrolled in NextStep's Transition Academy will complete the Learn4Independence® coursework (a 32-course curriculum focusing on employment/life skills). Each course has lessons in the areas of work, finances, safety, relationships, organization, nutrition, community, health, problem-solving, etiquette, transportation, and living independently. Participants enrolled in NextStep's Transition Academy will receive experience and support in an employment setting. Outcomes will be measured through participant mastery of the coursework modules and individualized goals related to employment and living independently. Outcomes will also be measured in the number of participants maintaining employment/living in their community of choice throughout their enrollment at NextStep and during planned maintenance checks after graduation.

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?

The agency will determine the penalties and include in the contract.

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



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- 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