



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1389

1. **Title of Project:** Removing the Barriers Initiative

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Ben Albritton

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/07/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

StirringWaters, a program of Removing the Barriers Initiative a Florida 501(c)(3), is Florida's first ultra inclusive waterpark. Designed to bring "adventure therapy" and great waterpark experiences to not only Florida residents but to the visiting public. Between 15% and 19% of our local population is living with disabilities and don't have someplace of their own to enjoy great experiences and potential life altering therapy. Additionally, as the crossroads of tourism, we estimate more than \$10M will be added to Florida tourist revenues annually when this waterpark is fully operational.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Agency for Persons with Disabilities
State Agency Contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	20.0%
Federal	2,000,000	20.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	6,000,000	60.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	10,000,000	100.0%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No

10. **Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		



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Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction, Renovation, Engineering, Planning and Design.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

StirringWaters will improve the quality of life for people with disabilities by providing a place where they can safely participate in a therapeutic, aquatic experience that will include family or friends. One that is truly inclusive, specifically designed to include people with all types of disabilities, including someone who is quadriplegic. Additionally, StirringWaters will provide a unique form of physical and emotional therapy that encourages the patient to go to the limits of their ability. Designed in cooperative effort with therapists and aquatic professionals.

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

Therapeutic, aquatic experiences will be provided: including an inclusive splashpad "Oasis Adventure" that even someone who has challenges seeing can navigate, a 400 ft lazy river, the "Includer" - the only slide built for everyone (quadriplegic or amputee included) among other therapeutic and fun features.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

Waterpark experience in an environment specifically for the disabled community and their family and friends. Inclusion education and participation will occur daily.

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

Any individual or family living with disabilities would be able to take advantage of StirringWaters. At any time during the hours of operation up to 1000 people could be on campus making use of the StirringWaters facilities. This might include individuals living with disabilities and families supporting the disabled person. Children, youth, elderly persons, persons with poor mental and/or physical health, injured veterans, economically disadvantaged, at-risk youth, the developmentally and/or physically disabled, students of all ages and others will benefit through the use of the facility and programming.

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



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Physical, Occupational and Aquatic therapists will be documenting how the therapeutic, aquatic experience motivates a person with disabilities to exercise, stretch and build stamina in a safe setting. By helping those typically left out of mainstream community activities to find a welcoming place, that is intentionally inclusive, they will build self-esteem, confidence, gain social skills and ultimately have a better outlook on life thus prolonging their lives. Art and music will intentionally be part of the design and programming, particularly when it involves self-expression. Visual, auditory, kinetic and other senses will be used throughout the experience and will improve the impact of the therapeutic environment. Additionally, we will see improvement in the quality of education for those in the field of mental and physical health by creating partnership with teaching institutions. Detailed records will be kept of all program activities and their outcomes.

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?

Non payment of invoices

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

StirringWaters is a program of Removing the Barriers Initiative, a Florida registered 501(c)(3). No other relationship exists between the founders of RTBI and someone receiving fixed capital outlay funding.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Bill Redmon
- b. **Organization:** Removing the Barriers Initiative
- c. **E-mail Address:** bill@removingthebarriers.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (863)632-1924

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Removing the Barriers Initiative
- b. **County:** Polk
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Bill Redmon
- e. **E-mail Address:** bill@removingthebarriers.com
- f. **Phone Number:** (863)632-1924

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** None



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- b. Firm Name:** None
- c. E-mail Address:**
- d. Phone Number:**