



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1927

1. Title of Project: Autism Society of Florida Water Safety Scholarship Fund

2. Senate Sponsor: Lauren Book

3. Date of Submission: 02/19/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

The Autism Society of Florida is formally addressing the drowning rate of children with autism through this scholarship program aimed at improving safety and preventing drownings. This project will provide 250 children with autism living in Florida with instruction in water survival by certified Water Safety Instructors (WSI) through a scholarship program. Also provided will be training of swim instructors on autism and how to teach these children, consultation with the American Red Cross on autism module development, distribution of information to parents and pediatricians on water safety/elopement, and collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) to ensure that emergency room staff are adequately reporting fatal and non-fatal drownings to DOH so that families can access much needed support.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Health

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	100,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	100,000

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)	100,000	100.00%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local		0.00%
Other		0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	100,000	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? Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$100,000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Project administrative support staff will oversee the distribution of materials to families regarding the availability of the program; collect and process applications; ensure swimming instructors carry Red Cross WSI certification; process funds to instructors; market training opportunities to instructors, Red Cross, emergency room staff and parents, and schedule trainings requested; and maintain all necessary data to ensure program fidelity and implementation.	7,500
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Fund water safety/swimming instruction to 250 children with autism - each student receiving benefit of \$300 to be paid directly to duly certified Water Safety Instructors.	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Informational brochures, flyers and marketing materials, applications, travel for consultants	2,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultant/trainer on autism spectrum disorder to provide training on autism to water safety instructors, parents, pediatricians, and emergency room staff (in each of the 10 counties with the highest rates of childhood drowning @ \$500 each).	15,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		100,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The Autism Society of Florida is formally addressing the drowning rate of children with autism. Drowning is the number ONE cause of death of children with autism. This statistic has remained the same for decades. Florida has the highest number of drownings in the United States. In 2018 (up until Dec 1), there were 88 drowning deaths of children in Florida – 76% age 3 and younger; 10% were identified as children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), when only 2% of all children have an ASD. Of the 88 fatal drownings, most were a result of the child wandering, eloping, or missing from a caregiver – all factors that impact autism every day. According to



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DOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most children who drown are between the ages of one and four years old. The CDC average age of an ASD diagnosis is 4.5 years of age. There is a strong likelihood that the number of young children who drown would have been later diagnosed with an ASD had they survived.

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

Vouchers/scholarships of swimming survival lessons for 250 children; training of swim instructors on autism and how to teach these children; educate the American Red Cross on autism toward module development in the Red Cross WSI certification; create and distribute marketing information to pediatricians, teachers, and other professionals working with kids with autism; provide outreach and information to emergency room staff encouraging them to report fatal and near fatal drownings to DOH so that families can access much needed support.

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

Water safety/swimming instruction for 250 children with autism through a voucher/scholarship so that family finances do not prevent a child from receiving greatly needed swimming instruction.

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

Young children with autism - 250 children will be provided coverage through this project. The funds will be paid to Water Safety Instructors who are qualified to provide swimming lessons to children with autism. Water Safety Instructors from the 10 areas of the state with the largest number of childhood drowning incidences will receive training in autism.

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

Continued decrease of drownings of children with autism until there are no drownings. The progressive attainment of individual swimming skills that will allow an individual to survive a drowning. Methodology: Follow the American Red Cross methodology, a system that is already in place designed to introduce, reinforce, and assess fundamental water skills from infancy to adulthood for participants of all skill levels. As such, the goal is for children to be able to step or jump into water over their head, float or tread water for one minute, turn around in a full circle and find an exit, swim 25 yards to the exit without stopping, and exit the water without using steps or a ladder.

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?

Withdrawing the funds.

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.

Water Safety Instructors throughout the state of Florida.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

a. Name: Stacey Hoaglund

b. Organization: Autism Society of Florida



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c. **E-mail Address:** stacey@autismfl.com

d. **Phone Number:** (954)261-3703

14. Recipient Contact Information:

a. **Organization:** Autism Society of Florida

b. **County:** Statewide

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:** Stacey Hoaglund

e. **E-mail Address:** stacey@autismfl.com

f. **Phone Number:** (954)261-3703

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name:** None

b. **Firm Name:** None

c. **E-mail Address:**

d. **Phone Number:**