



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2040

1. Title of Project: PARC Children's Autism Classrooms & Therapy Center

2. Senate Sponsor: Jeff Brandes

3. Date of Submission: 02/25/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

This funding will go towards the renovation, design and construction of PARC Children's Autism Classrooms and Therapy Center. This would include the addition of three preschool classrooms and therapy areas specifically designed to meet the needs of children aged 2-5 who are on the Autism Spectrum or who have severe behavior concerns. An additional 30-40 children would be served in these classrooms. Many children are dismissed over and over by preschools not equipped to take children with challenging behaviors. Discovery Learning Center is a place where families are not turned away and their children receive the services they need.

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 | 1,500,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 1,500,000 |

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) | 1,500,000 | 83.3% |
| Federal | | 0.0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | | 0.0% |
| Local | | 0.0% |
| Other | 300,000 | 16.7% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 | 1,800,000 | 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: | | |



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2040

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| 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 | This funding will go towards the renovation, design and construction of PARC Children's Autism Classrooms and Therapy Center. This would include the addition of three preschool classrooms and therapy areas specifically designed to meet the needs of children aged 2-5 who are on the Autism Spectrum or who have severe behavior concerns. An additional 30-40 children would be served in these classrooms. Many children are dismissed over and over by preschools not equipped to take children with challen | 1,500,000 |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 1,500,000 |

11. Program Performance:

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

The addition of three preschool classrooms and therapy areas specifically designed to meet the needs of children aged 2-5 who are on the Autism Spectrum or who have severe behavior concerns. An additional 30-40 children would be served in these classrooms. Many children are dismissed over and over by preschools not equipped to take children with challenging behaviors. Discovery Learning Center is a place where families are not turned away and their children receive the services they need.

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

PARC Discovery Learning Center is the ONLY child care provider in Pinellas County of accessible Early Intervention Services to children with developmental disabilities, including those diagnosed with and/or "at-risk" for developmental delays, behavior concerns and autism. The center serves children from 2 months to 5 years. The Discovery Learning Center utilizes experienced early intervention, therapeutic and support staff to provide universal education and inclusive intervention services.

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

Direct services to families with children on the autism spectrum will include ABA therapy and behavior services. Family involvement is essential for maximum success. The services will be provided by trained teachers, assistant teachers, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, Registered Behavior Technicians and supporting staff.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2040

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

Children from age 2 months to 5 years with developmental disabilities

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

PARC Behavior Services Dept. work with children and adults with developmental disabilities who have significant behavioral challenges. Many of these individuals have co-occurring psychiatric diagnoses. We use the science of Applied Behavior Analysis to reduce inappropriate and challenging problem behavior and increase adaptive skills. Often times treating the inappropriate behavior requires extensive collaboration with the individual's psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, etc. We measure the effectiveness of intervention by collecting data on each individual's problem behavior and acquisition of adaptive skills before and after treatment. We can analyze that data collectively to determine how clients are being affected by the treatment.

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?

Reversion of state 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.

501(c)3

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Karen Higgins
- b. **Organization:** PARC. Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** khiggins@parc-fl.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (727)341-6919

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** PARC. Inc.
- b. **County:** Pinellas
- 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:** Karen Higgins
- e. **E-mail Address:** khiggins@parc-fl.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (727)341-6919



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2040

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Laura Boehmer
- b. **Firm Name:** Southern Strategy Group
- c. **E-mail Address:** Boehmer@sostrategy.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (727)686-0924