



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1169

1. **Project Title** Autism Society of Florida Drowning Prevention Scholarship Fund

2. **Senate Sponsor** Anitere Flores

3. **Date of Request** 10/30/2019

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Autism Society of Florida is formally addressing the drowning rate of children with autism through this program aimed at improving safety and preventing drownings. This project will provide 500 children with autism living in Florida with instruction in water survival by certified Water Safety Instructors 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/development and collaboration with the Department of Health to ensure that emergency room staff are adequately reporting fatal and non fatal drownings to the Department so that families can access much needed support.

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

State Agency contacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	000
Total State Funds Requested	200,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	200,000	100.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	00	0 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	00	0 %
Other	00	0 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	200,000	100 %

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

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

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

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 200,000



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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.	10,000
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Fund water safety/swimming instruction to 500 children with autism - each student receiving benefit of \$350. To be paid directly to a duly certified Water Safety Instructor.	175,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Informational brochures, flyers and marketing materials, applications, travel for consultants.	5,000
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) - estimate 2 trainings per county.	10,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		200,000



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11. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal 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. Children with autism drown at a rate 160 times greater than typically developing children. Of the 88 fatal drownings of children in Florida in 2018, most were a result of the child wandering, eloping, or missing from a caregiver – all factors that impact autism every day. According to the Dept of Health and CDC, most children who drown are between ages 1 and 4. The CDC average age of ASD diagnosis is age 4.5. Strong likelihood that the number of young children who drown are children who would have been later diagnosed with an ASD had they survived

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

- Vouchers/scholarships of swimming survival lessons for 500 children with autism
- Training of swim instructors on autism and how to teach these children
- Educate the American Red Cross on autism towards module development in the Red Cross WSI (Water Safety Instructor) 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 the Department of Health so that families can access much needed support.

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

500 children with autism will receive water safety/swimming instruction 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 - 500 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 until there are none of children with autism. 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?

Funding will cease. Funds will return or remain with the state agency.



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12. **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.**

Water Safety Instructors throughout the state of Florida

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **Recipient Contact Information**

- a. Organization
- b. Municipality and County
- c. Organization Type
- ☐ For-profit Entity
 - ☐ 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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.