



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1731

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

We aim to equip students, community members and small businesses with essential skills and provide access to the tools needed to thrive in a competitive job market by leveraging AI technologies. We deliver training workshops that will enhance the job-market competitiveness of the participants, set up state-of-the-art AI software and equipment within our learning spaces and forge partnerships with local businesses to disseminate innovative AI-based solutions for workforce development.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	547,824
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	547,824

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)	547,824	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	547,824	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

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



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

The University received a total of \$26.8M in COVID-19 Stimulus funds. Of this amount \$12.0M was a direct pass through to students. The remainder was used on supplies and equipment related to COVID and other assistance for students.

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	10% of 2 Social Work faculty 10% of 2 Nursing faculty 10% of 2 Business faculty 10% of 2 Podiatry faculty	90,824
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Software - Vmock, Simucase, Office 364 Co Pilot, HoloLens Virtual reality headsets and subscription, Podiatry software, project collateral	337,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Professional Development and consulting assistance for implementation	120,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		547,824

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?

Activities include faculty and staff professional development, course development for AI Tools for Small Businesses, integration of Simucase into Social Work curriculum, student training and workshops for community members using VMock platform and VR-based training for nursing students and practitioners.

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

Services include AI-based assistance with resumes, video mock interviews LinkedIn profiles and elevator pitches using VMock SMART platform delivered to students and community. We will conduct Office 365 Workshops and access to software for community and small business owners. We will train Social Work students and practitioners using the Simucast platform and train Nursing students and practitioners.

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

Students and local small businesses will be served with this project. The quantity of individuals is not yet determined.

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

For students, a system will be put into place to analyze learners' competence, confidence, and readiness to apply AI-based tools in their respective fields through:

- Pre- and post-training assessment
- Instructor evaluation
- Self-reporting and reflection

For small businesses, a baseline assessment will be conducted to determine the percentage of small businesses already utilizing AI-based solutions for operational improvement in the target community. After the program's completion, a systematic tracking system will be established to monitor the adoption of AI-based solutions by small businesses. Program administrators and support teams will conduct regular follow-up

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?

No suggested penalties

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