



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2416

1. Project Title Special Olympics Florida Unified Champions Schools

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

3. Date of Request 02/28/2023

4. Project/Program Description

\$350,000 request to continue \$250,000 in non-recurring funding provided in the current year plus \$100,000 additional to continue expanding Unified Champion Schools Program which now serves 442 K-12 schools and 17 colleges throughout the State of Florida. The program brings young people with and without disabilities together to compete in athletic competitions, to engage in youth leadership and advocacy activities, to promote whole school engagement through activities that further the acceptance and inclusion of youth with disabilities, and to promote sports/play programs and opportunities for younger children with disabilities to improve physical, cognitive and social skills through the Young Athletes Program. There is both anecdotal and quantitative evidence that supports the effectiveness of the program in promoting inclusion of young people with disabilities in school activities and a reduction in harmful behavior such as bullying.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	350,000	18%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	250,000	14%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,251,077	68%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,851,077	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	250,000	250,000	105	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 350,000

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

Approximately 29% of current project funds are from the state with the other 71% coming from a variety of private sources. There are no funding sources identified to replace the requested state funds.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2416

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

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

\$908,977PPP loan during the 2020-21 state fiscal year used to pay salaries and for other essential and allowable expenses

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

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	Unified Champions Schools Program Manager and Young Athletes Program Manager	63,100
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel to competitions; coaches' stipends; training supplies; facility rental; miscellaneous expenses related to school engagement and leadership projects	286,900
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		350,000

14. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2416

The program furthers the State's goal to increase inclusion of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in schools; instill lifetime understanding in future generations of value of inclusion; reduce behaviors such as bullying; increase general physical fitness levels of children with I/DD; improve self-confidence and social skills of children with I/DD; provide opportunities for children with I/DD to participate in school leadership activities.

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

Athletic competitions (some formally sanctioned by the FHSAA) that allow children and youth with & without disabilities to compete together; Leadership development activities that bring children & youth with & without disabilities together to plan & execute public service projects; whole school engagement activities promoting school inclusion of children with I/DD.

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

Services as described in b. above are provided to students, faculty, support personnel, and family members.

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

K-12 and college students with and without disabilities. 600 students impacted in Special Olympics College programs and 218,897 students impacted via the Unified Champion Schools and Young Athletes Program and service projects throughout Florida.

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

Increase understanding and acceptance of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the school community. Improve self-confidence, social and motor skills, and improve physical fitness levels of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Data is managed based upon participation rates along with periodic surveys of young people, parents, and school system personnel to measure attitudes and 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 the contract?

Reduced payment with contract termination for persistent failure to maintain acceptable performance.

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
☒ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
☐ Local Entity



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2416

☐ 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