



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2776

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Incubate Debate is Florida's largest no-cost debate league that hosts debate tournaments, workshops, and camps for rural and urban students across the State of Florida. Incubate nurtures a competitive community of proud Americans, introduces students to a wide range of viewpoints, and fosters a deeper understanding of important current issues and historical events. At Incubate, students become powerful public speakers, critical thinkers, and strong leaders who compete with, learn from, and inspire one another.

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	850,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	850,000

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)	850,000	82%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	185,000	18%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,035,000	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.
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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.

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	James Fishback, executive director of the Incubate Foundation, has elected to receive no salary in this appropriation or any other.	0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel costs (hotel, fuel, airfare)	10,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	7 full-time staff members and 2 interns.	378,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel costs (hotel, airfare, car rental, fuel), event space (workshops/institutes), tournament materials (printed/awards/signage), and educator stipends.	443,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Curriculum consultants, new school outreach contractors, childcare offered at our tournaments for families, volunteer stipends.	19,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		850,000

14. Program Performance

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

With funds requested, Incubate Debate will aggressively expand our innovative, no-cost middle and high school debate program across Florida ensuring students from all educational backgrounds can reap the benefits of competitive debate (public, charter, micro school, classical, religious, home school). Incubate operates six competitive debate leagues in Florida that collectively host eighteen no-cost, in-person debate tournaments for thousands of students every school year.



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

Incubate Debate hosts no-cost, in-person debate tournaments, workshops, camps, and other educational programming for middle and high school students across the state where they are judged by citizen judge panels, comprising local elected officials, first responders, faith-based leaders, and veterans.

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

The funding requested will help us reach even more students across the state and give them a platform to hone their public speaking and critical thinking skills all while instilling civic disposition and engaged citizenship.

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

Incubate serves middle and high school students across Florida, estimated to be 5,000 students, 200 educators, and 200 individual schools.

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

Incubate Debate improves quality of education and engaged citizenship by engaging students through educational debates on timely and timeless issues, including federalism, capitalism, foreign policy, and more. We equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to thrive in whichever career, service, or educational path they choose. We will collect quantitative and qualitative data from students on Incubate Debate's impact on their academic achievement, career readiness, and civic engagement.

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?

If Incubate Debate fails to meet metrics (# of tournaments hosted per geographic region).

Improvement Plan: They must implement a plan to improve and hit specific targets within a set timeframe.
 Reduced Funding: Future funding may be decreased in line with the shortfall in 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
- University or College



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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