



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3171

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

SEU's LINK program is a college degree or certificate equivalency program for college students with mental and/or physical developmental delays and disabilities. The specific project is to renovate a property on campus to be a transitional dormitory for these students where they can both learn how to live independently and complete their degree programs.

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	150,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	350,000
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	33%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	750,000	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.

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.



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We received \$29,713,739 of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds. SEU used \$12,899,701 directly to students while \$16,814,038 was used to write off student accounts, pay for pandemic related health, safety and security needs, and as lost revenue.

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.

Southeastern University owns and will operate the facility where the renovations will take place. Southeastern University is the requesting 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	Purchase of technologies and equipment related to providing accommodations for a wide variety of intellectual developmental disabilities.	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovation of a previously owned home to accommodate 5-8 students with intellectual developmental disabilities. The renovations will include redesigns of floor plans and labor for the installation of technologies that provide accommodations for a wide variety of intellectual developmental disabilities.	350,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The purpose to be achieved by the funds requested is to provide an opportunity for the students of the LINK program to expand their ability to live independently by providing transitional housing. The LINK program would extend to a three or four year program in order to prepare the students to live separately from families. This goal is improved economic self-sufficiency for these students.

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

A house will be renovated to accommodate 5-8 students for the use of transitional housing. Also the LINK program will expand to a three or four year program to provide all the support services needed to extend the students ability to attend SEU. Additional certificate and training programs will be added as well as job placement services.

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

In Polk County and the surrounding area, this appropriations project directly serves citizens with disabilities by transforming a property into a transitional dormitory for 5-8 LINK program students at SEU, who experience intellectual developmental disabilities. These students, drawn from our local communities, will be immersed in a tailored environment where they can cultivate essential independent living skills, from cooking to safety awareness, under the guidance of specialized mentors. The LINK program's expansion to three or four years further enriches this offering, integrating more certificate and training opportunities. This holistic initiative prioritizes local citizens with disabilities, ensuring they not only advance academically but also gain the confidence and skills for independent living, backed by job placement services to foster their economic self-sufficiency.

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

The target population served by this project is students with intellectual developmental developmental delays and disabilities in Polk County and the surrounding areas. Directly, the project is expected to serve 5-8 individuals per year. When considering their families, the total reaches an estimated 50 people annually, with an estimated population breakdown of 18% Polk county residents, 59% other Florida county residents, and finally 23% nationwide. These population breakdowns come from the current enrolled students.

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

The expected benefit or outcome of this project is that LINK students will be better equipped to live independently. By providing transitional housing, the project aims to foster the development of essential skills that these students need to live separately from their families after graduation. To measure this outcome, the number of LINK graduates who successfully transition to independent living will be gauged using annual follow-up surveys. Moreover, an ongoing research study will annually assess progress by evaluating self-advocacy and independent living skills based on the perceptions of the students, parents, and mentors. Preliminary results have validated the survey used, revealing notable increases in the overall effectiveness of the program.

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?

The suggested penalty that the contracting agency may consider, in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures stipulated in the contract, is the return of the funds to the State.

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



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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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number