



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3666

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

We are requesting \$500,000 for a production contract that would allow for the implementation of an audio book program to support healthcare degrees within Florida's Community College system. Learning Ally's Learning Through Listening grant has funded audio books for k-12 students as a supplemental educational tool with great success. Recognizing the pivotal role of education in the healthcare sector, we believe that integrating audio books into the learning process will enhance accessibility, flexibility, and overall educational outcomes for healthcare students. The minimum number of textbooks to be produced in either English or Spanish is 25 for a total cost of \$497,400 (per unit textbook cost of \$19,896).

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	497,400
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	497,400

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)	497,400	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	497,400	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.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Minimum # of textbooks to be produced is 30 for a total cost of \$497,400 for a per unit textbook cost of \$19,896.	497,400
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		497,400

14. Program Performance

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

Through the funding Learning Ally will publish selected titles selected by the Community College system's healthcare programs as audio books. These audio books will be available for all qualifying students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). By providing access to audio books, we will create a more inclusive and accommodating learning environment for healthcare students with language-based learning disabilities.



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

Content Development: Collaborate with subject matter experts and educators to create high-quality audiobook content tailored to healthcare degree programs.

Platform Integration: Partner with educational technology providers to seamlessly integrate audiobook platforms into existing learning management systems, ensuring ease of access for students.

Training and Support: Implement training programs for faculty and students on effectively utilizing audiobooks as part of their learning experience. Provide ongoing support to address any technical or educational challenges.

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

All healthcare students enrolled in the Florida Community College system will have access to their textbooks through the audio book solution platform. As detailed earlier in this narrative, professors, faculty, students and all who have access to the audio book platform will receive training on how to use the platform. Technical support will also be provided.

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

The target population for this project will be all students enrolled in healthcare degree programs within Florida's Community College system who require accommodations through a documented IEP.

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

Through over 70 years of service and research in the field of language-based disorders, our findings show that multimodal learning has proven to be an effective approach. Introducing audio books complements traditional learning materials, offering a multimodal approach that enhances comprehension and retention. By engaging students through both visual and auditory channels, we can cater to diverse learning preferences and improve overall knowledge retention for students who need accommodations.

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?

Learning Ally will comply with all applicable state penalties levied for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract.

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)



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- 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