



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1148

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The five Florida affiliates will expand several services across the state, focusing on reaching additional rural areas. Focus will be placed on expanding (1) Expansion of the PLAY Project, an intervention for children with autism and their families (2) Diagnostic services to identify children at a younger age with autism (3) An integrated medical model for best treatment practices across the state (4) Workforce Development by expanding STRIVE in hospitality and healthcare (5) Mental Health Services for persons with disabilities and their families across the lifespan (6) Clinical and behavioral therapies in our center-based and community settings.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	77%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	50,000	1%
Other	880,400	22%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,930,400	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	7,000,000	240A	No

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

Increases overall fundraising and increases in program fees.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1148

Yes

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

Our affiliate received \$1,707,742 through PPP loans used for payroll and utility expenses, and to obtain additional PPE throughout the pandemic to ensure the safety of our staff and clients in 2021 and 2022.

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	Administrative Cost Allocation	129,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries/Wages; Benefits	441,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program Supplies: Training, Supplies, Travel, Diagnostic Supplies, Educational Supplies, Continuing Education, IT, Equipment lease/purchase, Maintenance/Repairs, Postage, Bank Fees, Licensure Fees, Mileage, Subscriptions, Misc.	80,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Professional Fees (Pediatrician, PLAY home consultants, Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors, mental health clinicians), Subcontracted affiliates.	2,350,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

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 2024-2025

LFIR # 1148

Easterseals affiliates will expand autism and disability services in the following areas (1) the PLAY project early intervention for young children with autism (2) Psychological evaluations to diagnose autism earlier including the use of eye gaze technology for children ages 18-30 months (3) Interdisciplinary Care Coordination led by pediatricians (4) Workforce training through STRIVE in healthcare to train direct service providers (5) Mental health and developmental therapies focused on research based interventions (6) Full family wrap around services including case management. Our goal is to strengthen and expand workforce training and early intervention for children and adults with autism and related disabilities throughout the state of Florida, including rural areas of Florida with limited services for individuals with disabilities.

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

Each affiliate has a successful client approaches appropriate for scaling across affiliates via direct service delivery, virtual services, consultation, technical assistance training, community education, etc. Together, affiliates will identify capacity gaps and expand local access to early intervention and clinical therapies, supported workforce training, intensive therapy interventions and comprehensive behavioral health/mental health services. Easterseals will provide comprehensive family support services including case management and post-diagnostic wrap around services.

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

PLAY Project- parent implemented intervention for young children with autism
 Behavioral Health-Psychology, Psychiatry for children with autism and other disabilities
 Technology for autism diagnosis for children 18 months-30 months
 Therapies-Speech, Occupational, Physical, Behavioral, expanding into rural areas of Florida
 STRIVE - vocational skills towards industry-recognized certifications in hospitality and healthcare (pilot)
 Life skills training focusing on employment goals

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

Each Florida Easterseals' target population is (1) children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities that reside in Florida, as well as their families/caregivers, (2) Local businesses and industries who rely on a qualified, dependable workforce, and (3) Members of the local community who benefit from access to needed support services. Up to 800 children and adults with disabilities are expected to be served directly through our collaborative expansion efforts.

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

More children and adults with disabilities will benefit by our collective sharing of innovative programming in key areas that impact overall lifetime success, including, (1) autism early diagnosis and cost-effective interventions that result in increased number of children in early intervention, (2) vocational skills training that respects the person's own choices and leads to industry-recognized certifications for increased independence and employability, (3) employment skills to improve management/communication, financial/service, self management adaptive skills; (4) comprehensive behavioral/mental health therapeutic and educational services that reduce maladaptive behaviors, learning disabilities and improve overall independence and self-esteem. In-depth performance measures across multiple programs will include data collection/analysis, diagnostic testing, treatment plans, job placements, retention, skills improvement, case management notes, and improved economic status.

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?

Since we are proposing a direct services contract, we would expect not to be paid until the monthly reporting of performance levels met the contract expectation.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1148

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
- 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