



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1085

1. Title of Project: Character Speaks Adult Re-Entry Program

2. Senate Sponsor: Keith Perry

3. Date of Submission: 01/14/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

Character Speaks Adult Re-Entry Program (CSARP) is a comprehensive vocational and employment training program aimed at placing adult work release inmates into well paying, long term employment.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Department of Corrections

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	368,400
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	368,400

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	368,400	100.00%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local		0.00%
Other		0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	368,400	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 368,400

10. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Salary: \$85,280 (\$41 an hour X 40 hours X 52 weeks). Benefits:	96,744



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	\$600 a month for health insurance, 5% retirement.	
Other Salary and Benefits	Job Placement Coordinator: \$39,000 (\$30 an hour X 25 hrs/wk X 52 wks) Administrative Assistant: \$20,800 (\$20/hr X 20 hrs/wk X 52 wks) Operations Coordinator: \$34,320. Benefits (Operations Coordinator only): \$600 a month for health insurance, 5% retirement.	103,036
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies: \$98,696 (This includes 300 folders for each site, projector and tripod for each site, bus passes and clothes for student interviews and bus passes) Gas and travel \$13,000. Computers: \$2,400 Insurance: \$2,000 Rent: \$7,200 Audit/Legal: \$6,000 Phone: \$4,224 (\$88 a month x 12 months x 4 Staff members)	133,520
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Teachers: \$35,100 (7 teachers who will be paid ranging from \$20-25/hr)	35,100
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		368,400

11. Program Performance:

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

With the funding requested, the Character Speaks Adult Re-Entry Program (CSARP) will serve 1,248 work release students in six different centers in five cities within the state of Florida. We will also serve 100 inmates in Putnam Correctional Institute in Palatka. In addition to the students who are currently being served in Gainesville, we will serve students in Lake City, Jacksonville, Cocoa, and two centers in Orlando.

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

Resume building, speech proficiency, interview training, role play and employer expectations are primary in what is being taught.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

As a result of the funding, 1348 work release inmates will receive comprehensive vocational training and be placed with an employer. The program will provide long-term, full time employment to adult work release inmates in Gainesville, Lake City, Jacksonville, Cocoa, Putnam County and to two centers in Orlando. There is a 30% recidivism rate for inmates within the first three years of release. This means 405 of those students (30%



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of 1,348) are likely to re-offend. We anticipate our success rate to be 50%. That means 203 of those students will not re-offend and receive gainful employment. The cost to the taxpayer for the State of Florida is \$18,050 per year for each inmate. This means we will save the taxpayer $\$18,050 \times 203 = \$3,664,150$ $\$3,664,150 - \$368,400$ (Cost of Program) = $\$3,295,750$ which is the total net savings to the State taxpayer each year.

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

1,248 adult work release inmates annually as well as 100 inmates at Putnam Correctional Institute in Palatka.

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

After two years of classes, CSARP has had over 400 students complete our program at the Santa Fe Bridge Work Release Center in Gainesville. Every student has gained employment upon completion of the program. Thus far, we had had 17 students who have had behavioral issues and have been sent back to prison. That number constitutes less than 5% of the total students served. Even those students who have had behavioral issues gained employment after they graduated from our 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 in the contract?

Reduction in funds from the state as a percentage of failed program participants.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

N/A

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Sammy Desai
- b. **Organization:** Character Speaks Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** characterspeaks@gmail.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (352)317-1136

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Character Speaks, Inc.
- b. **County:** Alachua
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)

- d. **Contact Name:** Sammy Desai



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e. **E-mail Address:** characterspeaks@gmail.com

f. **Phone Number:** (352)317-1136

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name:** None

b. **Firm Name:** None

c. **E-mail Address:**

d. **Phone Number:**