



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1116

1. **Title of Project:** Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Program

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Dennis Baxley

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/18/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

\$250,000 request to expand Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program to a total of 230 K-12 schools and 17 colleges throughout the State of Florida. The program brings young people with and without disabilities together to compete in athletic competitions, to engage in youth leadership and advocacy activities, to promote whole school engagement through activities that promote acceptance and inclusion of youth with disabilities, and to provide sports/play programs and opportunities for younger children with disabilities to improve physical, cognitive and social skills through the Youth Athletes program. There is both anecdotal and quantitative evidence that supports the effectiveness of the program in promoting inclusion of young people with disabilities in school activities and a reduction in harmful behavior such as bullying which results from lack of understanding and acceptance of individuals with disabilities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Education

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	17.7%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	250,000	17.7%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	910,229	64.5%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	1,410,229	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19	250,000		112	No

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



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- a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$250,000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits	Unified Champions Schools coordinator and Young Athlete Program coordinator positions	71,679
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Includes travel to competitive events, coaches' stipends, training supplies, uniforms, student projects, and facility rental costs.	178,321
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The program promotes understanding and acceptance of young people with disabilities by their peers without disabilities. It improves self-confidence, social and motor skills, and improved fitness levels of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By promoting understanding and acceptance, negative behaviors such as bullying are reduced.

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

Athletic competitions involving young people with and without disabilities; leadership and advocacy activities involving young people with and without disabilities; whole-school activities that engage the entire school to promote understanding and inclusion; sports/play activities to engage younger children with and without disabilities to establish inclusion as a norm at early age.

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

Please see b. above. In addition to services provided to children with and without disabilities, the Unified Champions Schools program assists school districts in meeting their goals for inclusion of students with disabilities.

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



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K-12 and college students with and without disabilities. 340 individuals served via SO College Programs and for K-12 we project impacting a total of 311,864 students through Unified Sports initiatives and service projects. This represents an increase of roughly 50,000 students to be served by the additional appropriation and this amount is expected to increase by approximately 20% in subsequent years as well.

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

Increase understanding and acceptance of young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the school community. Improve self-confidence, social and motor skills, and physical fitness levels of young people with intellectual disabilities. Data will be maintained on participation rates along with periodic surveys of young people, parents, and school system personnel to measure attitudes and outcomes.

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?

Reduced payment with contract termination for persistent failure to maintain acceptable performance.

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:** Sherry Wheelock
- b. **Organization:** Special Olympics of Florida
- c. **E-mail Address:** sherrywheelock@sofl.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (352)243-9356

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Special Olympics of Florida
- b. **County:** Statewide
- 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:** Sherry Wheelock
- e. **E-mail Address:** sherrywheelock@sofl.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (352)243-9356

15. Lobbyist Contact Information



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- a. **Name:** Jim DeBeaugrine
- b. **Firm Name:** RFJ Governmental Consultants
- c. **E-mail Address:** jim_debeaugrine@comcast.net
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)508-8908