



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1747

1. **Title of Project:** Learning Through Listening

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Dennis Baxley

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/11/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Learning Through Listening provides public school students with print disabilities accessible, human-narrated versions of textbooks and literature used in Florida schools and professional learning to educators on the implementation of the program.

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	313,296
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	313,296

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)	313,296	66.1%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	160,390	33.9%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	473,686	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19	1,141,704		94	No

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

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$313,296.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		



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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	Expanded school and operational staff to support increased number of schools being served.	287,545
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	For supporting expanded server capacity and additional materials needed to support an increased number of schools.	25,751
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		313,296

11. Program Performance:

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

Additional funds will support expanded program that has been stretched from 4,500 students in 780 schools in SY 2014-15, to 34,000 students in 1,930 schools in the current year. Funds ensure the sustainability and ability to support further growth.

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

Florida Public schools will receive access to collection of more than 80,000 academic titles (Textbooks, literature, etc.) For use by students with print disabilities; required software and mobile apps are included; educators will have access to professional training.

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

Access to accessible human-narrated version of audio books for those with disabilities, professional learning opportunities or educators teaching students with disabilities.

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

The target population is students with disabilities. Learning Ally is currently serving 34,000 students in 1,930 schools in the current year and we expect to see continued growth. In addition to students, Learning Ally also provides support to educators in the form of professional training.

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

Improve quality of education by providing access to instructional materials to individuals with disabilities through educators survey and usage metrics track growth of academic success and program utilization.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard



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penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Existing contract addresses penalties.

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:** Edward Bray
- b. **Organization:** Learning Ally
- c. **E-mail Address:** ebray@learningally.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (609)243-7610

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Learning Ally
- 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:** Edward Bray
- e. **E-mail Address:** ebray@learningally.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (609)243-7610

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Kelly Mallette
- b. **Firm Name:** Ronald L. Book, P.A.
- c. **E-mail Address:** kelly@rlbookpa.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)224-3427