



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1913

1. **Title of Project:** Jacksonville School for Autism – Strategies and Techniques for Effective Practice (STEP) Program

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Aaron Bean

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/07/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Jacksonville School for Autism (JSA) is a not-for-profit private school established in 2005 in support of children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The school has seen tremendous growth. While the number of enrolled students, teachers, staff and therapists have grown, so has the scope of services offered to families impacted by Autism. JSA started with 2 students and now supports 60 students with over 45 teachers and therapists! With 1 in 50 children diagnosed with Autism, JSA continues to experience significant growth in student enrollment and program development. JSA enrolls students from the following counties: Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. A core focus will be on transition and the opportunity to provide supportive job skill training and coaching to young adults with developmental disabilities. Through our growing programs, JSA continues to make a positive impact in the lives of children and families in our school and within the greater NE FL.

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

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	300,000

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)	300,000	100.00%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	300,000	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	32	No

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



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 300,000

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	6 Full-Time Vocational Instructor Salaries 1 Education Department Director	200,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program & Service Expansion Site Development, Vocational Evaluation Protocol, Job Training Equipment and Program Development. Modular vocation workspace and/or rental work vocation space	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	1 Transition Director 1 Behavior Support	50,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The purpose and goal of JSA's Vocational STEP Program is to provide our vocational students and young adults the skills necessary to be successful and productive members in both their home and community. We strive to discover each student's individual interest and tailor a program of learning opportunities that could lend itself to future employment opportunities. Each student has a core curriculum of life skills that are structured and taught to a level of independence. These skills are assessed and tracked through The Assessment of Functional Living Skills (AFLS), and cover the areas of Basic Living, Community Assessment and Home Assessment. JSA's Vocational STEP Program involves working with each individual to assess their motivations and interests. An Individualized Learning Plan is customized to job training opportunities and life skills.

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

We propose to use this funding to secure a developmental enterprise site and additional work space for our vocational students to expand their working capabilities. This additional space will provide an efficient location for them to perfect their job skills and work on various employment tasks like screen printing, shredding confidential documents, fulfillment center for packaging and assembly, creating apparel and merchandise items, etc.



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

JSA vocational students will provide services to the Northeast Florida community through several various outlets. They will provide confidential shredding services to local clients. They will sell apparel and merchandise to local vendors and individuals throughout the community. They will grow, harvest, and sell locally-grown produce throughout local farmer's markets. The list will go on and on as our business opportunities to continue to expand through the use of additional funding and resources. Several enterprise options will be tested in an effort to solidify a long term sustainable funding model.

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

The group of people that this project will serve are students age 14 to adulthood. Program participants include current pre-vocation and vocation students at JSA as well as post-secondary students from other private and public programs. JSA serves all populations of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We enroll individuals from the surrounding counties of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. Our current placement of families crosses all ethnicities and economic backgrounds; autism does not discriminate by whose lives are impacted!

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

The expected benefit of JSA's Vocational STEP Program is to essentially provide our vocational students with more and more job opportunities and supportive employment placements. Our students and young adults have the skills necessary to be successful and productive members in both their home and community; we just need to provide additional resources for them to be able to THRIVE! JSA uses a real time software program called Catalyst that help develop individual goals, programs and the capability to track skill development over multiple job coaching environments

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?

The agency's standard contract penalties are sufficient.

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.

None

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Michelle Dunham
- b. **Organization:** Jacksonville School for Autism
- c. **E-mail Address:** mdunham@jsakids.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (904)732-4343 Ext. 207

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Jacksonville School for Autism
- b. **County:** Duval
- c. **Organization Type:**



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- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: Michelle Dunham

e. E-mail Address: mdunham@jsakids.org

f. Phone Number: (904)732-4343 Ext. 207

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name: Rob Schenck

b. Firm Name: The Legis Group

c. E-mail Address: rob@legisgroupfl.com

d. Phone Number: (904)732-4343