



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2222

1. Title of Project: FIRST Robotics Teams Grant - Florida

2. Senate Sponsor: Kelli Stargel

3. Date of Submission: 03/04/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen. This top-rated education not-for-profit organization designs accessible, innovative standards-aligned programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math. FIRST K-12 STEM education programs use robot challenges to build science and technology skills and interests, in a character driven program that also inspires self-confidence, leadership and life skills. The Florida State funding has two prongs: help support teams participating in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) and the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), and help fund 2 Regional Competitions - Orlando and South Florida FIRST Robotics Competition Regionals - as well as the FTC State Championship.

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	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	20.0%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	4,000,000	80.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	5,000,000	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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2222

a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 1000000

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		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	FRC: At least \$2,500 to pay part of the registration fees for Florida FRC teams that participate in FL events, at least \$80,000 for each Regional competition, and \$35,000 for one FRC Field for Florida. Additional money allocated to defray additional registration fee costs and support specific projects directed to increase participation of new teams and make FL FRC teams more sustainable and competitive. FTC: \$275 to pay some of the registration fees for Florida FTC teams, \$30,000 to help defray	1,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

FIRST is the world's leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). FIRST programs inspire innovation and leadership through engaging, hands-on robotics challenges developed to ignite curiosity and passion in students in grade K-12. This funds will help support high school teams participating in the FIRST Robotics Competition and FIRST Tech Challenge, help fund the 2 FRC Regional competitions (Orlando and South Florida), and the FTC State Championship.

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

The funds will directly impact 9-12th grade students in their ability to participate and compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition and the FIRST Tech Challenge by lowering the barrier to entry by paying some competition registration costs. It will also support the competitions in which students compete with the robot designed specifically for that year's challenge.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2222

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

Services include supporting competition venue, defraying expenditures of teams so that students can focus on STEM and not additional fundraising activities. In many cases these funds will be the difference between a team existing or not, so funding provides the service of a constructive, hands on, educational experience for young people.

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

High school students, with portions of that group being economically disadvantaged and/or at-risk youths. FIRST Robotics serves more than 5,000 students through FRC and FTC teams in the State of Florida.

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

Funding will improve the quality of education by getting more students interested in STEM activities and hence get them excited about STEM careers. Success will be measured by counting the number of teams that register for the 2020 FIRST Robotics Competition Season in Florida. Funds will also enhance individuals' economic self-sufficiency. It is well known that STEM careers are in high demand, and come with a premium in salaries compared to other fields. This can be measured by counting the number of Seniors who register in the FIRST Alumni database for the year 2020.

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?

Deobligate a portion of the funds for future grants, but taking into consideration extenuating circumstances.

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:** Sandra Contreras
- b. **Organization:** For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology - Florida
- c. **E-mail Address:** scontreras@firstinspires.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (954)281-2202

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** FIRST Robotics
- b. **County:** Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Duval, Escambia, Hendry, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Leon, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Okaloosa, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2222

- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (Please specify)

d. Contact Name: Sandra Contreras

e. E-mail Address: scontreras@firstinspires.org

f. Phone Number: (954)281-2202

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name:** None
- b. Firm Name:** None
- c. E-mail Address:**
- d. Phone Number:**