



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2485

1. **Title of Project:** Hope Center for Autism Multifunction Facility

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Gayle Harrell

3. **Date of Submission:** 03/18/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Construction of a multifunction facility for people on the Treasure Coast that will serve as a public academic institution for children with autism and related disabilities in prekindergarten through 6th grade; a community center that will disseminate resources to families, educators and community members on autism and provide a place for adults with autism to find support for social, organizational and vocational needs serving the more than 550 teens and adults with autism in our community; sensory lab to provide support for people with autism who are facing sensory challenges; hurricane hardened facility that will serve as a refuge for people with autism who require a special needs shelter environment engineered to meet the specific needs of people with autism and related disabilities.

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	
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>

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)	2,500,000	33.33%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	0	0.00%
Other	5,000,000	66.67%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>7,500,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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?** No



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of a multifunction facility for people on the Treasure Coast that will serve as a public academic institution for children with autism and related disabilities in prekindergarten through 6th grade; a community center that will disseminate resources to families, educators and community members on autism and provide a place for adults with autism to find support for social, organizational and vocational needs serving the more than 550 teens and adults with autism in our community	2,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,500,000</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

Construction of a multifunction facility for people on the Treasure Coast that will serve as a public academic institution for children with autism and related disabilities in prekindergarten through 6th grade; a community center that will disseminate resources to families, educators and community members on autism and provide a place for adults with autism to find support for social, organizational and vocational needs serving the more than 550 teens and adults with autism in our community; sensory lab to provide support for people with autism who are facing sensory challenges; hurricane hardened facility that will serve as a refuge for people with autism who require a special needs shelter environment engineered to meet the specific needs of people with autism and related disabilities.

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

Construction of a multifunction facility for people on the Treasure Coast that will serve as a public academic institution for children with autism and related disabilities in prekindergarten through 6th grade; a community center that will disseminate resources to families, educators and community members on autism and provide a place for adults with autism to find support for social, organizational and vocational needs serving the more than 550 teens and adults with autism in our community; sensory lab to provide support for people with autism who are facing sensory challenges; hurricane hardened facility that will serve as a refuge for people with autism



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who require a special needs shelter environment engineered to meet the specific needs of people with autism and related disabilities

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

The multifunction building will meet the needs of people of all ages, needs and abilities on the autism spectrum on the Treasure Coast. It will serve as an educational institution for students in prekindergarten through sixth grade with autism who need a smaller more intensive setting to learn skills needed to benefit from a more comprehensive learning environment. The building will house a community center for teens and adults with autism to receive support for social, organizational and vocational skills that will ensure they are independent and productive citizens. The building will also house a sensory lab open to all people with autism who need assistance to regulate their sensory input safely and learn techniques that are beneficial to sensory regulation outside of the sensory lab. This will also be a hurricane hardened building to serve as a refuge for the many families of children with autism who need a shelter that is engineered to meet the specific needs of people with autism

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

Children, teens, and adults with autism spectrum disorder and families, educators and other community entities affected by autism and seeking support to meet the variety of needs associated with the disorder will be served by this project. There are over 1,000 children identified with autism in Martin County alone. This project will serve people all over the Treasure Coast affected by the disorder leading to a much larger impact.

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

Better meet the needs of the autism population by eliminating the student waitlist and provide parent and community support and resources.

**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?**

Reimbursement of funds to the state or Martin County School District taking over ownership of the facility.

**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.**

The Hope Center for Autism, Inc.

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Joanne Sweazey
- b. **Organization:** The Hope Center for Autism
- c. **E-mail Address:** jsweazey@hopecenterforautis.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (772)334-3288

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** The Hope Center for Autism
- b. **County:** Martin



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**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:** Joanne Sweazey

**e. E-mail Address:** jsweazey@hopecenterforautism.org

**f. Phone Number:** (772)334-3288

**15. Lobbyist Contact Information**

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