



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2593

**1. Title of Project:** LiFT Academy/University Transition Program/N

**2. Senate Sponsor:** Jeff Brandes

**3. Date of Submission:** 03/20/2019

**4. Project/Program Description:**

iFT plans on creating a campus for it's LiFT Academy and LiFT University programs including micro-businesses. LiFT will purchase a lot or current building in Pinellas County to serve the needs to students with neurodiversities, (autism and learning disabilities). LiFT is in the process of creating a rendering with an architect and has already identified properties available for purchase. Any property would need to be built or renovated to meet current needs.

**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	16.7%
Federal		0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.0%
Local		0.0%
Other	12,500,000	83.3%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>15,000,000</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

**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		



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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	LiFT plans on creating a campus for it's LiFT Academy and LiFT University programs including micro-businesses. LiFT will purchase a lot or current building in Pinellas County to serve the needs to students with neurodiversities, (autism and learning disabilities). LiFT is in the process of creating a rendering with an architect and has already done some of the legwork in identifying properties available for purchase. Any property would need to be built or renovated to meet current needs.	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?**

LiFT will purchase a lot or current building in Pinellas County to serve the needs to students with neurodiversities, (autism and learning disabilities). The school currently serves approximately 150 students.

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

A full educational program expanding Lift's current programs, which is presently serving approximately 150 students, will be the result of a campus expansion. LiFT University has forged partnerships with various local businesses in the community. Several of these businesses work in conjunction with the school to offer many of the students internship opportunities. These opportunities help students make decisions on what careers and jobs they wish to pursue and give them real on-the-job skills and training. One measure of the creation of immediate job opportunities would be the number and type of jobs obtained by LiFT University students. Our LiFT University students (18-23) work toward successful independence through integrated academics, social skills development and life skills training and career readiness through community internships. One measure of the enhancement of specific individual's economic self sufficiency is the number of jobs LiFT University students obtain.

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

Students and families with neurodiversities, autism and learning disabilities, will be served.

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



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Students and families with neurodiversities, autism and learning disabilities, will be served. The addition of a new campus will increase the ability to serve more students in the Pinellas County area.

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

The outcome of improved quality of education where the measure is higher standardized test scores can be measured by comparing the test scores of LiFT Academy students to test scores of students with disabilities in public schools. The outcome of creation of immediate job opportunities where the measure is the number of jobs obtained by LiFT University students can be measured by comparing the number of jobs obtained by LiFT University students to students with disabilities in similar settings. The outcome of enhanced specific individual's economic self sufficiency where the measure is the number of jobs obtained by LiFT University students can be measured by comparing the number of jobs obtained by LiFT University students to students with disabilities in similar settings.

**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?**

Funds revert back to the State of Florida.

**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.**

Fee simple ownership by Learning Independence for Tomorrow, Inc

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Kim Kuruzovich
- b. **Organization:** Learning Independence For Tomorrow, Inc. (LiFT Academy & LiFT University Transition Program)
- c. **E-mail Address:** mrsk@liftacademy.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (727)258-7659

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Learning Independence For Tomorrow, Inc. (LiFT Academy & LiFT University Transition Program)
- b. **County:** Pinellas
- 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:** Kim Kuruzovich
- e. **E-mail Address:** mrsk@liftacademy.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (727)258-7659



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#### 15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Michael Corcoran
- b. **Firm Name:** Corcoran & Johnston
- c. **E-mail Address:** mike@corcoranfirm.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)527-0172