



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2596

1. Title of Project: LiFT Academy/Fast Forward and Reading Assist

2. Senate Sponsor: Jeff Brandes

3. Date of Submission: 03/20/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

In order to address the academic needs of its students, LiFT needs funds to purchase online subscriptions for reading software--specifically programs called Fast Forward and Reading Assistant Plus. This software would be used by both LiFT Academy and LiFT University students. Fast Forward targets reading problems by providing feedback and online reading practice. Reading Assistant Plus uses patented speech recognition technology to deliver real-time corrective guided reading feedback.

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	15,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
Total State Funds Requested	15,000

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)	15,000	100.00%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local		0.00%
Other		0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	15,000	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? No

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and		



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Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	In order to address the academic needs of its students, LiFT needs funds to purchase online subscriptions for reading software-- specifically programs called Fast Forward and Reading Assistant Plus. This software would be used by both LiFT Academy and LiFT University students. Fast Forward targets reading problems by providing feedback and online reading practice. Reading Assistant Plus uses patented speech recognition technology to deliver real-time corrective guided reading feedback.	15,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		15,000

11. Program Performance:

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

Reading proficiency will be measured on MAP score results and will be measured before and after implementation of program.

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

LiFT needs funds to purchase online subscriptions for reading software--specifically programs called Fast Forward and Reading Assistant Plus. This software would be used by both LiFT Academy and LiFT University students. Fast Forward targets reading problems by providing feedback and online reading practice. Reading Assistant Plus uses patented speech recognition technology to deliver real-time corrective guided reading feedback.

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

Enhanced security protecting students will include the implementation of on site cameras, monitoring equipment, upgraded locks, and possibly bulletproof glass for the reception area. In addition training for students will be implemented to help prevent future school shootings.

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

LiFT Academy, currently home to approximately 150 with neurodiversities, autism and learning disabilities, will be served.

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



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will be measured?

The expected outcome is increased reading skills in students that are aided by the program.

- 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

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