



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1198

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Best Buddies International, Inc., is a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The project creates, strengthens, and maintains 170 middle and high school-based chapters of Best Buddies across the state. Together these chapters will create 2,270 one-to-one, peer-mentoring friendships between students with IDD and their typical peers and deliver school and community-based activities, including leadership training, with the help and support of Best Buddies staff. By increasing meaningful interactions between students with IDD and their typical peers, these activities will help create more inclusive school communities and help students build the social and leadership skills they need for college and career readiness.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	350,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	350,000	11%
Matching Funds		
Federal	63,800	2%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	700,000	23%
Local	114,800	4%
Other	1,810,878	60%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022	3,039,478	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2020-21	700,000	350,000	100	Yes

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

In lieu of state funding, Best Buddies would have to reduce the scale of the project scope to reflect the use of a combination of private dollars generated through fundraising, individual giving, and foundations.



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Best Buddies in Florida received \$541,204.73 through the Paycheck Protection Program. These funds were used for staff salaries.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	These funds are used by Best Buddies International, Inc. to oversee the administrative and management needs of our state offices. The allocation for funds is approximately: Professional Services – 53% includes BB website and database maintenance, state development, education and training etc; Accounting - 16%; HR/Legal – 15%; IT – 8%; Executive - oversight of programming 8%	28,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	9.55 FTE - Program Managers in seven area offices; 3 FTE - Area Directors in seven area offices; 2 FTE - Program and Operations staff; 0.5 FTE – State Director; FICA, Group Health, Unemployment, Workers Comp, Retirement/Other Benefits calculated at 15% of salaries	286,916
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program Events, Volunteer Management, Staff Training, Staff Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Training Day, Equipment, Evaluation, Office Space/Utilities, Delivery, Postage, Copies/Printing, Supplies, Best Buddies Online, IT services, Memberships, Telephone	35,010
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Evaluation: Includes cost to perform Annual Survey of students, parents/guardians, and advisors. Includes cost to perform the survey and collect data and fee for third party evaluation, analysis, and report.	74
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		350,000

12. Program Performance

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

Best Buddies helps students acquire the skills they need to be college and career-ready by providing on-campus and off-campus activities that promote socialization between students with disabilities and their typical peers. From this funding, Best Buddies will create opportunities for 2,270 one-to-one matches statewide. Best Buddies will work closely with the 170 middle and high schools representing 25 counties to develop these friendships. Best Buddies supports the state's initiative of providing students with disabilities an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment possible by creating more inclusive school communities and providing students with disabilities the opportunity to develop social and leadership skills alongside their typical peers.

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



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Best Buddies offers students with and without disabilities the opportunity to engage in a mutually beneficial peer-mentoring friendship. Our program goals are to develop leadership and social skills among students with and without IDD through these one-to-one friendships along with inclusive activities and leadership training. The one-to-one mentoring model provides opportunities for students with IDD to practice valuable social skills with their typical peers during monthly group activities and weekly contacts with each other. Students in Best Buddies also have the opportunity to engage in group mentoring via the chapter's group activities and meetings for those participants not matched in a one-to-one friendship.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Best Buddies will provide 9.55 full-time program managers who deliver the most direct support to the chapters as they are primarily out in the field supporting volunteers, school staff, and students. In addition to direct program facilitation, local area staff plan and implement area-wide trainings and awareness initiatives in which all the chapters can participate. Area directors oversee the program staff and provide direct program support to both the schools and staff by developing action plans, providing training, and lending support when problems arise. The state director, director of operations, and director of programs are all part of the state team that manages the quality and consistency of programs throughout the state. They work closely with the headquarters staff to manage quarterly goals and maintain a high standard of quality for trainings, activities, and overall participation experience.

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

Best Buddies provides services to both public and private middle school and high school students around the state of Florida. Students include those with an IDD as well as typical peers. A typical peer (a student without a disability) will be matched in a one-to-one friendship with a student with an intellectual or developmental disability. The typical age of participant ranges from age 10-22 depending on the school system. Best Buddies primarily serves school chapters within the counties surrounding our seven local area offices located in Broward, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Tampa. As of November 2020, Best Buddies has recruited 6,174 participants impacting 61,740 residents in 25 counties across the state of Florida. The individuals served for the 2021-2022 school year is projected to grow by 10%.

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

Outcomes expected from this project are to have students be more socially integrated into school communities. This outcome is achieved when faculty advisors report that 85% or more of students with IDD are more socially integrated into the school community. Best Buddies uses multiple methods to assess program performance and implement changes to the program model. Staff use Best Buddies Online (BBO) to track memberships, matches, activities, and meetings and refer to this data to assess progress towards the program objectives stated in the scope of work. Cumulative reports from BBO are pulled on a monthly basis which reflect the total school-year-to-date numbers for applications, approved memberships, one-to-one matches, activities and meetings. Best Buddies also measures these outcomes through its annual survey, developed and analyzed by Michael Hardman, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and Chief Global Officer, Office for Global Engagement, President's Office, University of Utah.

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 the contract?

Financial consequences for each missed deliverable per quarter: \$500 per missed training and \$200 per recruitment shortfall in Q1; \$25 per mentoring session shortfall, \$50 per shortfall of mentees served, \$500 per missed training in Q2; \$25 per mentoring session shortfall, \$50 per shortfall of mentees served, \$500 per missed training in Q3 and Q4.

13. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

N/A



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

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

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number