



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1213

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Center for the Convergence of Technology (CCT) is not a building but rather a descriptor for a project that will serve as talent production conduit to new and evolving credit and non-credit certificates and degrees being generated through the convergence of automation, blockchain, cryptography (crypto) and artificial intelligence (AI). The CCT will focus on embedding industry-recognized certificates based on employability into both A.S. and A.A. degree pathways. The Center will directly increase the acquisition of certificates of value, including laying the foundation for creation of micro-credentials, that can serve as launch points for those just entering the workforce or on-ramps to new careers for those who are currently un/underemployed. The CCT will capitalize on existing partnerships with major employers in convergence technology ensuring alignment of curriculum and employability of graduates. More than 300 participants will be served during the first year of the project.

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	2,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>

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)	2,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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.



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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.**

MDC received \$52,161,213 in U.S. Department of Education (USDE), CARES Act, Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds, with \$24,537,369 required to be disbursed directly to students. Remaining funds provided financial incentives for enrollment.

**11. 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	1 CCT Coordinator - Interfaces w/ Admissions, Financial Aid, Credit and non-credit program staff to facilitate engagement, entry, retention, and completion of participants 2 Career Connect Specialists to serve as a liaison between students and employers; identifies employment and internship opportunities; assist in ensuring that programming is informed by industry/employers and that competencies are aligned.	225,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The CCT will provide an accelerated path to high demand/high convergence tech jobs. Funds are requested to cover tuition, fees and stipends for 350 participants. Calculated at approximately \$3,500 for tuition and fees for 1 academic year + \$100 per credit hour stipend = Average participant costs of \$6,500 x 350 participants = \$2,275,000.	2,275,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,500,000</b>

**12. Program Performance**

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

The goal to be achieved is to accelerate a talent ready workforce with skills and industry-aligned competencies to secure jobs in convergent technology occupations, including automation, blockchain, cryptography, and AI. The CCT at Miami Dade College will be a center of excellence without walls. By providing students scholarships and stipends, Miami-Dade County will be able to fast-start careers, upskill un/underemployed, and incumbent workers. The CCT will provide 350 participants the opportunity to obtain credentials of value, meeting current employer needs and showing potential employers located outside of Florida that Miami-Dade County has a talent pool that makes it convergent tech ready.

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

Through this project, participants will be provided with tuition, fees, and a stipend that will facilitate enrollment and acceleration through certificate and associate degree programs in convergent technology programs and disciplines. Hands-on training and curriculum that is aligned with industry standards and needs will be provided in onsite, online, and blended environments. Participants will also receive regular advisement and career-focused services, including connections to employers, participation in job fairs, readiness workshops, mock interviews, and more.



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

CCT participants will receive hands-on education in targeted convergent technology programs, including automation, blockchain, AI, and more. Participants will receive enrollment assistance, provided with tuition, fees, and a stipend (based on credits and selected program). Career Connect Specialist will work with students and serve as a liaison to employers to assist in identifying and connecting participants to internships and career opportunities.

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

CCT aims to serve residents who are new to the workforce (high school graduates); persons who are un/underemployed; at-risk/opportunity youth; homeless and/or economically-disadvantaged persons; veterans; persons with disabilities; and persons from minoritized populations. In its first year, CCT is expected to serve 350 participants across a variety of convergent technology noncredit and credit-based programs.

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

The following are the expected benefits of this project:  
Outcome Increase talent pool available for employers in targeted industries  
Measurement Methodology: (a) Number of completions/graduates with certificates and/or degrees; (b) Number of participants placed and/or employed by employers; (c) Number of employers engaged in services

**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?**

Release of funds based on progress toward attaining established milestones in enrollment. Performance-based funding with scaling and/or percentage-based payback based on degree of deficit in completion of milestones and/or performance (related to enrollments, retention, and completion).

**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 - No fixed capital outlay funding is requested.



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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