



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1776

1. Project Title Professional Opportunities Program for Students/Professional Development Program PDP

2. Senate Sponsor Randolph Bracy

3. Date of Request 02/19/2021

#### 4. Project/Program Description

Founded in 2001, the Professional Opportunities Program for Students (POPS) is a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit organization that focuses on the positive enrichment of at-risk teenagers. With a motto of 'building character in teens to believe and succeed,' POPS mission focuses on the personal and professional development of teenagers through facilitating resources and opportunities such as college preparation, personal coaching/mentoring, community service, and workforce training. The organization strongly believes that by improving the future of teenagers today, there will be a generational impact towards the society at whole. That is why POPS exists, to encourage the youth to succeed, which in turn will bring success to all. Transitioning to adulthood can be a difficult and complex process for many teenagers. There are several factors that may hinder an individual's progress such as their financial backgrounds, academic history, career readiness, etc. POPS aims to remove the barriers.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Education

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	125,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>125,000</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)	125,000	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>125,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

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?**

No

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

**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	College tours:Overnight to FAMU(from Orlando to Tallahassee)includes bus rental,hotel rooms.Two additional tours to local colleges,to include bus rental,meals, Fee also included are weekly field trip for Middle School educational field trips. Supplies, Equipment and incentives.	20,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Accounting Services/oversee the financials of the organization to include paying bills(bookkeeping)*preparing tax information to IRS *facilitates annual audit preparation *responsible for budgets for funders *maintains payroll	30,000
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	2 full-time coordinators with benefits. One part time program coordinator with students in school throughout the year and summer months,35-40 junior and seniors will receive paid internships. 3 Pt summer interns will work as counselors/coaches for summer programming.	75,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
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>125,000</b>

**12. Program Performance**

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

Nelson Mandela said that education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. Knowledge does not deplete, and those that are fortunate enough to equip themselves with proper literary skills are able to build a life of success and prosperityThe Professional Opportunities Program for Students (POPS) aims to provide at-risk teenagers a path of learning and growth, so that they too can become successful adults. With the grant funding POPS will train, employ, and support at-risk teenagers in high school with a focus on career readiness, professional development, and personal growth. The Professional Development Program or PDP is an all-inclusive program that guarantees the successful transition of an at-risk teenager to an educated adult. The rigorous and comprehensive program can be divided into three main activities or areas of function: training, employment, and support. POPS will provide paid summer internships to 35 teens for 7 weeks/&workshops to 20-30 pre-teens.

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



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The Professional Development Program or PDP is an all-inclusive program that guarantees the successful transition of an at-risk teenager to an educated adult. The rigorous and comprehensive program can be divided into three main activities or areas of function: training, employment, and support. Firstly, the training component involves equipping the selected participants with the current skill set needed within the market. POPS constantly conducts research and market analysis internally and through its multiple community partners to ensure that it can provide the correct skills to the students. Each POPS participant is evaluated for their existing skills and then is matched with the appropriate missing skills. Through group training sessions, workshops, tutoring, along with frequent coaching and mentoring, the gap in their skills is reduced and the participants move on to the next phase.

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

Our success comes from focusing on three key areas of concentration to include: Character and Leadership Development, Professional Development and College/Career Readiness. We provide an evidenced-based comprehensive curriculum that combines soft skills education with real life experience. This methodology is designed to have students gain specific knowledge, skill sets, attitudes, behaviors and values.

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

The Professional Opportunities Program for Students (POPS) works with at-risk teenagers who are in need of career opportunities as well as personal support. . The target community that POPS works with is low-income households with at-risk teenagers within Orange County in Orlando, Florida. Poverty is a huge contributor to this problem, and according to Data USA, among Orlando's 19.1% poverty rate, teenagers transitioning to adulthood and young adults between the ages of 18-35, especially females, are the largest demographic living in poverty This clearly showcases the serious problem of at-risk teenagers failing to break free from poverty. It is well documented that both the individual and the community suffer when at-risk youth do not graduate from high school.

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

During the program, POPS assesses the progress reports of each student on a weekly basis in order to assess the student's growth and provide appropriate feedback needed. This not only serves as a support mechanism for the student, but also acts as an accountability measure where the students understand that their efforts are being appreciated and that they can openly communicate with POPS for any help required to increase job readiness skills and improve educational preparedness skills.

- job performance/evaluation surveys
- completion of program
- pre-post test
- Increase graduation rate
- Reduce dropout rate
- Prepare students for college
- Prepare students for job entry
- Provide on the job training
- Complete job training

**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?**

Funds will be held until corrective action is completed

**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