



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1159

1. Project Title

Unicorn Children's Foundation: Vocational Jobs Training for Developmentally Disabled Young Adults

2. Senate Sponsor

Tina Polsky

3. Date of Request

10/26/2021

4. Project/Program Description

For years, Unicorn Children's Foundation has provided vocational jobs training and employment placement opportunities to young adults with developmental disabilities in key growth industries. These programs and opportunities have short, medium, and long term benefits, and allow program participants to advance on a chosen career track, increase their economic self-sufficiency and productivity, and mitigate state dependence and mental health issues. This particular program seeks expansion (new virtual offerings) of a jobs program launched by Unicorn several years ago specifically to address high-growth sectors of the Florida's economy, such as: healthcare, warehouse/distribution, customer service, sales associates (retail), house keeping, and hospitality crew members. All industry-standard training programs include virtual & hybrid training(s), as well as supported internship opportunities, and all participants are provided an opportunity to earn an industry-standard certification.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

Department of Education

State Agency contacted?

No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	200,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	200,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	200,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	400,000	100%

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?

Yes

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

PPP funds in the amount of \$60,850 and EIDL in the amount of \$4,000 were received and used for payroll expenses.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Covers the first year of salary and benefits for a full time employee to administer, structure, and manage the vocational jobs training program.	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Industry certification testing fees, course curricula, information technology and related infrastructure for virtual program offerings.	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Cost of instructors for courses is \$2000 per student which includes: four 12-week specialty courses, two 6-week life-long learning classes, and exam and industry standard certification fees. Additionally, funds will be spent on job placement and guidance counselors to ensure successful employment outcomes.	75,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		200,000

12. Program Performance

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

Providing a unique opportunity for young adults with developmental disabilities to engage in industry-standard training (including virtually) and to obtain certification. For years, Unicorn Children's Foundation has provided vocational job training and internship opportunities in key growth industries to young adults with developmental disabilities. During the pandemic, we expanded our programs to include virtual offerings, and have partnered with large community employers such as Home Depot, Wyndham Hotels, and Boca West Country Club. Unicorn Children's Foundation now seeks to expand further to offer additional industry-certification trainings, as well as (with more virtual programs) increase the number of participants statewide.

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

Unicorn Children's Foundation is in a unique position to expand the vocational training and certification programs we offer across the State of Florida in high-growth industries, as a result of existing technological infrastructure and developed partnerships with industry-specific instructors. These programs support career opportunities and advancements for young adults with developmental disabilities as they enter the workforce, and help them to obtain and maintain employment and increase self-sufficiency.

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



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A series of industry-specific virtual job training courses (instructional hours vary based on industry certification requirements) that results in the receipt of industry-standard certification. Program will also include a pre-employment internship component which provides opportunities to explore career interests while applying knowledge and skills learned in the classroom in a work setting. This valuable experience also helps students to make connections between the theory and practice of academic study and the practical application as well as provides an opportunity to build professional networks.

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

Developmentally disabled young adults entering the workforce; It is expected that this program will serve dozens of developmentally disabled individuals annually across the State of Florida, in a variety of industries and communities.

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

Providing job training to young adults with developmental disabilities has many short, medium, and long term positive outcomes. These include a lack of dependence, self-sufficiency, increased productivity, and improved mental health. Proposed methods to measure these benefits include: (1) Improved mental health as measured by 85% of individuals reporting improvement on the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale; (2) Increased or improved economic activity as measured by 70% of individuals completing certification obtaining employment and 70% of employers reporting satisfaction; (3) Enhance specific individual's economic self-sufficiency as measured by 70% of individuals employed reporting improvement on the Financial Behavior Scale.

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?

Failure to meet deliverables without notification of good reasoning, will result in financial penalties as described in contract.

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