



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1203

1. Project Title Love Serving Autism's Serve with HEART (Health/Education/Adaptive Recreation/Therapies)

2. Senate Sponsor Lori Berman

3. Date of Request 10/22/2021

4. Project/Program Description

Through Serve with HEART, Love Serving Autism (LSA) will enhance participants' fitness, health, and life skills, especially functional communication, through specialized therapeutic tennis instruction, increasing community inclusion, employability, and independence of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Developmental Disabilities (DD). Participants will apply their new skills at home, school, work, and in the community, enriching their relationships, success, and well-being. Specifically, this initiative will enable LSA to: 1) Expand programming reach to annually serve 1500 individuals with ASD & DD, 2) Strengthen staffing, outreach, and program capacity by providing for a Director of Programs and an Assistant Director of Marketing, 3) Fund training in adaptive and inclusive tennis for professional tennis coaches, preparing them to build skills for differently abled individuals, and 4) Increase employers' awareness of the benefits of hiring individuals with ASD & DD.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Agency for Persons with Disabilities

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	299,519
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	299,519

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)	299,519	60%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	200,500	40%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	500,019	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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 230,000

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



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Fees for tennis classes can help reduce reliance on state funding, however, LSA is striving to reach more low-to-moderate income underserved and underrepresented individuals who have limited means for self-pay. LSA is also working to gain approval to provide payment for therapeutic tennis through public healthcare. LSA will continue to seek support through fund-raising events, individual contributions, corporate sponsorships, and grant requests - sources which have been stressed due to COVID.

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

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

Love Serving Autism (LSA) received \$25,000 in United Way CARES funding. The funding was used for operational support and enabled LSA to provide virtual programming during the pandemic.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	SA Executive Director (Project Head) salary (\$72,000) + fringe @ 7.65% (\$5,508) = \$77,508 x 10% for administrative role (financial management, records, reporting) = \$7,750 Administrative Assistant part time (.5 FTE) salary @ \$20/Hr. = \$20,870	28,620
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	LSA Executive Director (Project Head) salary (\$72,000) + fringe @ 7.65% (\$5,508) = \$77,508 x 90% = \$69,757 for program coordination/operations role (securing/orienting coaches/therapists; modeling on the court; mentoring coaches/therapists; scheduling; partnerships with program sites/universities) Outreach & Engagement Coordinator (PT) salary (\$28,000) + fringe @ 7.65% (\$2,142) = \$30,142	99,899
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Fees for secure online portal to manage personalized therapies, monitor progress, generate reports (electronic medical records) Portal will serve as a model for data-informed best practice and will enable scaling of LSA's therapeutic tennis. Annual = \$9,000	9,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Tennis coaches, professional therapists (occupational, speech, behavioral) \$50/hour x 36 hours (6-week session x 6/year) = \$1,800 x 30 sites = \$54,000 x 3 professionals per site (coach + 2 therapists) = \$162,000	162,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		299,519

12. Program Performance

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



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LSA's mission is to expand life skills, especially functional communication, through specialized therapeutic tennis instruction, increasing community inclusion, employability, and independence of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Developmental Disabilities (DD). Participants will apply their new skills at home, school, work, and in the community. Through strengthened organizational funding, infrastructure, and capacity (Director of Programs, Assistant Director of Marketing, and an online portal to manage data), LSA will expand reach to 1500 Floridians with ASD & DD, re-build skills and opportunities lost during the pandemic, and expand the workforce pipeline.

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

Funding will expand life skills, community inclusion, and independence of individuals with ASD and DD. LSA teaches social communication and adaptive behavior on the tennis court, strengthening skills for community settings such as the workplace and social gatherings. Funding will provide for coordination, training of coaches and therapists (and college students in training), and outreach/inclusion of under-represented populations, including individuals who would not otherwise have access to these (and other) opportunities for inclusive, individualized therapeutic sports. LSA will also educate companies and promote the employability of individuals with ASD and DD, helping to address our workforce demand and shortages.

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

Services will include 1) training for coaches/therapists (and college students in training) on inclusive/therapeutic sports, 2) no/low cost, personalized multidisciplinary therapeutic tennis instruction for individuals with ASD and DD, 3) consultation, networking, support for families of individuals participating in LSA tennis programming, and 4) education of employers on the benefits of (and resources for) hiring individuals with ASD and DD. Funding will increase the participation of diverse, underserved populations in tennis, the community, and the workplace.

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

Throughout just one year, over 4,600 individuals will benefit from this project. LSA will serve 1500 Florida residents with ASD and/or DD, including youth and adults (the primary target audience). The initiative will also serve a minimum of 50 tennis professionals, providing them with training to effectively coach individuals with ASD and DD. 20+ therapists will be served by providing an inclusive, community-based setting for therapy. Over 3,000 family members, caregivers, and community members will benefit by learning of new strategies and resources to encourage successful engagement of atypical individuals. A minimum of 50 employers will benefit from LSA activities/events to educate them on the benefits of and resources for hiring individuals with ASD and DD. Serve with HEART programming is provided in multiple Florida counties, with continuous requests for expansion.

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

1) 85% of 1500 participants will show measurable improvements in tennis skills, fitness, adaptive behavior, social communication, and measures of well-being, according to personalized therapeutic plans/metrics. Therapists collect, monitor and report data for individualized treatment plans, tracked via eTherapy Docs electronic medical records. 2) Community/tennis participation rate of neurodiverse individuals will increase by 15% annually, increasing diversity and inclusion in Florida communities. The Flipcause registration platform will assess the number (and percentage increase) of LSA program participants per location in FL annually. 3) Family members of neurodiverse individuals will report 95% satisfaction with Florida's efforts to meaningfully enhance diversity and inclusion, according to results of brief quarterly surveys. 4) 90% of (50) employers participating in educational activities/events will report increased knowledge of the benefits of employing persons with ASD/DD.

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?



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If deliverables are not met due solely to Love Serving Autism performance, LSA will forego a commensurate percent of funding and immediately implement an improvement plan with associated measurable results.

If deliverables are not met due to circumstances beyond the organization's control (such as a pandemic), Love Serving Autism will coordinate with the sponsoring Representative to negotiate acceptable terms for deliverables, timelines, and/or appropriations.

- 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.**

NA



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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