



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1274

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

DMF Employment Opportunities is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit addressing the low employment rate of 19% for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through systematic job development that integrates the candidate's preferences with the employer's needs to carve out a position for a person with unique abilities. Intensive job training ensures transition to stable employment paired with individualized long-term extended supports, including the benefits of on-demand counseling. Our unique approach builds on creating effective, communicative relationships with Employer Partners to reduce the obstacles, trepidations and fears of hiring individuals with IDD by offering expanded services beyond the traditional 90 & 150 day support models mandated by federal guidelines. The model follows a five-step process that aligns with the evidence-based practice of Customized Employment.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	395,665
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	395,665

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)	395,665	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	143,564	18%
Local	77,459	10%
Other	180,405	23%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	797,093	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	200,000	31	No

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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The program is limited to the donations received to fund extended supports and growth in the number of participants served. DMF has had some success with small grants from The Miami Foundation, TD Charitable Trust, Ford Driving Dreams, and the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.

If needed, the program may need to look at ways to operate in "sustainability mode" that would include limiting services and charging a fee for service that would impact low income families.

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.

\$55,432 Small Business Association Paycheck Protection Program loan used for salary and fringe of direct service employees that has been forgiven.

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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Direct services provided to maintain employment that include on and off-site job coaching, individual and group sessions, peer group meetings, ongoing follow-ups with the employer and employee. -Executive Director -Employment Program Director -Marketing Director -Program Coordinator -Vocational Services Assistant -Employment Specialists Plus applicable fringe and health insurance.	335,015
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Fees for space to conduct trainings, counseling sessions and peer group meetings. Communication fees, database access fees, and software.	18,325
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services to (1) maintain website, design and disseminate information with constituents via eBlasts and social media, design and print outreach materials and training media, and (2) behavioral analyst/therapist.	42,325
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		395,665

12. Program Performance

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



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The funds will specifically help sustain extended services integral to maintaining long-term employment outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). An investment in extended services yields positive employment outcomes for young adults with IDD, which leads to economic growth and less dependence on government assistance.

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

Supported employment services provided by DMF Employment Opportunities far exceed the 90-day to 150-day federal guideline standards. Training and maintenance is available to Employer Partners and employees on an ongoing basis with no limitations. Additional direct services include: individual and group counseling sessions by a mental health practitioner, monthly Power Up for Jobs peer group meetings to reinforce and address topics related to employment and financial independence, virtual trainings and support via Google Classrooms that promote the use of technology and allow participants an opportunity to connect with more frequency while increasing accessibility, unified Special Olympics teams that include equal parts of participants with and without disabilities, and monthly social gatherings for employees to network and build relationships.

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

Eligible citizens will receive intensive supported employment services in accordance with the Customized Employment model adopted by DMF Employment Opportunities. The appropriation project will specifically fund intensive job coaching to ensure transition into stable employment and extended services to maintain employment.

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

Young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities between the ages of 18 to 35 years old in Miami-Dade County, Florida. In 2022, it is projected that 20 new employment placements and 68 individuals employed for over a year will be served. The goal is to place at least 20 new young adults with intellectual and development disabilities each year while ensuring that prior placements thrive or grow in their current positions.

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

Young adults with an intellectual and/or developmental disability will benefit from the dignity and independence that comes from gainful employment. Long-term employment is the key that leads to independent living and financial independence. Employer Partners also gain dedicated, hard-working employees with access to customized support and training. Furthermore, all citizens benefit from the financial independence people with disabilities gain through stable employment leading to inclusion in their communities.

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?

Future funding will be lost.

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