



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2179

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Learning Ally is working in collaboration with researchers at the Florida Center for Reading Research, partnering with researchers at Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to develop new kindergarten-grade 3 assessments of reading and language. Account for teacher and caregiver perspectives of child behaviors, and emotional well-being.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	75%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	25%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	2,000,000	100%

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.

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.



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Learning Ally received a PPP loan in the amount of \$2,082,100, which was used for payroll.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The Executive Director is 100% allocated to this project and has full accountability for success on project deliverables outcomes. The Executive Director is an expert in creating programs that equip early elementary educators to conduct screening for literacy readiness among students and improve instructional practice as a result.	100,000
Other Salary and Benefits	This describes costs associated with health, medical and retirement benefits associated with the executive director.	32,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The Executive Director will be based in Florida. The nature of the project will require frequent travel and visits to elementary school partner sites and whose expense is reflected here.	17,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	As part of achieving the program, the Executive Director will employ a series of subject matter experts to provide consulting services. These may include expertise on language and literacy, technology, elementary instructional practice.	50,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Personnel include experts in Assessment Design, Education Technology product development, designers of Professional Learning Services for K-12 Educators, and Project Management.	750,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The nature of the project will require frequent travel and visits to elementary school partner sites and whose expense is reflected here.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	The program will employ a series of subject matter experts to provide consulting services. Expenses for personnel from Florida State University Center for Reading Research are included here.	500,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

12. Program Performance

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

The specific purpose for the funding is to pilot and implement a universal literacy screener localized and specific to Florida's school children. The goal associated with this work is to limit the number of students who end up in special education by enabling teachers to use the screener to deliver precision instruction based on how that student learns. The goal is to early identify and prevent language-based reading disabilities.

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

The purpose of this request is to provide a literacy screener for all Florida's children. We will specifically localize the Reach Every Reader K-3 screening assessment that will identify children who are at risk for moderate to severe word-level problems who are in need of early intervention. The screener will be made available to all kindergarten through grade 3 students in the state of Florida

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

a) Assessments that will be computer-adaptive. b) Whole child assessment will be conducted including a biopsychosocial survey, family measurement, and possibly teacher measurement to inform risk calculation. c) Learning Ally/ FSU will host and maintain the Assessment Piloting Platform and associated native applications for the duration of this contract.

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



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The target population are Florida public school students.

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

The program will yield an early literacy screener guaranteed to be a valid measure of early literacy readiness for students in grades k-3. Following the screening, Florida educators will receive a supporting instructional program that will allow them to adjust their instruction based on results. To measure results, Learning Ally/ FSU will conduct localized validation of the Florida Dyslexia Screener. We will work with the state of Florida to develop the study design including sampling and 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?

Corrective action plans may be required for noncompliance, nonperformance, or unacceptable performance. Financial penalties may be imposed for failures to implement or to make acceptable progress on such corrective action plans.

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