



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1300

**1. Project Title** Dan Marino Foundation Inclusive Transition and Employment Management (ITEM) Program

**2. Senate Sponsor** Bryan Avila

**3. Date of Request** 02/07/2023

**4. Project/Program Description**

Individuals with autism and developmental disabilities are 80% more likely to remain unemployed or underemployed. In 2023-2024 ITEM will incorporate more employer sites with a greater emphasis on Experiential Learning, the process of learning by doing. By participants engaging in work site experiences, they are better prepared to connect theories and knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world situations. Initially, coaches provide hands-on assistance at job sites, allowing for immediate feedback and redirection. This direct support is then coupled with a mobile application, DMF Coach, which allows in-person coaching to fade out as it supports participants' ability to independently navigate and address situations that arise on and off the job, while collecting data for longitudinal study. Pairing in-person supports and technology addresses the unemployment crisis Adults With Autism (AWD) face, along with the long-standing staffing shortage seen in direct service.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Education

**State Agency contacted?** Yes

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>250,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	250,000	16%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	750,000	49%
Local	0	0%
Other	529,490	35%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>1,529,490</b>	<b>100%</b>

**8. Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	750,000	800,000	26	No

**9. Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

**a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.** 250,000

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

None Available



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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.

Paycheck Protection Program: \$450,300 (November, 2020) \$396,868 (August, 2021) Salaries, mortgage, interest and utilities.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

Planning     Design     Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List 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.

13. 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	Staff accountant-25%, HR/Grants Management-10%	11,905
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Program Manager/Director (1), Behavior Specialist (1), Industry Leads (2), Tech Support (1), Instructors (2), Campus Safety Officer (1), Job Coaches (4), HR Recruiter (1), Payroll Taxes & Employee Benefits	154,750
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Mileage, Staff Training, Security Screening, Conferences, Computer Services, Professional Services, Mentors, Academic Costs/Curriculum, Laptops, Office Supplies, Printing, Copying, Postage	34,545
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Data Collection & Analysis, Technology Enhancements	48,800
<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>250,000</b>



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

The objective is to prepare adults with autism and differing abilities to obtain and, just as important, retain/sustain employment in their field of interest that provides a livable wage. AWD are often reliant on others to navigate the ins and outs of daily living successfully. Through training, mentoring/coaching, and technology, ITEM gives AWD and employers the tools (in-person, on the job supports and mobile app) to manage situations as they arise, increasing success on the job, their independence and the likelihood of retaining employment. Specific goals to be achieved by ITEM include employment readiness training, employer training, and feedback collection on technology support.

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

Individualized, career coaching provides training around the skills necessary to secure and maintain gainful employment. Training areas include social and self-advocacy skills and employment readiness; Preparing participants for employment with field-specific work experiences; Facilitating access for employers to technology and to practice interviews through simulations, learn about employment readiness, develop social skills with online learning, and provide independent living support; Coaching on the job, which provides real time data, not projected, or simulated results in each participant's progress; Conducting satisfaction surveys, and organizing focus groups and interviews to enhance the support provided.

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

1. Technology that includes programming for AWDs including -Vi-ready, EduEx and DMF Coach.
2. Coach/Mentoring: Job coaching, On-the-job training to prepare adults with autism and differing abilities for gainful employment, social competence, and independent living through individualized mentoring.
3. Employment: Extended support for interview practice and employment readiness preparation.
4. Training for employers using mobile applications for recognizing and communicating with AWD.

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

51-100 ready to work or underemployed Florida adult residents with a diagnosed disability.

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

State wide benefits include: Offers a model enhancing delivery of service, addressing the needs of Floridians, leading to increased employment outcomes for non traditional learners; Lessens reliance on government benefits, such as SSI, through employment leading to greater independence; Isolation, depression, stress, mental health issues, and the associated treatment costs may be reduced through successful employment and individuals integration into the community; Best-practice models for instruction in technology, employment, and financial literacy shared state wide through the online platform; Add consumers that support local economies; Increase the number of qualified people to the workforce promoting an inclusive community.

##### 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?

Possible future funding adjustment.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name  Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information

- a. Organization



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**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**

**17. Lobbyist Contact Information**

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**