



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1820

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Okaloosa County does not currently have a special needs inclusive park. The County proposed to partner with either the City of Niceville or the City of Crestview to design and construct a special needs ball field and park. Existing parks and playgrounds in Okaloosa County have historically been designed with able-bodied children in mind. All-encompassing play environments allow people of all ages and abilities to develop independence, feel included and smart while contributing to meaningful play experiences. Inclusive play promotes understanding, reduces prejudices and supports social integration. Inclusive parks can promote healthy, active lifestyles, incorporate the whole community, and help develop sensory and cognitive skills for individuals with special needs.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

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)	1,500,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,500,000	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.**
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10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**



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

Okaloosa County BCC has expended approximately \$37 million in federal assistance for a variety of costs as a result of COVID. Okaloosa County is also receiving \$40 million in ARPA funding for a variety of projects.

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.

Local Government - Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners

13. 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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	All funds would be utilized for contract costs for planning, design and construction.	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

14. Program Performance

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

Funds awarded would be used to develop a special needs ball field and inclusive park for residents of Okaloosa County.

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



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Funds awarded would be used to develop a special needs ball field and inclusive park for residents of Okaloosa County. Once constructed, Okaloosa County would assume responsibility for funding ongoing operations and maintenance.

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

Existing parks and playgrounds in Okaloosa County have historically been designed with able-bodied children in mind. All-encompassing play environments allow people of all ages and abilities to develop independence, feel included and smart while contributing to meaningful play experiences. Inclusive play promotes understanding, reduces prejudices and supports social integration. Inclusive parks can promote healthy, active lifestyles, incorporate the whole community, and help develop sensory and cognitive skills for individuals with special needs.

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

We estimate that approximately 100 individuals may be served by the special needs ball field through the establishment of a Miracle League or similar program. The park will be open to users of all abilities and may serve thousands of Okaloosa County residents and visitors.

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

The expected benefit is to provide a public facility that can be used by Okaloosa County residents and visitors. Outcomes that may be measured included: use of the special needs ball field (practices, games, play) and annual count of visitors to the special needs ball field and park.

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?

Standard contract penalties and/or revocation of grant funds to be considered for failing to meet deliverables or performance standards.

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

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)



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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