



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2024

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Happy Brew is a non-profit coffee shop that provides employment and vocational training for teenagers and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) as they work alongside nondisabled peers. The vocational training program is customized to the needs of participants, so they can reach their full potential of obtaining competitive employment, thereby reducing reliance on government assistance. Additionally, Happy Brew partners with special needs schools and nonprofit organizations to serve as a site for instructors to bring students for on-the-job training. Happy Brew is the gold standard for accessibility, exceeding ADA compliance requirements for employees and customers. The universal design is applied to large-scale building features such as automatic doorways, low counter tops, and navigable spaces for wheelchair users down to the smallest details, including mugs with large handles for those with dexterity impairments.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
Total State Funds Requested	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)	500,000	25%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,500,000	75%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	2,000,000	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? No

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?

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

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.

Southside United Methodist Church (SUMC) owns the building that Happy Brew occupies. SUMC and Happy Brew have a legally-binding contract outlining the term of the lease. SUMC is leasing the space at no charge to Happy Brew from Jan 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2024. Beginning Jan1, 2025, Happy Brew will lease the space for \$500 monthly. Happy Brew is the sole beneficiary of the appropriations for capital outlay and renovation expenses. SUMC will receive \$0 of the fixed capital outlay funding.

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:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	The requested appropriations will complete Happy Brew's capital campaign to fund phase 2 of the project - renovating the empty, demoed building into a fully operational, ADA compliant, universally designed café for employees and customers. This includes framing, plumbing, air conditioning, roofing, electrical, flooring, etc. Happy Brew has not incurred any expenses for engineering, land planning, zoning and architecture as these services have been donated.	500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

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

The requested appropriations will fund phase 2 of construction, transforming the demoed space into a fully operational, universally-designed cafe that exceeds ADA requirements for employees and customers. Once the building is complete, Happy Brew will employ and provide vocational training and internship opportunities for teenagers and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Participants will gain on-the-job experience and skills needed to obtain competitive employment, thereby reducing reliance on government assistance.

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

Stage 2 construction will begin.

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

Over 80% of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are unemployed despite their ability and desire to work in the community. Happy Brew will serve these citizens through competitive employment, internships, and a vocational training program managed by an on-staff licensed occupational therapist (OT). Happy Brew's OT will develop individualized plans for participants with IDD. The OT will link program graduates with Vocational Rehabilitation and non-profit partners to obtain continued coaching and placement for competitive, community-based employment. Many successful interns will be offered part-time positions at Happy Brew at a competitive wage. Additionally, Happy Brew will partner with local special needs schools and nonprofit organizations to serve as a job site where instructors can bring students for on-the-job training.

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

Happy Brew will serve teenagers and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We anticipate hiring 15 part-time employees with IDD, graduating 10 individuals with IDD from our vocational training program, and serving as a job site for 15 individuals with IDD through collaboration with special needs schools and non-profit community partners.

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

With over 80% of individuals with IDD unemployed nationwide, Happy Brew intends to make a difference locally by providing employment and vocational training so these individuals can achieve competitive employment. The methodology by which program success will be measured includes knowledge/skill gains as documented by pre and post-test data for each vocational training participant, as well as quarterly reviews for Happy Brew employees. Data will document the growth in soft job skills, such as customer service and problem-solving, and hard job skills related to the restaurant industry. Additionally, Happy Brew will document the number of vocational training graduates who gain competitive, community-based employment and track job retention at 1-month, 3-month, and 6-month benchmarks.

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 are sufficient.



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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)

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