The Florida Senate
Local Funding Initiative Request
Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2673

1. Project Title Northeast Florida 21st Century Workforce Development

2. Senate Sponsor Jennifer Bradley

3. Date of Request 02/09/2023

4. Project/Program Description

The purpose of this project is to increase access to educational programs to build interest and prerequisite skills for high-demand STEM careers in the 7-county Northeast Florida region. Workforce ready students must have skills that include computer science, coding, math & data science, the roots of AI and machine learning - critical technologies that are rapidly changing the workplace. Programs will be framed to include an aligned progression to build skills over time, with alignment to state standards for ease of integration into the school day, and provide professional development for those leading programs and implementing curricula in schools, with a continued focus on scaling through capacity building models. Through this project, targeted students will participate in competitive programs such as robotics, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data science and drones, aerospace, and space. Collaboration with our corporate community to align with high demand careers.

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	975,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	**975,000**

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)	975,000	65%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	520,000	35%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	**1,495,000**	**100%**

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	975,000	104	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 975,000

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

We fund administrative and some programmatic costs through corporate and philanthropic donations. We would continue to apply for private funds, but the work would not continue at the rate it has without state funding.

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.

Payroll Protect (PPP) in the amount of $13,477 during the first round of funding.

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
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	Curriculum and material to support programs, both in and out of school, such as robotics, computer science, 3D printing, cybersecurity, drone competitions, arduino and breadboards, IoT, augmented and mixed reality, artificial intelligence, aerospace, space, advanced manufacturing, automated logistics, math and science manipulatives and other materials and on-line resources needed to prepare students for careers in emerging career fields. Travel to student competitions, registration.	675,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services for program support training, and professional development for teachers and program providers in targeted STEM+C fields, such as robotics, coding, computer science, cybersecurity, drone technology, data analytics, mathematics content, artificial intelligence, machine learning, aerosspace/space, data science and other emerging career pathways.	300,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		

Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		**975,000**

14. Program Performance

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

The overarching goal of this project is to assure that all students in our region, especially those traditionally underrepresented, including girls, have access to aligned programs and experiences that will build both awareness of and preparedness for the opportunities that exist for the high demand STEM+C jobs of the future. Technology and automation are rapidly changing the needs of the workforce and the future of jobs.

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

Activities will include increased availability to computer science classes, clubs, and competitions, robotics and math competitions, content professional development for educators, summer STEM camps, and afterschool programs. Activities will increase student exposure to cutting edge technologies, such as drones, 3D printing, as well as augmented and virtual reality for applications in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and big data. All activities will be designed to increase student engagement in STEM while exploring careers and while building skills and content. All of the work of this project is purposefully designed to improve quality of delivery, in both formal and informal settings through development of increased content knowledge in the key areas of mathematics and data science, computer science, and science/STEM.

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

The direct services provided by this project will engage students in programs and activities that will provide them with a pathway to a prosperous economic future for themselves and our community. This will occur through activities that will increase access to relevant career skills and experiences with technologies, to more highly trained teachers with specialized STEM skills, and with access to technologies that would not be available to them without this project. Students will have access to leadership development opportunities in STEM and access to skill development, competitions, clubs, and courses to prepare them for the jobs of the future.

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

The targeted population served by this project includes K12 students served in public and charter schools in the 7-county NE Florida region, by working directly with schools and districts, as well as out of school youth serving organizations, with a specific focus on increasing access for those underrepresented in tech careers, such as women and people of color. Specific focus is placed on students who are at risk due to socioeconomic disadvantages, those attending under-performing schools, those living in poverty, and those who have reduced access to pathways due to rural geographic considerations. We anticipate reaching over 150,000 individuals, directly in our region and through scaling our programs.

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

The expected benefits and outcomes of this project include significant increases in exposure and participation by students from underrepresented populations in programs that lead to high-demand careers across the STEM fields. Through these exposures and experiences, the expected outcome is increased likelihood that schools will add more STEM and computer science classes to the schedule as demand increases, and students will enroll in additional STEM and computer science courses, and increased disposition towards selecting a STEM career. We will measure success through the administration of participant surveys, monitoring of program enrollment and engagement by subgroups, and growth in standardized assessments, where applicable, including participation and proficiency in the advanced placement computer science programs, FSA scores, pre/post assessments, and will use validated instruments, where available, to measure gains in the affective domain.

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?

Should we fail to meet our deliverables or performance measures, we should be given notice and the opportunity to come into compliance. Should we fail to address the concerns, funding should be withheld until a time that the project is in compliance with the requirements.

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15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Kathleen **Last Name** Schofield

b. Organization Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub, Inc.

c. E-mail Address Kathleen@stem2hub.org

d. Phone Number (904)502-0958 **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub, Inc.

b. Municipality and County Statewide

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 Kathleen **Last Name** Schofield

e. E-mail Address kathleen@stem2hub.org

f. Phone Number (904)502-0958

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name None

b. Firm Name None

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number