



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2976

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds provided will allow Learning Ally to pilot the deployment of a literacy screener that has been localized and made specific to Florida's state standards for education. The screener will allow teachers to deliver precision instruction to students based on their learning profile. Use of the screener will help to limit the number of students who end up in special education by identifying early, the need for interventions, thereby making proficient readers and potentially eliminating struggles from dyslexia.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  Yes

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

| Type of Funding                    | Amount           |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operations                         | 1,500,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0                |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>1,500,000</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)       | 1,500,000         | 5%          |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                   |             |
| Federal  | 0                 | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                 | 0%          |
| Local  | 0                 | 0%          |
| Other  | 30,000,000        | 95%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b> | <b>31,500,000</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               | 0         | 1,500,000    | 101                      | No     |

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?  Yes

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?

Yes



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

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

## 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                    | 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           |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>  |  |                  |
| 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          |
| <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>1,500,000</b> |



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#### 14. Program Performance

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

The specific purpose for the funding is to pilot the deployment of a literacy screener that has been localized and made specific to Florida's state standards for education. 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 making proficient readers, potentially eliminating struggles from dyslexia.

**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 have been localizing the Reach Every Reader K-3 screening assessment to identify children who are potentially at risk for moderate to severe word-level problems who are in need of early intervention. The second phase of the project entails piloting the screener in key districts, preparing to go statewide.

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

a) Assessments are 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?**

Students in grades K-3 in selected pilot locations.

**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-2, along with a supporting instructional program on how educators adjust their instruction based on results. To measure outcomes, 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 considerations as well as the process of assessment that is important to the state to consider in validating the assessment (e.g., including code, language, RAN, and other possible types of assessments).

**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.

#### 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**



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- 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**