



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3122

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

4. Project/Program Description

This program aims to build and launch an early childhood learning center that caters to children aged between 8 weeks and 2 years. The center focuses on milestone and routine-based learning that encourages natural play and classically guided exploration. The learning center will offer outdoor time, classical and lullaby music, and classical Christian-based development, which will enrich children's learning experience. The center will be open year-round and offer parents 2, 3, and 5-day options. The center will operate from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm, making it convenient for working parents. The ultimate goal of this project is to provide a quality early childhood learning experience to families of large employers in the Polk County community. The learning center will increase the attractiveness of Polk County and help employers recruit higher-quality talent.

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	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	4,000,000

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)	4,000,000	57%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	3,000,000	43%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	7,000,000	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.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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Yes

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

We received \$29,713,739 of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds. SEU used \$12,899,701 directly to students while \$16,814,038 was used to write off student accounts, pay for pandemic related health, safety and security needs, and as lost revenue.

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.

The University will engage in an arms-length transaction to purchase the property where the project will be located. Currently, the University leases parking from the church, which is the the only relationship the University has with the current owners of the property.

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	Purchase of facilities to be renovated into early childcare center.	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The specific purpose of the funds will be to purchase and renovate a facility to launch an early childhood center to service families of large employers within Polk County. The specific goal of this project is to increase the attractiveness of Polk county for high-skill, high-wage families by providing a quality, and specifically a conservative and classically based, early childhood learning experience.

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

The university will raise an additional \$3,000,000 in funds to complete the purchase and renovation of a facility to launch the early childhood center. The University will also cover the operational costs of the early childcare center during its start-up until it reaches financial sustainability. The university will provide highly-trained childcare professionals from its pool of students participating in its classical education degree programs.

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

The direct services we will provide with these funds include year-round childcare with flexible options of 2, 3, and 5 day programs during working hours from 8am-5:30pm. Our center will employ experienced and qualified staff who will provide a nurturing and safe environment for children to learn and grow. In addition to childcare, our center will offer early classically-based education programs that will prepare children for success in school and in life. These programs will focus on developing skills in language, math, science, socialization, and emotional regulation. We will also offer parent education and support services that will provide resources and guidance to parents on navigating parenting challenges and work-life balance. This will include access to workshops, seminars, and individual consultations with parenting experts.

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

Our program will target families of large employers in Polk County who have children ages 8 weeks to 2 years old. With the capacity to service 115 students, our child care center has the potential to impact 250-500 individuals within the county.

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

There will be two outcomes measured by this project. First is enrollment in to the childcare center, with a target enrollment of 115 students by the fall of 2025. The second outcome will be readiness for primary school. The goal of the childcare center will be to prepare pre-school aged children for continuing education through the utilization of classical philosophy. This philosophy has proven benefits in building knowledge, confidence, and character in young children. Our classical preschool education program will provide a foundation for a complete, well-rounded education. This will include mastery of core knowledge of preschool scopes of learning. The student's readiness will be assessed by an internally-developed assessment for measuring student achievement.

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 the university fail to raise the needed funds by the targeted break-ground date of august 2024, the University will return the appropriated funds to the state of Florida.

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



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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