



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1546

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

4. Project/Program Description

his request is intended to help fund the Neurodiverse Jobs Program and cover associated transportation costs so that we can implement Professional Development Plans, source job opportunities, provide job-specific training, and provide ongoing support for up to 50 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

In addition, we will introduce Rise Up Cafe Coffee Carts in local high schools. These micro-businesses are designed to provide job skills training and on-the-job experience for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Just as importantly, this program will promote the inclusion and integration of an often isolated and excluded population fostering friendships, breaking down social barriers, and providing the dignity, pride, and empowerment of having a job.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	325,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	325,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	325,000	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 2025-2026	325,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year 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.
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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

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?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. 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.

12. 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	Job Skills Training in workshop settings to include interactive materials for hands-on job skills training sessions with facilitators. On-site travel and immersive experiences at work-place sites, including program supplies and materials.	50,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Program director and staff to execute the job skills training and workplace support programs.	175,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Transportation for participants with intellectual and developmental disabilities - \$50,000; School Coffee Carts (pilot program in two Sarasota County schools - carts, supplies, training for school staff and participants) \$25,000. Scholarships for students ranging from \$2,000 \$15,000 each for a total of \$300,000, Training & Systems at \$100,000; Software Application for students to provide a communication platform with mentors and career exploration - \$250,000; Paid Internships for 50+ students	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Marketing to promote successes, raise awareness, and encourage other businesses to participate in these empowering programs for adults and students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	25,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		325,000



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13. Program Performance

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

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) will have the necessary skills and opportunity to work in community integrated jobs.

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

Businesses and public entities (Sarasota County, City of Sarasota, Manatee County, etc.) will be educated by our team on the value of hiring people with IDD. We will provide the job skills training to properly prepare program participants for specific jobs.

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

We will match skilled and qualified people with IDD (we will provide the job-specific training) with businesses and public entities seeking enthusiastic and dedicated employees. We develop partnerships with employers, provide job-specific training, assist in the hiring process, and provide ongoing support to the employer and employee to help ensure success.

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

We serve and champion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We plan to enroll 50 adults with IDD in the jobs program and 25 high school students with IDD in the Coffee Cart program.

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

We will help businesses and public entities realize the value of hiring people with IDD, and in turn assist people with IDD attain successful, secure jobs with these businesses and public entities. We will measure our success by how many participants we place in jobs.

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 in the contract?

If we fail to meet our expected outcomes, then we suggest that funding not be considered for the next funding cycle.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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 **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.