



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2141

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The USF Eileen Hoffman Hafer UMatter program is a program designed to provide young adults with an intellectual disability the opportunity to participate in higher education and campus life. Upon successful completion, students will obtain an employment readiness certificate from UMatter with the goal of competitive integrated employment. These funds will help expand enrollment in the program and allow for additional resources, infrastructure, and staff to better serve all the students.

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	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>

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)	3,000,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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?  No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Accessibility and mobility equipment, resources for a professional development library, pods for a flexible and enhanced learning environment, expenses to integrate the program and its participants more closely into campus life with shared student experiences, and other expenses to improve the program's outcomes and general campus environment.	2,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construct collaborative study spaces for students' academic needs and a test kitchen for job training, as well as other associated spaces and improvements to increase the program's enrollment, outcomes, campus life integration and improving the campus' overall welcoming and supportive environment.	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>3,000,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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These funds will help expand enrollment in the U Matter program and allow for additional resources, infrastructure, and staff to better serve all the students.

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

The U Matter program provides students with intellectual disabilities an accessible university experience in a postsecondary setting, allowing them to explore careers, engage in work-based learning experiences, and live independently leading to competitive, integrated employment and self-sufficiency. Program expansion will allow additional students to participate & receive an enriched experience.

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

Students in the U Matter program continue their education in a postsecondary setting, participating in campus life through various activities, including auditing college courses, joining and participating in student organizations, completing internships, applying for jobs and obtaining competitive employment. The funds will allow the program to enhance that campus experience and expand enrollment.

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

Developmentally disabled, physically disabled and university students. <200 served.

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

Students in the U Matter program may have the option to live on campus with support from residential coaches, which is a unique opportunity that less than half of the inclusive postsecondary programs in the state of Florida offer to program participants. Number of enrolled students in an expanded model and additional services made available to these students. In two years, U Matter students will complete their program of study by earning an Employment Readiness Certificate from the U Matter program and Micro-Badges from USF based upon their individualized career goals and program of study. The Employment Readiness Badge addresses eight essential skills employers look for when hiring interns or new employees. Increased number of students that complete the two-year program and receive their Employment Readiness Certificate.

**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?**

Statute and BOG Regulations provide specific penalties for non-compliance by state universities.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?  No

**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



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

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.



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#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

- 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.*