



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2379

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

4. Project/Program Description

Best Buddies is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This project will provide services to place 50 adults with IDD in jobs, deliver 20 trainings on hiring people with disabilities to potential employers, develop 28 new employer partners across the state, deliver quarterly presentations to vocational rehabilitation offices, and lay the foundation of opening a Project SEARCH site in South Florida. Best Buddies Jobs prioritizes matching a job seeker's interests and abilities with a job of their choosing that pays at or above minimum wage.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

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)	400,000	36%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	350,000	32%
Local	11,075	1%
Other	342,855	31%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,103,930	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	400,000	90	No

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

In lieu of state funding, Best Buddies would have to reduce the scale of the project scope and raise funds through a combination of private dollars generated through individual giving, and foundations grants.



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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	\$20,000 in nonrecurring funds: Funds for Best Buddies International to oversee the administrative & management needs of state offices. Approximately 53% website, database maintenance, development & training;16% accounting;15% HR/legal;8% IT;8% executive oversight of programming.	20,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	\$374,676 in nonrecurring funds: 3.8 FTE Employment Consultants/Managers, Work-Based Learning; 0.8 FTE Directors, Jobs; 0.4 FTE Supervisor, Jobs, 0.8 FTE Deputy Directors, Jobs; FICA, Group Health, Unemployment, Workers Comp, Retirement/Other Benefits, calculated at 22.86% of salaries.	374,676
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$5,342 in nonrecurring Funds: Equipment, Leadership Conference (and associated materials/supplies), Telecommunications.	5,324
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		400,000

13. Program Performance

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



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This funding will prepare adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for competitive integrated employment. The funds will be used to educate employers on the benefits of employing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and place individuals with disabilities in jobs that pay at or above minimum wage.

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

Best Buddies will provide services to place 50 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in jobs, deliver 20 trainings on hiring people with disabilities to potential employers, and develop 28 new employer partners across the state, present quarterly to local vocational rehabilitative offices, and will set the foundation for opening an additional Project SEARCH site in South Florida.

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

The direct services provided are characterized by individualized support to prepare participants for employment, job coaching after placement, and follow along services to ensure long-term success in the workplace.

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

The target population for this project is individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities seeking employment. This project will serve 50 individuals with disabilities, age 18 and over.

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

This project will prepare individuals with IDD for work, and will place them in jobs. As a result, individuals with IDD will be increasingly integrated into the workforce. Participants in the following counties will be served: Broward, Clay, Duval, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Miami-Dade, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Seminole, and St. Johns. Project outcomes will be measured using data and progress reports from Set-Works, a case management system, and an annual survey of participants, caregivers, and employers.

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?

Financial consequences for each missed deliverable per quarter: \$250 per missed training; \$50 per missed job placement in quarter one, \$250 per missed training; \$50 per missed job placement in quarter two, \$250 per missed training; \$50 per missed job placement in quarter three, and \$250 per missed training; \$50 per missed job placement in quarter four.

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.