



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3477

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Infinite Spectrum Foundation is dedicated to fostering an inclusive society for the approximately 1 in 36 individuals diagnosed with autism in Florida, with an average diagnosis age of 4 years old, according to the CDC. Autism impacts individuals from all backgrounds, and with the CDC estimating that 1 in 6 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with some form of developmental disability, the need for specialized support and resources is critical. To address this, Infinite Spectrum Foundation offers programs designed to equip children and teens with disabilities with essential job related skills such as marketing, business ownership, empowering them for future success in the job market while providing families with training to help their children navigate employment opportunities.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>250,000</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)	250,000	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>250,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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		

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.

Private funding resources such as grants, special events and individual contributions.



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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
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The requested funds will support the executive director and project head, who will oversee critical administrative functions for the initiative. This includes the distribution of program materials to the local community, processing and reviewing participant applications, and ensuring that all instructors are certified to work with individuals on the autism spectrum.	50,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries will cover the cost of one licensed para for each program which will assist with students' mental needs. This will also support the salaries of One administrative/Operations staff, one CPA/Bookkeeper, and one Community outreach Manager between \$15- \$20 per hour depending on skills and position.	130,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Brochures, flyers, and marketing materials will promote the programs and attract participants, while also covering application processing costs and travel expenses for consultants.	27,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Four business professional consultants/trainers specializing in disability disorder will provide an 8 week training for the participants of the program. Each program will be quarterly. They will conduct separate training sessions and be available to support staff and participants needs during all programs.	43,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>	<b>250,000</b>
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**13. Program Performance**

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

The funds requested will support five 8-week programs aimed at equipping children and teens with disabilities, particularly those on the autism spectrum, with essential skills for future employment opportunities. The programs will focus on developing social skills, fostering independence, and encouraging both personal and professional growth. These initiatives will help participants gain valuable experience and certifications, boosting their confidence and preparing them for the job market.

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

The funds will support a variety of activities and services across six programs: the Spectrum Marketing & Storytelling Workshop, Spectrum Support, Spectrum Content Creation Academy, Spectrum Support and Spectrum STEM & Robotics Lab. Each program will offer hands-on training in specialized fields such as marketing, storytelling, content creation, and STEM, while also enhancing social skills and fostering independence. Participants will receive professional instruction, access to necessary materials and equipment, and the opportunity to earn certifications that will help them in future employment.

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

The project will provide direct services to participants, their families, and partnering businesses. Participants will receive hands-on training in various fields. Families will benefit from support training to help their children navigate future employment opportunities, while businesses partnering with the program will receive training on how to create inclusive work environments for individuals with disabilities. This comprehensive approach ensures that all stakeholders are equipped to support the personal and professional growth of participants.

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

The target population for this project includes children and teens with disabilities, particularly those on the autism spectrum, along with their families and local businesses. Each program will serve 10 individuals per session, and with five programs, we expect to serve 50 participants in total. Additionally, we will partner with 4 businesses to provide training and support for creating inclusive work environments.

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

The expected benefit of this project is to improve the employability, social skills, and independence of children and teens with disabilities, while equipping families to support their children's future employment and helping businesses create inclusive environments. Outcomes will be measured through several specific methods:  
 Pre- and Post-Program Skills Assessment: Measures participants' knowledge and skills in areas such as marketing, storytelling, content creation, STEM, and social skills before and after the program.  
 Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS-2) to evaluate social functioning and improvements in social skills for individuals on the autism spectrum.  
 Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales (Vineland-3) to measure social and personal skills to track participants growth in communication, daily living skills, and socialization.  
 Employment Readiness Assessment (Work Readiness Scale) for older participants to assess job market skills such as resume building, interviewing, and workplace

**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?**

Funding will cease and funds will remain with the state agency.

**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)



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- 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#:**

**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**



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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  Ext.

#### 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.*