

The Florida House of Representatives
Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23
For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14

1. Title of Project: Endeavor Forward, Inc. NextStep Academy Autism Vocational Transition Program
2. Date of Submission: 11/14/2021
3. House Member Sponsor: Brad Drake

4. Details of Amount Requested:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request.

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2021-22 <i>(If appropriated in 2021-22 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2022-23 <i>(Requests for additional RECURRING funds are prohibited.)</i>		
Column:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated	Recurring Base Budget	Additional Nonrecurring Request	TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds
Input Amounts:					400,000	400,000

- e. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2022-23 from all sources of funding (Enter "0" if amount is zero):

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent of Total	Are the other sources of funds guaranteed in writing?
1. Amount Requested from the State in this Appropriations Project Request	400,000	73.0%	N/A
2. Federal	0	0.0%	No
3. State (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column F)	122,500	22.4%	Yes
4. Local	25,200	4.6%	Yes

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5. Other	0	0.0%	No
TOTAL	547,700	100%	

5. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

Yes

a. How much state funding would be requested after 2022-23 over the next 5 years?

- <1M
- 1-3M
- >3-10M
- >10M

b. How many additional years of state support do you expect to need for this project?

- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- >= 5 years

c. What is the total project cost for all years including all federal, local, state, and any other funds? Select the single answer which best describes the total project cost. If funds requested are for ongoing services or for recurring activities, select “ongoing activity”.

- Ongoing activity – no total cost
- <1M
- 1-3M
- >3-10M
- >10M

6. Which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue requested? Department of Education

a. Has the appropriate state agency for administering the funding, if the request were appropriated, been contacted? Yes

b. Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated.

If deliverables or performance measures are not met the funding will be returned to the state.

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7. Requester:

- a. Name: Syntha Alvarez
- b. Organization: Endeavor Forward, Inc.
- c. Email: alvarez_mclure@yahoo.com
- d. Phone #: (850)557-7146

8. Contact for questions about specific technical or financial details about the project.

- a. Name: Tammy Dasher
- b. Organization: NextStep at Endeavor Academy
- c. Email: tdasher@nextstepatendeavor.org
- d. Phone #: (850)718-8925

9. Registered lobbyist working to secure funding for this project.

- a. Name: Marti Coley
- b. Firm: PinPoint Results LLC
- c. Email: marti@pinpointresults.com
- d. Phone #: (850)209-0069

10. Organization or Name of entity receiving funds:

- a. Name: Endeavor Forward, Inc.
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended): Jackson
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding): Statewide

11. What type of organization is the entity that will receive the funds?

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government
- University or College
- Other (Please describe)

12. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds being requested?

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Our goal is to build an inclusive community where the benefits of educating and employing individuals with autism are broadly understood, supported, and valued while bringing new life and opportunities to an important local historic site. Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will be given the curriculum, services, and supports needed to complete intensive learning experiences to increase their ability to maintain competitive employment and live independently.

13. Provide specific details on how funds will be spent. (Select all that apply)

Spending Category	Description	Amount Requested (Should equal 4d, Col. E) Enter "0" if request is zero for the category
Administrative Costs:		
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e. Salaries and Benefits	Program Director (\$75,000-with benefits \$97,500) Office Coordinator (\$38,000-with benefits \$49,400) Instructor (\$45,000-with benefits \$58,500) and Coach (\$40,000-with benefits \$52,000) Transportation/Maintenance (\$40,000-with benefits \$52,000)	309,400
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> f. Expenses/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Assessment materials and evaluation protocols—ABAS-3,	6,808

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	BRIEF-2, SRS-2 (\$308/year) Learn4Independence curriculum (\$5,000/year) Catalyst ABA Data Collection software to collect data, measure progress toward goals, and inform instruction (5 licenses=\$1,500/year)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted services for job coaches, Registered Behavior Technicians, and speech and language clinicians to provide assessments, data collection, evaluation, coaching, and instruction in both the job and independent living settings	83,792
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
<input type="checkbox"/> h. Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
TOTAL		400,000

14. For Fixed Capital Costs requested in Question 13, what type of ownership will the facility be under when complete?

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government (e.g., police, fire or local government buildings, local roads, etc.)
- State agency owned facility (For example: college or university facility, buildings for public schools, roads in the state transportation system, etc.)
- Other (Please describe)

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15. Is the project request an information technology project?

No

16. Is there any documented show of support for the requested project in the community including public hearings, letters of support, major organizational backing, or other expressions of support?

Yes

a. Please Describe:

Discovery sessions were held with community stakeholders to gauge their support. Engaged community partners include the Chamber of Commerce, Chipola College, CareerSource Chipola, Catalyst Fabric Solutions, Lowe's, Family Dollar, and Florida State University's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities.

17. Has the need for the funds been documented by a study, completed by an independent 3rd party, for the area to be served?

Yes

a. Please Describe:

The need for services among adults with ASD is well documented, with Florida home to the third-largest population of adults with ASD in the nation. The Centers for Disease Control (2017), Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (Chalkbeat, May 2021; Very Well Health, February 2021).

18. Will the requested funds be used directly for services to citizens?

Yes

a. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the purpose of the funds?

Direct instruction in Learn4Independence coursework, applied learning in job settings (volunteer, paid and unpaid internships, competitive employment, self-employment), direct instruction in independent living skills, and applied learning through the residential component of NextStep at Endeavor Academy. Summer programs for targeted groups within the ASD population (high school students, women).

b. Describe the direct services to be provided to the citizens by the funding requested.

Direct instruction in both a classroom and natural (applied) setting, job coaching, help with identifying and accessing natural supports at work and in the community. Assessment, targeted goals (employment, social, communication, independent living), maintenance/follow-up checks to measure long-term progress after completing the program.

c. Describe the target population to be served (i.e., "the majority of the funds requested will serve these target populations or groups"). Select all that apply to the target population:

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- Elderly persons
- Persons with poor mental health
- Persons with poor physical health
- Jobless persons
- Economically disadvantaged persons
- At-risk youth
- Homeless
- Developmentally disabled
- Physically disabled
- Drug users (in health services)
- Preschool students
- Grade school students
- High school students
- University/college students
- Currently or formerly incarcerated persons
- Drug offenders (in criminal Justice)
- Victims of crime
- General (The majority of the funds will benefit no specific group)
- Other (Please describe)

d. How many in the target population are expected to be served?

- < 25
- 25-50
- 51-100
- 101-200
- 201-400
- 401-800
- >800

19. What benefits or outcomes will be realized by the expenditure of funds requested? (Select each Benefit/Outcome that applies)

Benefit or Outcome	Provide a specific measure of the benefit or outcome	Describe the method for measuring level of benefit or outcome

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve physical health	Participants enrolled in NextStep will complete the Learn4Independence coursework (a comprehensive 32-course curriculum focusing on employment and life skills). One of the curriculum modules focuses on improving and maintaining one's physical health.	Outcomes will be measured by completed coursework assignments showing mastery of each lesson's objectives. Outcomes will also be measured in natural (applied) settings where health and wellness activities take place. Pre/post test data will be gathered at the beginning/end of the program and each semester. Data will also be collected on individualized goals for each participant's specific needs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health		
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve agricultural production/promotion/education		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve quality of education	Participants enrolled in NextStep will complete the Learn4Independence coursework (a comprehensive 32-course curriculum focusing on employment and life skills). Each course has 17 modules in the areas of work, finances, safety, relationships, nutrition, identity, community, health, solutions, etiquette, transportation, and	Outcomes will be measured by completed coursework assignments showing mastery of each lesson's objectives. Outcomes will also be measured in natural (applied) settings at work, home, and in the community. Pre/post-test data will be gathered at the beginning/end of the program and also each semester. Data will

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	living independently.	also be collected on individualized goals for each participant according to their needs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve transportation conditions		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase or improve economic activity	All participants enrolled in NextStep will receive placement and support in an employment setting. Partners in the business community will benefit by growing their workforce in an inclusive model that recognizes the strengths of welcoming neurodiverse individuals to the team of employees. Individuals hired through this program will be earning money to spend locally.	Outcomes will be measured by the number of participants maintaining employment throughout their enrollment at NextStep. In addition, volunteer work/unpaid internships, paid internships, and self-employment will all be considered positive outcomes for this program as important steps to economic self-sufficiency. The number of participating business partners will also be an indicator of growth.
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase tourism		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create specific immediate job opportunities	All participants enrolled in NextStep will receive placement and support in an employment setting. Each participant will experience one or more of the	Outcomes will be measured in the number of participants maintaining competitive employment throughout their enrollment at NextStep. In

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	following: volunteer work, unpaid internship, paid internship, competitive employment, or self-employment.	addition, volunteer work/unpaid internships, paid internships, self-employment, and employment in their degree field will all be considered positive outcomes for this program. Maintenance checks will be conducted after graduation to monitor progress.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency	The main objective for NextStep is to provide instruction and supports during the two-year program so adults with ASD can live independently when they graduate. Economic self-sufficiency will be addressed continuously in the program in both the classroom and in their work experience (volunteer, unpaid/paid internship, competitive employment, or self-employment.)	Outcomes will be measured through participant mastery of the coursework modules related to finances, employment, and living independently. Outcomes will also be measured in the number of participants maintaining competitive employment throughout their enrollment at NextStep and during planned maintenance checks after graduation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce recidivism		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce substance abuse		
<input type="checkbox"/> Divert from Criminal/Juvenile justice system		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve wastewater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve stormwater management		

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<input type="checkbox"/> Improve groundwater quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve drinking water quality		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve surface water quality		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe): Enhance individuals' opportunities for living independently	<p>The main objective for NextStep is to provide instruction and supports so adults with ASD can live independently after they complete the program. Participants will receive direct instruction on daily living skills in NextStep's model apartment, and they will apply those skills as they live in their own apartment/home during the two-year program</p>	<p>Outcomes will be measured by participant mastery of the coursework modules related to independent living. Outcomes will also be measured in the number of students living independently (or with roommates who are not caregivers) during their enrollment at NextStep. Maintenance checks are also planned after participants graduate to measure continuing progress.</p>