



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1081

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, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This project creates, strengthens, and maintains 170 middle and high school-based chapters of Best Buddies across the state. Together, these chapters will create 2,270 one-to-one, peer-mentoring friendships between students with disabilities and their typical peers and deliver school and community-based activities, including leadership training, under the guidance of Best Buddies staff. These activities will help create more inclusive school communities by increasing meaningful interactions between students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their typical peers, helping students with and without disabilities build social and leadership skills for college and career readiness.

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

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	350,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>350,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	350,000	15%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	70,100	3%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	124,000	5%
Other	1,867,665	77%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>2,411,765</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	700,000	350,000	91	No

9. **Is future 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.**

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1081

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Best Buddies in Florida received \$303,741.60 in federal assistance that covered operating costs as revenue declined due to the cancellation of in-person fundraisers during the pandemic.

## Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

Planning   
  Design   
  Construction

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?

12. 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.

13. 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	\$56,000 in Recurring Funds: These funds are used by Best Buddies International to oversee the administrative and management needs of our state offices. The allocation for funds is approximately: Professional Services - 53% includes BB website and database maintenance, state development, education and training etc; Accounting - 16%; HR/Legal - 15%; IT - 8%; Executive - oversight of programming 8%	28,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	\$580,128 in Recurring Funds: 10 FTE - Program Managers in seven area offices; 3 FTE - Area Directors in seven area offices; 2 FTE - Program and Operations staff; .5 FTE State Director; FICA, Group Health, Unemployment, Workers Comp, Retirement/Other Benefits calculated at 15% of salaries	290,064
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	\$63,705 in Recurring Funds: Staff Training, Staff Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Training Day, Equipment, Fixed Assets, Evaluation, Office Space/Utilities, Delivery, Postage, Copies/Printing, Supplies, Best Buddies Online, Memberships, Telephone	31,853



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1081

Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	\$167 in Recurring Funds: Evaluation: Includes cost to perform Annual Survey of students, parents/guardians, and advisors. Includes cost to perform the survey and collect data and fee for third party evaluation, analysis, and report.	83
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>350,000</b>

#### 14. Program Performance

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

Best Buddies helps students acquire the skills they need to be college and career-ready by providing on-campus and off-campus activities that promote socialization between students with disabilities and their typical peers. From this funding, Best Buddies will create opportunities for 2,270 one-to-one matches statewide. Best Buddies will work closely with the 170 middle and high schools representing 24 counties to develop these friendships. Best Buddies supports the state's initiative of providing students with disabilities an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment possible by creating more inclusive school communities and providing students with disabilities the opportunity to develop social and leadership skills alongside their typical peers.

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

Best Buddies offers students with and without disabilities the opportunity to engage in a mutually beneficial peer-mentoring friendship. Our program goals are to develop leadership and social skills among students with and without IDD through these one-to-one friendships along with inclusive activities and leadership training. The one-to-one mentoring model provides opportunities for students with IDD to practice valuable social skills with their typical peers during monthly group activities and weekly contacts with each other. Students in Best Buddies also have the opportunity to engage in group mentoring via the chapter's group activities and meetings for those participants not matched in a one-to-one friendship.

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

Best Buddies offers students with and without disabilities the opportunity to engage in a mutually beneficial peer-mentoring friendship. Our program goals are to develop leadership and social skills among students with and without IDD through these one-to-one friendships along with inclusive activities and leadership training. The one-to-one mentoring model provides opportunities for students with IDD to practice valuable social skills with their typical peers during monthly group activities and weekly contacts with each other. Students in Best Buddies also have the opportunity to engage in group mentoring via the chapter's group activities and meetings for those participants not matched in a one-to-one friendship.

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

Best Buddies provides services to both middle school and high school students around the state of Florida. Students include those with an IDD as well as typical peers. A typical peer (a student without a disability) will be matched in a one-to-one friendship with a student with an intellectual or developmental disability. The typical age of participant ranges from age 10-22 depending on the school system. Best Buddies primarily serves school chapters within the counties surrounding our seven local area offices located in Broward, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Tampa. Best Buddies anticipates serving 6,860 individuals during the FY24 project year.

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



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1081

Through Best Buddies, students will be more socially integrated into their school communities. Eighty-five percent of Best Buddies faculty advisors surveyed will report students with IDD are more socially integrated into the school community. Best Buddies uses multiple methods to assess program performance and implement changes to the program model. Staff use BB360 to track memberships, matches, activities, and meetings and refer to this data to assess progress towards the program objectives stated in the scope of work. Cumulative reports from BB360 are pulled on a monthly basis which reflect the total school-year-to-date numbers for applications, approved memberships, one-to-one matches, activities and meetings. Best Buddies also measures these outcomes through its annual survey, developed and analyzed by Michael Hardman, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and Chief Global Officer, Office for Global Engagement, President's Office, University

**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 the contract?**

Financial consequences for each missed deliverable per quarter: \$500 per missed training and \$250 per member shortfall in Q1; \$25 per mentoring session shortfall, \$50 per shortfall of mentees served, \$500 per missed training in Q2; \$25 per mentoring session shortfall, \$50 per shortfall of mentees served, \$500 per missed training in Q3 and Q4.

**15. Requester Contact Information**

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

**16. 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

**17. Lobbyist Contact Information**

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address



# The Florida Senate Local Funding Initiative Request Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1081

d. Phone Number