

# Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2020-21

## For projects meeting the Definition of House Rule 5.14

1. Title of Project: The Hope Center for Autism, Inc. - Funding for Building
2. Date of Submission: 11/14/2019
3. House Member Sponsor: Toby Overdorf  
Members Copied:

### 4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No  
*If answer to 4a is "No" skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d, Col. E*
- 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 2019-20 <i>(If appropriated in 2019-20 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2020-21 <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  <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: column A + column B)</i>	Recurring Base Budget  <i>(Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A)</i>	<b>Additional Nonrecurring Request</b>	<b>TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds</b>  <i>(Will equal the amount from the Recurring base in Column D plus the Additional Nonrecurring Request in Column E.)</i>
Input Amounts:					1,700,000	1,700,000

5. Are funds for this issue requested in a state agency's Legislative Budget Request submitted for FY 2020-21? No
  - 5a. If yes, which state agency?
  - 5b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested? Department of Education
  - 5c. Has the appropriate state agency for administering the funding, if the request were appropriated, been contacted? Yes
  - 5d. Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated.  
 termination of charter; change in administration/staff; building take over by school district

6. Requester:

- a. Name: Joanne Sweazey
- b. Organization: The Hope Center for Autism
- c. Email: jsweazey@hopecenterforautism.org
- d. Phone #: (772)334-3288

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

- a. Name: Joanne Sweazey
- b. Organization: The Hope Center for Autism
- c. Email: jsweazey@hopecenterforautism.org
- d. Phone #: (772)334-3288

8. Is there a registered lobbyist working to secure funding for this project?

- a. Name: None
- b. Firm: None
- c. Email:
- d. Phone #:

9. Organization or Name of entity receiving funds:

- a. Name: The Hope Center for Autism
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended): Martin
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding): Martin, St. Lucie

10. What type of organization is the entity that will receive the funds? (Select one)

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

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

2018 report estimated the incidence of autism in Florida to be 1 in 21 for children 3 to 16 years old. Our schools & communities are not prepared to meet the diverse & intensive needs of this population effectively. Hope Center for Autism is requesting funding support to purchase a building large enough to meet the increasing needs of people with autism of all ages and needs on the Treasure Coast. Currently, the Hope Center provides academic, social, language, behavioral & therapeutic services.

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

Spending Category	Description	Nonrecurring (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 type="checkbox"/> e. Salaries and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> f. Expenses/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> g. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> h. Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	current lease(\$69707.00) +\$300,000 down payment on 17,000 square foot building +land mortgage (\$40,488 currently on the market to be sold - will not make money on this sale) Requesting 1,700,000 to purchase	1,700,000

	the building so fundraising, grants, federal education funding and donations can be used to support programming, renovations and materials to provide a range of supports meeting the needs of all people affected by autism in Martin and St. Lucie County	
TOTAL		1,700,000

13. For the Fixed Capital Costs requested with this issue (In Question 12, category “h. Fixed Capital Outlay” was selected), what type of ownership will the facility be under when complete? (Select one correct option)

- 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)

14. Is the project request an information technology project?

No

15. 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

15a. Please Describe:

Parent support, organizations providing financial donations, entities that have agreed to purchase and zoning changes including the city commission

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

No

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

Yes

17a. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the purpose of the funds?

The funding will purchase the building allowing donations, fundraising and grants to be used to support staffing costs create a sensory gym to support our students and other people with autism in our community, fund vocational services for adults, provide a safe and educational environment for adults with autism and support educators in our community who need instruction in the implementation of evidence based supports to help students in less restrictive settings in our community.

17b. Describe the direct services to be provided to the citizens by the funding requested.

The Hope Center provides direct services to people of all ages & needs who are affected by autism. Our public charter school provides instruction in the Florida standards & Access Points implemented within a system of continuous progress monitoring and supported by evidence based practices proven effective for students with autism. Hope also supports the social emotional and vocational learning needs of teens and adults through evidence based social skills instruction paired.

17c. 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:

- 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): children, families, educators and community members affected by autism in Martin and St Lucie County

17d. How many in the target population are expected to be served?

< 25

25-50

51-100

101-200

201-400

401-800

>800

18. 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
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve physical health		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health		
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve agricultural production/promotion/education		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve quality of education		
<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	Currently 42% of people with autism have never had a paying job in their 20's. 60% of the adult members of Next Step, adult vocational program	PEERS, evidence based social skills instruction; TEACCH program - structured supports to increase independence for children, teens and

	at Hope, are unemployed or underemployed. This program will provide vocational and social skills instruction leading to employment for at least 55% of the participants	adults with autism
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase tourism		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create specific immediate job opportunities	funding not spent on facilities will be redirected to support the learning and employment needs of participants. Currently we are unable to pay our adults with autism due to facilities needs. If this funding is approved at least 10 adults with autism will be hired with a paying position during the next year through the Hope Center	Job opportunities focus primarily on the development of executive function and soft skills for adults with autism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency	funding not spent on facilities will be redirected to support the learning and employment needs of participants. Currently we are unable to pay our adults with autism due to facilities needs. If this funding is approved at least 10 adults with autism will be hired with a paying position during the next year through the Hope Center	Adults will receive ongoing instruction in budgeting, self care and independent living. Employment will provide a step towards self sufficiency along with community awareness and support for businesses who would like to employ a person with autism
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce recidivism		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce substance abuse	Rates of substance abuse in people with autism are estimated at 0.7%-36% with high anxiety and other mental health disorders cited as the	Decrease in patients looking for substance abuse treatment

	reason for the substance abuse. Providing social and executive function skills for people with autism reduces their anxiety and depression leading to a decreased likelihood of substance abuse.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Divert from Criminal/Juvenile justice system		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve wastewater management		
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve stormwater management		
<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): improve economic self sufficiency for parents	Students will only be sent home due to illness, but not behavioral concerns for 95% of the students.	Parents of children with autism earn 56% less than those of typical children. Providing an educational setting in which staff have the training and support needed to support the students decreases the likelihood that children will remain in school and parents will be able to remain at work. The Hope Center does not suspend or expel students for behavioral concerns. Through a collective team based approach supported by ongoing data collection our system of continuous progress monitoring ensure

19. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2020-21 from all sources of funding (Enter "0" if amount is zero):

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent of Total	Are the other sources of
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			funds guaranteed in writing?
1. Amount Requested from the State in this Appropriations Project Request:	1,700,000	84.1%	N/A
2. Federal:	0	0.0%	No
3. State: (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column F)	0	0.0%	No
4. Local:	300,000	14.8%	Yes
5. Other:	21,988	1.1%	Yes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,021,988</b>	<b>100%</b>	

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

No