

Social Skills Building - Students with Disabilities

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Requester Information

Legislator: Blouin, Nate

Creation Date: 2024-01-26

Submission Date: 2024-01-26

Section 1: Request Details

Description:

Best Buddies requests ongoing funding of \$50,000 per year to deliver school-based programs that provide opportunities for social skills development and one-to-one friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: Jen Gelhardt
 - Organization: Best Buddies International, Inc.
 - Position: Senior Director
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Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

| | One-time | Ongoing |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Personnel Services | 2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00 | \$40,000.00 |
| In-State Travel | 2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Out-of-state Travel | 2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Supplies and Equipment | 2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Technology Purchases | 2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Infrastructure/Capital Investments | 2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other Charges/Pass Thru | 2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00 | \$8,000.00 |

Expenditure Total

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| One-time 2024 | One-time 2025 | Ongoing 2025 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$50,000.00 |

Funding Sources:

General Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$50,000.00

Revenue Total

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| One-time 2024 | One-time 2025 | Ongoing 2025 |
| \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$50,000.00 |

Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled

Best Buddies continually strives to expand our presence and impact in Utah. This funding would help Best Buddies support existing programs and expand our presence to new schools to serve more students. Partial funding for the project would reduce Best Buddies' capacity to grow our presence in Utah beyond our existing programs. Therefore, with partial funding, we would be able to support our existing programs, but would need to seek additional external resources to expand to serve new Utah schools.

Section 3: Agency Information**Subjects:**

Education and Research
Health and Wellbeing

Agency:

250 / Department of Health and Human Services

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding

- Private Not for Profit

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement**Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?**

The requested funding will directly benefit students with and without disabilities attending 11 elementary, middle, and high schools in Utah. Students will participate in one-to-one friendships, inclusive social activities, and leadership development, which will benefit the individuals involved and their larger communities as they interact with classmates, family members, coaches and neighbors, and their communities allow the full participation of those with intellectual disabilities.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

Best Buddies affords the opportunity for students with disabilities and their typical peers to have meaningful social interactions. As a result, students with IDD gain appropriate social skills that help them become college and career ready. Additionally, students without disabilities learn that students with IDD have many strengths and abilities – knowledge which makes them understand the benefits of the participation of individuals with disabilities in schools, communities, and the workplace.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

The project will be successful if Best Buddies supports a minimum of 11 chapters located throughout Utah, engages a minimum of 520 enrolled participants, matches a minimum of 125 students with disabilities in one-to-one friendships with typical peers, provides a minimum of 44 inclusive group activities, and delivers leadership training to a minimum of 33 student leaders.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language

The Legislature intends that \$50,000 from the general fund provided by this item be ongoing and recurring funding to be used for school-based programs that develop social skills and friendships among students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- [Best Buddies_Supplemental language of intent.pdf](#)

Previous State Funding

- [Best Buddies UT FY2025 State_Funding_List.xlsx](#)