



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1839

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Bethlehem Community in southern Columbia County is in need of a community center. Columbia County has already paid for the building design for the facility and requests \$475,000 for the construction of the new community center. This community center will improve community vitality and quality of life in a rural and undeserved area of the county and will include a kitchenette and ADA accessible bathrooms. The community center will also act as a voting precinct as there is currently one voting location in southern Columbia County.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	475,000
Total State Funds Requested	475,000

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)	475,000	95%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	23,700	5%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	498,700	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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.

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



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

Columbia County received \$2,000,000 in CARES Act Funding that was allocated towards the NFMIP WWTP to shore up an existing grant. \$13.9 million of ARPA money was divided up as follows: \$6.2 million for Fort White water projects, \$4 million for the NFMIP WWTP, 1.7 million in business assistance, 679k for individual assistance, and \$1 million for emergency home repair. An additional \$729,853 came from the LCTPA portion of funding that is uncommitted.

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

12/31/23

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/24

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.

Columbia County

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The construction breakdown will include \$475,000 will include site prep and a 3,200 square foot facility that will include kitchenette and counter top area with indoor/outdoor ADA accessible bathrooms.	475,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		475,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The construction of a community center that will act as a community gathering location, provide ADA bathrooms as well as a voting precinct location for elections. The unincorporated area that is known as the Bethlehem Community is roughly 5 miles from the Town of Fort White. This community center will enhance the quality of life for a relatively isolated area of the county.

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

The construction of a community center that will act as a community gathering location, provide ADA bathrooms as well as a voting precinct location for elections.

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

Recreation, voting precinct, and improved community vitality.

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

The target population is meant for the Bethlehem Community and the general population of Southern Columbia County.

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

The Bethlehem Community is a rural and undeserved area of Columbia County. The county will track the success of the community center by its use of an election precinct as well as the amount of events at the community center held each year.

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?

Remittance of funds back to the state.

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)



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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

d. Phone Number