



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1569

1. **Title of Project:** FIU Decision Laboratory

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Manny Diaz

3. **Date of Submission:** 01/31/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The FIU Decision Lab brings together important stakeholders from multiple sectors that are key in making policy with experts to address complex issues, such as disaster response, sustainable infrastructure planning, or city planning. The stakeholders would be able to access tools such as data visualization, predictive modeling and simulation, and expert analysis. The result is informed decision making that provides realistic and objective policy options for policy makers, and data-informed implementations with real-time analysis of its effectiveness. Additionally, the Decision Lab is a powerful platform to train students on tools critical in the technology-enabled world. The World Economic Forum predicts that educated data workers will be the most sought after by employers in the 21st century and that these jobs will be highly paid (\$90,000+).

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Board of Governors

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	5,000,000	100.0%
Federal	0	0.0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.0%
Local	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	5,000,000	100.0%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Director is responsible for overall operations, including the design, development and implementation of the technical infra-structure, design, development and management of programs and projects, recruitment and training of staff, all outreach activities and budget oversight.	164,698
Other Salary and Benefits	Data scientist, programmer, project analyst, student interns	675,302
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Technology Equipment	1,010,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Technology Consultants	150,000
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovation of existing building on campus and purchase of technology equipment.	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The project is a modern infrastructure and remodeled facility to provide data analytics and predictive analytics services, training and support to faculty, students, decision makers from multiple sectors. Educated data workers will be the most sought after by employers in the 21st century and that these jobs will be highly paid (\$90,000+). This powerful tool can be used to benefit operations at FIU, the local community and statewide agencies as they make critical policy decisions.

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

The Decision Lab will offer modern data technology and services to non-profits and government organizations in South Florida that have never been able to fully use their data for decision making. The project will also offer hands on training to students and faculty in modern data analysis techniques, which will prepare students for high paying jobs. It will provide data and predictive analytics services to expand the scope of faculty research and related papers, which may lead to more federal government funding for FIU.

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

The Decision Lab will provide training, hands on learning and project management to students, members of non-profit organizations and government staff to expand their knowledge and use of data in decision making. Additionally policies created, such as in disaster response or city, as a result of this tool have the ability to affect up to tens of thousands of citizens.



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

The target population are FIU students as well as local and state municipalities. The individuals to be served can range from low-moderate income individuals to the general population depending on the specific data project.

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

To measure success, the factors include the number of faculty research projects supported with analytical analysis, number of students trained in data science skills, number of student interns employed for on-the-job training and federal grants received for data analysis projects. Other factors include better internal and external decisions that lead to organizational efficiencies; and improved disaster response policies.

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 in the contract?

Re-purpose any equipment purchased under the grant.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

StartUP FIU and/or ORED would receive the funding, which would be used at a facility that is part of FIU.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Andres Gil
- b. **Organization:** Florida International University
- c. **E-mail Address:** gila@fiu.edu
- d. **Phone Number:** (305)348-2495

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** Florida International University
- b. **County:** Miami-Dade
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Emily Gresham
- e. **E-mail Address:** cgresham@fiu.edu
- f. **Phone Number:** (305)348-0474

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Christopher Cantens



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- b. Firm Name:** FIU
- c. E-mail Address:** ccantens@fiu.edu
- d. Phone Number:** (305)348-3505