



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1796

1. **Title of Project:** STARS Complex Expansion

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Lizbeth Benacquisto

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/12/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

The \$17M for STARS Complex expansion includes construction of a new 25,000 square foot multipurpose center & academic wing that will serve as the only City of Fort Myers emergency hurricane/disaster shelter with an approximate capacity of 400 citizens for category 3 storms and above. The center will allow enhanced recreational activities to accommodate the number of participants. It currently services 250 children in the after school and summer camp program and provides other programs including little league baseball, at-risk teen clubs, basketball, Girl Scouts, football leagues, and other community based programs. The STARS Complex is centrally located in Fort Myers servicing a population of 25,000 within the 33916 zip code, where 36% of residents live below the median income of \$31,000. The expansion will increase services by an additional 125 children in the after school program and summer camps.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Economic Opportunity

State Agency Contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	17,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	17,000,000

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)	17,000,000	100.00%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local		0.00%
Other		0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	17,000,000	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		1,000,000	2233A	No

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		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Hardening of the existing STARS complex and construction of a new 2,500 square foot building for use as a community center and emergency shelter for Category 3 storms and above.	17,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		17,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

Expansion of the STARS Complex with a 25,000 sq ft building to meet the recreational, educational, community, and emergency needs of its citizens and at-risk youth population.

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

The project will increase recreational activities and provide access to an emergency shelter in the event of a disaster in an economically challenged community. This will be the only shelter within the City of Fort Myers limits for category 3 storms and above.

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

Athletic programming, tutoring, and mentorship of at-risk youth, including 6-10 additional recreational and educational programs, four senior programs, community multipurpose space, and access to an emergency shelter within the city limits and in a previously underserved area.

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

City of Fort Myers residents - 80,123

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

Increased access to services and programs at the STARS complex including emergency shelter capacity for up to 400 residents.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard



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penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Forfeiture of funding if program goals are not achieved.

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.

The City of Fort Myers

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Saeed Kazemi, P.E., City Manager
- b. **Organization:** City of Fort Myers
- c. **E-mail Address:** skazemi@cityftmyers.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (239)321-7024

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** City of Fort Myers
- b. **County:** Lee
- 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:** Richard Moulton, MBA
- e. **E-mail Address:** rmoulton@cityftmyers.com
- f. **Phone Number:** (239)321-7216

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Robert Stuart, Jr.
- b. **Firm Name:** Gray-Robinson
- c. **E-mail Address:** robert.stuart@gray-robinson.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (321)217-6207