



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2756

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

A new cooperative use multi-purpose facility for OCEARCH to conduct collaborative research, operational activities, and public education. The funding will also provide for a new quick-response vessel for marine research and animal rescue. This facility will be built in Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida on the St. Johns River that is being leased long term to Jacksonville University by the City of Jacksonville. Additionally, the requested vessel would use dock facilities provided to JU through \$6M matching funds from the City of Jacksonville. OCEARCH, through its host academic partner, Jacksonville University (OCEARCH@JU), facilitates research available for all public and private colleges and universities in Florida. UF, FAU, UNF, FIU, Mote Marine Lab, SeaWorld Orlando, Disney Orlando, Cape Canaveral Scientific and Ocean First Institute have all done research through OCEARCH@JU. These Florida institutions and the state of Florida will benefit greatly from this facility.

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	2,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	6,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	9,000,000

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)	9,000,000	60%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	6,000,000	40%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	15,000,000	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.**



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

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

The total amount of federal assistance received by Jacksonville University during the COVID19 pandemic is \$ 13,025,493. The University received \$2,208,846 (Cares Act), \$ 3,764,301, (CRRSAA) & \$ 7,052,346 (American Rescue Plan). The purpose of the funding was used primarily used to assist students in their transition during the pandemic with economic assistance as well as provide financial assistance to the University as a result of the added expenses and lost revenue resulting the pandemic.

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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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.

Jacksonville University is land lease and dock owner and will receive and administer the funding for the OCEARCH facility and vessel project. Jacksonville University and OCEARCH formalized a contractual partnership in 2017 to help connect the operations of OCEARCH to the academic community and to foster and promote unique opportunities for student-centric learning and meaningful scientific research.

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	New quick response research vessel and maintenance fund to be used for data gathering, shark and marine mammal research, and marine mammal rescue.	2,500,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	The requested funds will be used to do construction planning, construction, and other associated construction related costs associated with the building project.	6,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		9,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

Funds will support the construction of a facility and customized first-response catamaran, plus the first-year of operations for the OCEARCH Mayport facility that will consolidate the operations and research activities of OCEARCH and allow for greater access to the public and colleges, universities, K-12 and other research entities to conduct and expand the base of knowledge on marine research. The facility will make Florida the global headquarters and leader in research and public policy by providing access to an unprecedented dataset to help manage the ocean and bring its recreational and commercial benefits back to abundance.

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

It will support collaborative research, experiential education, and serve as OCEARCH's global headquarters. It will educate students on the importance of apex predators, FL's coastline, and the importance of thinking globally & acting locally when it comes to conservation efforts. This complex will include building(s) for public education and displays, public meetings, OCEARCH ship operations, a new quick-response vessel for marine research and marine animal rescue, and dockage for the various OCEARCH vessels. The facility will house laboratory, data management, and academic resource management to assist collaborative scientists and researchers in their efforts.

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

Education outreach efforts will include (but not limited to): Using OCEARCH Curriculum, outreach focused on engaging students in STEM through research efforts on the MV OCEARCH & the OCEARCH Global Tracker. Teacher Workshops designed to engage them with STEM curriculum. On-site experiential education inspiring students to be global stewards, ensuring we can continue to create oceans that are sustainable and provide abundance. The facility will host collaborative scientific research on sharks and other marine life in Florida water; stakeholder services to develop data-centric policy recommendations for marine affairs; and, marine mammal rescue programs utilizing the customized first response catamaran.

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

Residents and visitors of Duval County (1M residents) and Northeast Florida, plus 9.8M overnight visitors, and 11M day visitors in Duval County. As an international leader in shark and ocean research, the facility will also attract visitors from around the state of Florida and other states and countries. With Mayport's rich maritime history, our target audience includes residents and visitors of Duval County, citizens of Florida, and a global audience, as we work to educate, inspire, and enable in-person and virtual visitors to connect with our blue planet in unique ways.

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

The OCEARCH facility will provide economic benefits to Mayport, Jacksonville, and Florida at large through generated tourism, with outcomes measured by annual visitors, and overall economic impact. Expanding scientific knowledge of sharks will play a key role in the facility's overall mission. Outcomes will be measured by number of research efforts hosted, papers published, and overall impact in driving data-centric maritime policy efforts. Local education outreach will be measured by number of students served. and career development will play a critical role in the facility. Additionally, the general public will develop a better understanding of public safety measures when it comes to sharks. This outcome will be measured through outreach numbers and visitor surveys.

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?

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

15. Requester Contact Information



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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)

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