



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3481

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

In the Lehigh Acres Sinkhole Phase I, LA-MSID successfully obtained a 2023 appropriation to purchase the 19-acre sinkhole parcel. Phase II will remove exotics from the parcel, design and build security and public access improvements. The funding will also prioritize the purchase of an additional 1.3-acre parcel, containing an existing building that will be used for an interpretive center. LA-MSID has held a public hearing on October 23, 2023 and has a letter of support from Lee County Parks and Recreation.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	125,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,875,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	2,000,000	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	1,500,000		No

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.

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
 N/A

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.

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	This funding would provide survey, design and permitting tasks for the project.	125,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The Lehigh Sinkhole Project, Phase II will remove exotics from the parcel, design and build security and public access improvements. The funding will also prioritize the purchase of an additional 1.3-acre parcel with an existing building that will be used for an interpretive center.	1,875,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The funds will provide environmental conservation, security, passive recreation, an interpretive center for the ancient sinkhole property located in Lehigh Acres, FL. LA-MSID may entertain scientists to carefully study the sinkhole to determine the geologic circumstances for its formation and to determine if there are any important relics that can be salvaged.

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

There will be an interpretive center and museum for the sinkhole and Lehigh Acres. The interpretive center will be the gateway to the sinkhole property. It is important to allow hikers on the 20-acre parcel, but to keep the sensitive property safe while the property is closed.

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

The residents that will use the facilities for passive recreation can provide physical exercise and serenity for their mental health. There will also be a very interesting educational component in the interpretive center.

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

The target would be elderly persons, at-risk youth, physically disabled, and students ranging from preschool to university level. The center will provide services to the 135,000 residents in Lehigh Acres and the 750,000 residents in Lee County.

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

The goal would be 100 visitors per week to the facility. The visitors would benefit from the educational and wellbeing aspects of the property and interpretive center. The center will keep a written record of the visitors to the facilities.

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?

The loss of the ability to apply for legislative appropriations for two years.

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



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Other (please specify) Independent Special District

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

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

19. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?