



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2967

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

This appropriation bill seeks to establish a strategic partnership between Florida institutions of higher learning and the HSU Educational Foundation to create a National Center for Aerospace & Transportation Technologies (NCATT)-certified schoolhouse, a full UAS test flight range, and an airspace corridor with Crestview, Florida as its hub. This initiative aligns with the critical priorities of the Department of Defense (DoD) and supports the rapidly growing UAS market. The UAS Center of Excellence will play a pivotal role in workforce development, offering education, certification, and advanced research capabilities. The HSU UAS Center of Excellence further represents an opportunity to continue a talent pipeline from well-established STEM youth outreach to prepared professionals working in high demand career fields.

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

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	3,200,451
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	3,200,451

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)	3,200,451	43%
Matching Funds		
Federal	442,456	6%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	3,803,121	51%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	7,446,028	100%

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

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

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

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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Yes

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

The HSU Educational Foundation received \$9,994.92 from the City of FWB - CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) CARES Act funding in October of 2020. The funding covered the purchase of protective supplies and equipment, staffing for entry safety checks, and robotic supplies for a 2 week microbe busting robot (MBR) class from design to completion/coding.

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	Coordinate and develop industry and academia relationships, recruit community participation, manage project team	72,435
Other Salary and Benefits	Business Operations Administration to track and measure certificates and program success	52,816
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Curriculum Development, LMS Maintenance and Development, Career Services Coaching and Internship Coordination	1,150,794
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Facility Utilities, Vocational Equipment, Instructional Material and Equipment, Range and Equipment Maintenance, Exam Fees	1,392,212
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Course Instruction Personnel, Facility Management, Aviation Safety Management	532,194
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,200,451

14. Program Performance

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



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HSU Educational Foundation to create a National Center for Aerospace & Transportation Technologies (NCATT)-certified schoolhouse, a full UAS test flight range, and an airspace corridor in Northwest Florida. The HSU UAS Center of Excellence will play a pivotal role in workforce development, offering education, certification, and advanced research capabilities to the benefit of the public through partnership with local educational institutions and assisting transitioning service members.

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

The HSU UAS Center shall focus on addressing the growing demand for UAS-related skills and provide opportunities for transitioning veterans and local students to gain highly employable credentials. The HSU UAS Center shall have the capabilities required to support training and connect resources for public and private partners, in design, prototyping, fabrication, and testing of UAS systems.

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

The HSU UAS Center shall create no less than 30 direct job opportunities, including engineers, technicians, and designers. 1,500+ certifications will be linked to clear hiring paths for certified students at premium wages, leveraging the HSU Educational Foundation's commercial and defense partnerships.

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

The target population is jobless persons, economically disadvantaged persons, at-risk youth, developmentally disabled, grade school students, high school students, university and college students, and transitioning service members.

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

Certifications will give students the education needed to immediately enter the workforce. This will be measured by receipt of a certification, number of students enrolled in the programs and number of students that have completed a program.

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?

There would be a loss of future funding opportunities, missed training and certifications for students and fewer workforce placements. Resources would continue to be a challenge to secure in the realm of providing practical training and development of safety standards for integration of high demand, high growth skills and applications for unmanned aircraft systems and related industries. Florida's opportunities to lead the way in UAS integration for economic growth would be stifled.

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)



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- 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