



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2090

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This funding for STEM Program Enhancements would be used to support the university's growth and advance our commitment to engineering excellence by supporting strategic initiatives: expand the student body by 15% in two years, improve academic programs in order to become a leader in undergraduate and engineering education, grow the graduate programs, recruit a world-class faculty body to support our degrees and increase the research mission, and enhance student support services.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	7,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	7,500,000

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)	7,500,000	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	7,500,000	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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

There is no other available funding for these needs.

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

Yes



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

The total HEER funds awarded was \$6,335,478. Students received HEERF emergency financial aid grants using the student aid portion. Institutional aid was used for revenue lost, campus safety, training, tuition discount, distance learning supplies, and housing.

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	Hiring world-class faculty is key to strengthening the student experience and our degree offerings. These funds will help attract faculty through competitive salaries and benefit packages. We will hire 15 new faculty to support both new degrees and the overall growth of the student body as well as other necessary support for STEM program enhancements.	2,575,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The funds will allow us to add new degrees and critical lab infrastructure for existing programs, grow the student body by increasing the admissions operations events and programs, growing the admission team, and improve student support services focusing on retention and four-year graduation rates by expanding our peer-learning system and strengthening freshman foundational courses.	4,925,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		7,500,000



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14. Program Performance

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

With a program of excellence for engineering and applied sciences, Florida Poly will continue to serve the State by filling critical workforce needs in these target career areas and attracting economic development to the region. This funding for STEM Program Enhancements would be used to support the university's growth and advance our commitment to engineering excellence by supporting strategic initiatives by expanding the student and faculty body, make enhancements to academic programs, and enhance student support services.

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

The funds would help continue the university's strong growth trajectory in enrollment and graduates produced. It will allow Florida Poly to grow the student body growth over 15% in the coming two years, expand degree offerings aligned with the state's workforce needs and further develop existing infrastructure, hire 15 new faculty lines to support the new degrees and student growth, and grow support services focusing on STEM graduate retention and grad rates.

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

Growing the student body will allow us to produce significantly more graduates that are highly capable and workforce-ready in degree programs aligned to the state's growing technology sectors. In addition it would expand degree offerings to help attract potential students, build teaching laboratories and critical lab infrastructure, and improve freshman-year courses. Growing the faculty will strengthen our new and existing degree offerings, promote excellence in our graduate program, and strengthen the student experience. Student support service enhancements would be focused around improving retention, four-year graduation rates, and career services.

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

The Florida Council of 100's "Project Sunrise" estimates that unfilled STEM-specific jobs number at 80,000 and growing, a gap caused by an underdeveloped pipeline of high-tech professionals. The target population is potential and existing students and future employers of Florida Poly graduates. The Florida Chamber estimates that there are about 55,000 unfilled STEM jobs in Florida. STEM job growth is estimated at approximately 25% over the next two years, and Florida Poly is providing the kind of graduates the state needs to compete and make an impact globally.

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

The benefit of this project is to ensure students pursuing STEM degree programs will have greater opportunities as this would help expand the degree offerings and add pathways to certifications and credentials. This would also allow for enhancements to services that focus on student success including career services and leadership programs. By enhancing academic programs and improving freshman courses to improve student engagement and teamwork will allow students to show demonstration of the materials. These enhancements will be measured by an increase in retention, four-year graduation, and job placement rates. We will measure the growth of the student body and faculty to ensure success of our goal to grow the student body by 15% in two years and recruit 15 new faculty members that will help support new degree programs and the student body growth.

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?

Return of the state issued funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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