



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2764

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

East Coast Zoological Society of Florida d/b/a Brevard Zoo is developing its second campus, a world-class Aquarium and Conservation Center. The campus will sit on 14 acres of shoreline at Port Canaveral with direct access to Route 28, a major route connecting Orlando to beaches and the Port. The largest building, the Dr. Duane De Freese Coastal Conservation Hub, will be a center for Indian River Lagoon restoration, stewardship and STEM education. There is currently no major aquarium on the I-95 corridor south of Charleston, SC.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>

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)	5,000,000	67%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	2,500,000	33%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>7,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	2,000,000	2341A	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.**

ECZS is running a five-year \$100 million capital campaign, which to date has raised more than \$65 million in committed funds from individuals, corporations, foundations, and public funds for Aquarium construction. We expect public funds to represent less than 25%.

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.

ECZS received a total of \$2,503,518 in federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was applied to payroll expenses.

## 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.

East Coast Zoological Society of Florida Inc d/b/a Brevard Zoo. Owners and the entity are the same.

### 13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds will be used to construct the Dr. Duane De Freese Coastal Conservation Hub at the Brevard Zoo Aquarium.	5,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>5,000,000</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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

ECZS will design, construct, and operate the facility.

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

The Aquarium will engage visitors in the culture and beauty of coastal Florida through engagement with wildlife, nature, and a diverse array of arts and culture events. The three-story, 23,990-square-foot Dr. Duane De Freese Coastal Conservation Hub will serve as a center for coordinating and facilitating regional restoration, research, and education efforts across Central Florida. A consortium of Central Florida universities will be based at the aquarium and will enhance the education of thousands of students through an array of STEM field trips and educational programs.

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

The Aquarium will serve a general audience of at least 525,000 visitors a year, primarily tourists and families from across a four-county area including Brevard, Orange, Indian River, and Volusia Counties. In addition, the Aquarium's education programs will serve more than 53,000 students (pre-K to college) a year, with a focus on those enrolled at Title I schools. About 50% of the students served are expected to be low-to-moderate-income.

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

Once operational, the Aquarium will have an economic impact of \$85.5 million a year and support 937 permanent jobs. The Aquarium will increase tourism revenue by attracting more than 300,000 tourists annually. It will also contribute to job creation: the Aquarium is currently projected to open with 102 full-time and 40 part-time positions, including 12 high-skill positions and 114 middle-skill positions. ECZS will measure outcomes by conducting an economic impact study three years after Aquarium opening, administering zip code surveys to visitors, and tracking new positions created through HR records.

**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?**

If deliverables are not met, the funds will be returned to the state.

**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



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- 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