



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3442

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Funding is being requested for the design/development of a 70,000 sq. ft. Agricenter and Emergency Shelter at the South Florida Fairgrounds in Palm Beach County. The shelter will be designed as a multi-purpose facility that will be used year-round as a venue for the South Florida community and surrounding rural counties. Palm Beach County has an estimated need of over 1200 beds in Palm Beach County for special needs sheltering in an emergency situation. Currently, the existing facility at the South Florida Fairgrounds can accommodate 550 citizens and it is the only facility of its kind in Palm Beach County. The construction of a facility at the South Florida Fairgrounds would expand the existing special needs shelter on the Fairgrounds and eliminate the deficit of 700+ space/beds for citizens for emergency management special needs sheltering. The facility would provide an additional 70000 sq. ft. of indoor, climate controlled space in a structure built to withstand category 5 winds.

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 | 2,000,000 |
| 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 | 67% |
| Matching Funds | | |
| Federal | 0 | 0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 1,000,000 | 33% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 | 3,000,000 | 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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Project is in the design phase which is the purpose of this year's request. Palm Beach County provided \$1M and the State request is \$2M to complete design. Estimated total construction cost is an additional \$32M. The Fair will request assistance from PBC and provide Fair revenue toward the project. If the State does not fund the project, the Fair will not be able to provide enhanced agricultural educational events, nor would the county be able to meet level of service for special needs sheltering.

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.

South Florida Fair received 2 PPP loans during the pandemic. The first was for \$940,000 and the second for \$940,200. Funds were used for operations of the facility when it was closed and payroll for the 55 employees. No employees lost their jobs because of this assistance.

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.

Victoria A. Chouris, President & CEO of the South Florida Fair & Palm Beach County Expositions, Inc., oversees the operations of the 501 C(3) non-profit organization. She, along with CFO Matt Wallsmith, will manage the funds for this project as well as maintain all records for the project. The Fair board of directors' volunteers to support the non-profit organization.

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 | | 0 |



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3442

| Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation: | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering | Funds are for the design services of a 70,000 sq. ft. mutli-purpose emergency special needs shelter and agricultural exposition building. The design phase is the first phase of the project and will include input from Palm Beach County emergency management. It includes schematic designs, design development, construction plans and specifications plus surveys, soil testing, demolitian and drainage. | 2,000,000 |
| 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?

Funds are for design services of a multi-purpose exhibition building on the South Florida Fairgrounds that will serve as a special needs emergency shelter which will also include specially designed dedicated shelter space for those with autism spectrum disorders. The new facility will connect to the existing shelter located on the Fairgrounds and eliminate the deficit of 1200+ beds that currently exists. When it is not required for emergency use, the building will be utilized for agricultural educational programming for residents of South Florida and surrounding 4 counties the Fair serves which includes Hendry, Martin, Broward and Okeechobee counties.

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

The multi-purpose exhibition building will replace an existing structure that has limited utilization due to aging of the facility. The new building will provide space for an additional 1200+ special needs beds in the event of an emergency. The new building will connect to the existing shelter which can accommodate 500 citizens, eliminating the need for duplication of resources during an emergency. We also recognize that the Palm Beach County area represents approximately 10% of Florida's identified families with children on the autism spectrum. These families require specially designed and dedicated shelter space. This will be included in the facility design.

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

Services at the facility will enhance the quality of life for citizens of south Florida through agricultural educational activities, and social interaction. Services provided during an emergency would be shelter, medically necessary beds, food and water to citizens who have Special Needs and must be housed in a facility that will not lose power during a catastrophic event. It will also provide a unique opportunity to safely and appropriately house families with children on the autism spectrum.

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

Agriculture education is the primary mission of the South Florida Fair and through exhibitions in the multi-purpose facility, shows would be produced that would educate the public about the agricultural industry. An annual industry trade exposition would also be part of the programming. Over 400,000 attend the Fair each January. The Fairgrounds is a place where all members of the community attend events and activities. The addition of the Agri-Center exposition space would allow the Fair to offer cultural activities to an underserved demographic who may not otherwise have access to affordable community events and activities. The use of this facility during emergency situations will protect the citizenry by providing an area of shelter with lifesaving support. There is a need for additional space because the only other existing special needs shelter only can accommodate a small percentage of the population. Thousands of people could be served in this situation.

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

This would be a regional facility that can provide backup space, when appropriate, to the rural communities of Hendry and Okeechobee counties. The Fair is a regional Fair operation that covers a 5-county region: Palm Beach, Hendry, Broward, Martin and Okeechobee. It serves as a huddle point for regional recovery operations. This benefit is easily measurable. It will also provide a specialized shelter unit for children with autism, if a family is in need.

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?



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Should the South Florida Fair not secure additional funding which would result in failure to meet the deliverables, the appropriated funds would revert back to the state. An architect has been selected and the design will be completed by April 2024. These dates are firm and measurable.

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

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