



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2128

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The zoo's Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) accreditation recertification is coming due in 2027. This is critical to allow for the zoo to retain key species, tap into grant funding and ensure that all K-12 children that visit the zoo for educational purposes are receiving a valuable learning experience. Critical to recertification is the renovation and expansion of our alligator/crocodile habitat. The funding will provide 50% of funds needed to renovate and expand the Zoo's alligator and crocodile habitat. Modernizing and expanding this exhibit will provide a more compelling zoo experience for visitors. They will experience a more active, engaging exhibit, additional and more impactful educational programming, and better and more accessible viewing.

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	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,000,000</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)	1,000,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,000,000	50%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

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.**

\$308,213.00 - Endangered Species COVID-19 Relief reimbursement. The reimbursement funds were awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and AZA for our conservation facility and its work caring for the Eastern Indigo Snake and Stripped Newt during the pandemic.

## 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.

The Central Florida Zoological Society, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, owns the Zoo and would receive the funds, which would be utilized to pay for the renovation and expansion of the exhibit.

### 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 pay for 50% of the costs of design, material and construction costs to renovate and expand our alligator and crocodile exhibit and holding area. This renovation is crucial to help the zoo retain AZA accreditation at the next accreditation inspection.	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,000,000</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?**

The funds requested, coupled with matching funds to be raised through a fundraising campaign, would allow the zoo to modernize and expand it's alligator and crocodile habitats and holding areas. This would enhance staff safety, animal care and well being, and create a better experience for zoo guests in terms of both viewing opportunities and educational content.

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

Citizens visiting the zoo would benefit from the additional educational programming opportunities that would be created around the exhibit, as well as better and more accessible viewing options. The zoo offers several low cost opportunities to visit and maintains opportunities that provide free admission to many school groups from Title I schools, the community has excellent access to the zoo.

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

General population that visits the zoo, as well as Zoo staff and volunteers. The Zoo attracts more than 400,000 visitors per year.

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

Increased tourism, more compelling cultural experience, improved quality of education with new programs and signage. Measure: visitor post visit surveys.

**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?**

Pro rata repayment of funds not used for project.

**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



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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**