



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2167

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

4. Project/Program Description

Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital doing business as Treasure Coast Wildlife Center sits on a 293-acre property that is owned outright by our organization. With the majority of funding going to serve our wildlife patients, we must diligently seek state assistance to complete the Nature Center build and begin welcoming the public to a new, improved facility that will offer an innovative way for our community to engage and learn about wildlife rehabilitation, preservation, and critical inland wildlife roles in our ecosystem. When completed, the Nature Center will welcome hundreds of visitors and groups each year to learn about our inland species, to understand their importance, and to value their continued existence.

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	750,000
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

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)	750,000	42%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	260,000	14%
Other	790,000	44%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,800,000	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.**
-

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2167

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

Treasure Coast Wildlife Center received 2 Paycheck Protection Program disbursements related to COVID-19, totaling \$94,592.00.

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

10/01/2021

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

02/01/2025

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 only entity to receive funding through this request is Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital doing business as Treasure Coast Wildlife Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located and operating in Martin County, Florida.

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
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Remaining construction and land use work to be completed estimated at \$750,000.00 to include plumbing, interior restrooms, ADA-compliance equipment and installation, air conditioning, electrical work, interior walls, and labor costs.	750,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

14. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2167

Funding received through this request will close the fiscal gap and achieve the goal of completing the construction of the Nature Center. Once complete, the facility will be open for public use and a robust menu of educational programming as well as interactive exhibits will begin. Programs will target children, the elderly, and people with disabilities especially.

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

The Nature Center will be a fully functional education facility where we will provide interactive experiences designed to educate the public on native Florida wildlife and inspire all to work together to protect our most precious natural resources. The Center will be the primary location for all residents and visitors to learn about native inland wildlife and ecosystems on the Treasure Coast.

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

Activities that directly serve citizens include:
 - The Nature Center will be open to the public during operational hours, including weekends
 - The public will access information and learning opportunities about native inland wildlife species and environmental conservation
 - Schools and other groups may attend the facility for pre-arranged field trips and workshops

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

This project will benefit all residents and visitors of Florida in Martin County and the surrounding areas. The focus populations for this project are children, the elderly, and people with disabilities as special educational and immersive programming will target these specific groups. This project, when complete, will serve 800+ individuals annually.

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

Enriching Cultural Experiences- Visitors to the Nature Center will report an increase in cultural awareness of the connection between natural resources, wildlife, and Florida history including a special focus on indigenous tribes of early Florida as measured by visitor surveys as well as pre and post evaluations for group sessions demonstrating a knowledge gain after sessions.

Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality- An increased number of residents and visitors will gain knowledge of native Florida wildlife and ecosystems, including how to protect and preserve them as evidenced by visitor survey results, number of visitors annually, and number of group sessions/workshops completed along with number of group session/workshop attendees.

Increase Tourism- The Nature Center will increase tourism to the area by providing one of the State's only inland environmentally focused educational tourist attractions as documented by the number of annual visitors.

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?

Performance Improvement Plan- The defaulting party may be required to submit a performance improvement plan outlining how they will rectify the issues and meet the deliverables within a revised timeframe.

Withholding Payments- The contracting agency may withhold a portion of payments until the deliverables are satisfactorily met.

Other Financial Penalties- A stipulated monetary penalty may be imposed for each deliverable that is not completed on time or according to specifications.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2167

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