



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2768

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Improvements to Deering Estate to connect the general public to bay resources, recreation, and water education which include targeted enhancements to the visitor and welcome center, community theatre and exhibits. Additionally, funds will be used for improvements to access and public use of the People's Dock for wildlife viewing and fishing which includes seating and shade structures. The project will also support a youth-centered environmental education and STEM initiative by replacing two existing pavilions with one large enclosed pavilion which will provide for increased capacity as well as heat and inclement weather protection.

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	1,675,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,675,000</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)	1,675,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
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>1,675,000</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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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Two PPP loans; one for \$69,712 and the other for \$45,300. The funds were used to cover operating expenses during the pandemic as two signature fund raising events were postponed for two years.

## 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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

October 2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

December 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 Deering Estate is owned by the State of Florida, managed by Miami Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces. The Deering Estate Foundation is a volunteer driven community-based charitable 501(c)3 Florida Corporation that was founded in 1989 by members of our community for the sole purpose of preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Deering Estate for this and future generations.

### 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	Administration and project management associated with the resources, recreation, and water education project.	167,500
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	Costs associated with construction and planning and engineering associated with the resources, recreation, and water education project.	1,507,500
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,675,000</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?**

Proposed funds will be used to enclose and expand open air learning pavilions to provide for heat, rain, and lightning protection, while maintaining students, teachers, and parent educator access to natural settings, providing the needed infrastructure to deliver environmental education programs and services to residents and visitors in South Florida, primarily Miami-Dade County.

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

Direct services include nature-based recreation and environmental STEM education programs conducted in pavilions: field study trips, citizen science, professional development workshops, volunteer projects, scout programs, and year-round day camps. These supplement school and home learning and expose youth/educators to environmental understanding unique and critical to our region’s resiliency. Additionally, the services would include heritage tourism programs and nature-based recreation - passive wildlife viewing, field study trips, citizen science, lectures and film showings, professional development, community training, and public meeting spaces - exposing the public to unique environmental understanding critical to our region’s resiliency, while improving tourism, small businesses and property values.

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

The target population is the general public and would serve over 800 individuals.

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

The benefit and outcomes would be measured by the number of programs, program participants and increase in park attendance. This will be measured by the increased access to curated nature-based experiences promote improved physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

**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?**

Standard penalties for non-compliance are adequate.

**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