



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2730

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

To help fund the construction of a 6000 sq ft conservation education center onsite of Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens botanical garden near Williston FL, Levy County. This education center will include a multi-purpose room capable of hosting 100 participants in workshops and events educating them on conservation and reclamation issues. In addition, the facility will serve as host for 3rd Party events educating the public on a host of conservation issues including the Florida Aquifer and water quality, reclamation projects, wildlife conservation, and youth conservation and literacy programs. The facility will be single story, handicapped accessible and feature environmental efficiencies.

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
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,000,000	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.**

local fundraising, and funds available from Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens

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.

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.

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	Design/Construction of the education center and site engineering	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

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



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The conservation education center will host workshops and clinics regarding conservation and habitat restoration topics, hosted by a number of regional conservation and youth organizations.

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

Workshops and clinics provided to the public will educate them about the importance of the Florida Aquifer, which is exposed at the Gardens as a series of shallow lakes, and about habitat conservation. It will also offer local employment, and a strong eco-tourism revenue generator for the region.

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

Of the 50,000 visitors each year, half come from around Florida and half from around the USA. For the daily visitors, the education center will host short clinics and have static multi-media displays. It will also schedule day-long clinics for the public in the region that will be conducted by partner programming agencies.

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

The expected outcome will be an increase of visitors who attend short clinics and return to attend long clinics, and who demonstrate an increased knowledge and appreciation for the Florida Aquifer and the surrounding woodlands. The methodology will be to track participation and satisfaction levels of the agencies conducting the clinics.

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?

Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens welcomes any kind of appropriate auditing of its programs.

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



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f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number