



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2845

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Infrastructure improvements at the Deering Estate – to support youth-centered environmental education (EE) and interest in STEM-related careers. The project replaces 2 existing outdoor pavilions with 1 large enclosed pavilion, increasing capacity to meet demand for outdoor education while addressing appropriate heat and inclement weather safety issues during activities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	50,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,050,000

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)	1,050,000	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	1,050,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** No

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?**

Yes



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2845

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Administration and project management associated with the resources, recreation, and water education project.	105,000
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	Costs associated with construction and planning and engineering associated with the resources, recreation, and water education project	945,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,050,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2845

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.

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

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.

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.

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

With over 330,000 students within the Miami-Dade County Public School System, we expect to serve more than 10% of the target population annually with direct EE services and programs.

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

% interest in informal learning experiences. % interest in conserving the environment, species and habitat. Outcomes will be measured by student, teacher, and parent before and after surveys and visitor experience before and after 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?

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
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2845

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