



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3557

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Aerospace and Innovation Academy (AIA) requests funding for the purpose of conducting four day aerospace camps for educators and at-risk students from under served populations in five Florida metropolitan areas: West Palm, Tampa, Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tallahassee. Additionally, the AIA will support the building of Florida Atlantic University's first satellite by directing contributing CubeSat components to the FAU Aerospace Experimental Association. Studies demonstrate the need for early STEM/aerospace access to skills and education to promote the formation of a STEM identity in an at-risk and under served youth populations.

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	849,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	849,000

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)	849,000	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	849,000	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?



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

N/A

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?

N/A

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

N/A

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.

N/A

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director / Project Head (Kevin Simmons) to oversee program and coordinate camps throughout the state for middle-high school teachers and students	84,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Salaries/benefits for other employee(s) of Aerospace and Innovation Academy	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries/benefits for undergraduate summer interns of the program	20,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Program equipment including: satellite emulators, CubeSat hardware, soldering supplies; facilities rental fees; program staff travel and lodging	615,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	To contract services with Florida Atlantic University AXA, Florida Tech, NearSpace Launch, Inc., and Maru Space Technology	80,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		849,000

14. Program Performance

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

Increasing the capabilities of educators to inform and inspire students, particularly those classified as at-risk youth, as it relates to potential aerospace career paths. Studies demonstrate the need for early STEM/aerospace access to skills and education to promote the formation of a STEM identity in at-risk and under served youth populations.



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

Four-day summer camps throughout the state will provide teachers with classroom kits and tech skills needed to launch a high altitude balloon, including soldering, coding, and assembly. Florida Atlantic University (FAU) will receive hardware for their first CubeSat.

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

Delivery of aerospace educational content and training at FAU (Palm Beach County), Astronauts Memorial Foundation (Brevard), Challenger Learning Center (Leon County), Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics Center (Hillsborough County), Osceola Science Center Charter School (Orange County), and public school in Duval County (TBD).

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

Economically disadvantaged persons, At-risk youth, grade school and high school students. Greater than 1000 students and educators will be served.

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

Improve the quality of education, increase and improve economic activity and enhance individual's economic self-sufficiency: Funds will provide hands-on access to technical aerospace education and training for at-risk and under served student populations in Florida. Provide increased awareness of career opportunities related to aerospace. Particular emphasis to the potential to obtain aerospace trades vocations. (Methodologies) - Pre and post student and educator surveys from participants. Surveys to show an increased number of Florida students in the STEM pipeline from under served communities.

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?

Return money and prevented from further funding requests.

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



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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