



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2640

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Zoo Miami's Sea Turtle Rescue/Rehab Center serves a critical need for the rehabilitation of sea turtles. It provides a central location in Miami-Dade County for receiving injured or sick sea turtles. Within the past year, three sea turtle centers serving South Florida have lost the ability to house new or long-term patients. The redistribution of their turtles and the increased number of new patients has placed added pressure on the facilities at Zoo Miami. An expansion of infrastructure and addition of required equipment would allow Zoo Miami to greatly increase the ability to provide urgent medical care and appropriate rehabilitation of these animals. This expansion would allow Zoo Miami's Sea Turtle Rescue/Rehab Center to increase carrying capacity, while improving the life support systems, a critical component to the recovery and health of sick and injured turtles.

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	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	750,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,500,000	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.

Miami-Dade County received \$2,608,188,975.73 to provide financial aid to, among others, small businesses, veterans, senior meals, restaurants, hotel workers, first responders, landlords, low-income tenants, nonprofits, and day care centers; county services and also direct distributions to Miami-Dade municipalities.

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.

Zoo Miami is owned by Miami-Dade County.

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	Funds will be spent on services required to design and construct the expansion of the Zoo's Sea Turtle Rescue/Rehab Center. Estimated timeline for project completion: Design phase: 6 to 12 months, Construction phase: 10 to 15 months	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?



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The funds would support the design/construction for the expansion of Zoo Miami's Sea Turtle Rescue/Rehab Center, a central location in Miami-Dade County for receiving injured or sick sea turtles. An expansion of infrastructure would allow Zoo Miami to greatly increase the ability to provide urgent medical care and appropriate rehabilitation, while improving the life support systems, a critical component to the recovery and health of injured sea turtles.

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

Expansion of the Zoo's Sea Turtle Rescue/Rehab Center would greatly increase the ability of Zoo Miami Veterinarian staff to provide urgent medical care and rehabilitation services. These services include medical examination and treatment for turtles effected by boat strikes, fishing hook entanglements, and other injuries or diseases.

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

Zoo Miami will be able to expand service as a health care resource in the South Florida region for endangered native sea turtles, critical to the conservation and preservation of the environment. As three sea turtle centers serving the region have recently lost the ability to house new or long-term patients, the redistribution of turtles and the increased number of new patients is in high demand.

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

General public in South Florida region - residents and annual attendance of over 1 million visitors.

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

Treatment, recovery and rehabilitation of numerous sea turtle species in South Florida. The methodology for measuring outcomes will include Sea Turtle Rescue/Rehab Center intake records, the # of sea turtle releases, and recorded contacts with FWC, USFWS and other organizations. Expansion will also allow greater opportunities to educate the community on Zoo Miami's conservation efforts to help wildlife found locally in Florida. Opportunities include programming with on-site students from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools BioTech Magnet School.

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?

Nonpayment until deliverables are met.

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)



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- 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