



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1521

1. Title of Project: ZooTampa Florida Panther Medical Facility & Habitat

2. Senate Sponsor: Wilton Simpson

3. Date of Submission: 02/08/2019

4. Project/Program Description:

As part of our conservation mission, ZooTampa provides a haven and medical care for Florida panthers deemed non-releasable by FWC. Because their numbers are growing, human/panther conflicts are becoming more frequent and there is a critical need for medical facilities to treat and release panthers. The funds will also allow for construction of 6 habitats for up to 6 panthers non releasable panthers. Currently, three non-releasable panthers reside at ZooTampa with outdoor habitats for only one panther. The three rotate days.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds : Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

State Agency Contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,000,000	39.22%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	650,000	8.50%
Other	4,000,000	52.29%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	7,650,000	100.0%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and		



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Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of Florida panther medical and rehabilitation treatment facility and 6 permanent housing structures for non-releasable panthers.	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

11. Program Performance:

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

Protect and treat the endangered Florida Panther species; enrich cultural experience; improve education of species,

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

Medical treatment for injured and sick Florida panthers Permanent housing/habitats for non-releaseable panthers

c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?

The funding will provide much needed space for panthers designated as "nuisance" animals (i.e, become dependent on household pets for food). Ability to see and learn about panthers to the more than 1,000,000 annual visitors to ZooTampa. Enhanced education opportunities for more than 150,000 Florida students who participate in ZooTampa education programs and outreach annually.

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

Residents and visitors to the Tampa Bay region.

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

To treat injured Florida Panthers as well as care for Florida Panthers deemed non-releasable. The methodology would be the rise in Panther population.

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 in the contract?

Reversion of funds

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the



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relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

ZooTampa will receive the funds

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Joe Couceiro
- b. **Organization:** ZooTampa at Lowry Park
- c. **E-mail Address:** Joe.Couceiro@ZooTampa.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)933-8038

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** ZooTampa at Lowry Park
- b. **County:** Hillsborough
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Joe Couceiro
- e. **E-mail Address:** Joe.Couceiro@ZooTampa.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (813)933-8038

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** Sydney Ridley
- b. **Firm Name:** Southern Strategy Group
- c. **E-mail Address:** ridley@sostrategy.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (813)407-0691