



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2235

**1. Title of Project:** Marine Research Hub of South Florida

**2. Senate Sponsor:** Lauren Book

**3. Date of Submission:** 02/26/2019

**4. Project/Program Description:**

The Marine Research Hub was formed to raise visibility, reputation, and prestige of south Florida's oceanographic research institutions and facilitate the transfer of technology into marketable goods and services. Its goal is to foster collaboration among research business and economic development organizations to establish the region as a global leader in oceanographic research that is making or may make a positive impact on the health of the oceans and bring substantial benefits to the global population. By attracting capital investment from public and private sectors for the commercialization, monetization, technology transfer, and spin-off opportunities marine research offers, the Marine Research Hub will facilitate the creation of a local talent pool, become a magnet for student attraction, earn BlueTech Cluster status, and be recognized as the premier geographic location for marine research.

**5. State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Economic Opportunity

State Agency Contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</b>

**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)	500,000	88.50%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local	65,000	11.50%
Other		0.00%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>565,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**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?** Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. \$250,000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Hire a staff person to manage the Marine Research Hub operations, planning, communications, fundraising, reporting, website maintenance, and Board of Directors	125,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Support personnel	25,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Costs associated with staff and/or board member's travel to attend conferences, summits, and other events. Expenses and supplies will be used to provide collateral material necessary to promote the Marine Research Hub and south Florida as a BlueTech Cluster.	75,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Costs associated with hosting and/or sponsoring meetings, summits, lectures, conferences, and any grants, operation costs, or reimbursements for telephone/fax, wi-fi. Purchase computer(s), printer, general office supplies, and other necessary items used to promote the Marine Research Hub.	200,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Planning, creation, launch, and maintenance of a highly secure online database of research projects for the use of the Marine Research Hub university participants to foster collaboration.	75,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

#### 11. Program Performance:

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

The goal is to increase the number, quality, likelihood, and time line of technology transfer, spin-offs, and start-ups via the commercialization and monetization of marine and oceanographic research at Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University, and the University of Miami.

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

Promoting marine research and industry assets will help our region continue to grow as a marine research hub and BlueTech Cluster, resulting in greater interest by the investment and philanthropic communities, potential new college students, and business interests. Branding the unique concentration of research expertise in south



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Florida will also raise the awareness of research partnership opportunities and ultimately attract additional philanthropic interest through new donors and foundation grants toward applied research that supports our research institutions.

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

Increasing south Florida's reputation for top talent and intellectual capacity by leveraging existing oceanographic research assets residing in universities, colleges, and research parks. Building a global brand for the work being done at institutions of higher learning with diverse oceanographic research. Creating an inventory of current research and potential research that includes financial resources needed. Informing investment, philanthropic, and business interests of specific research opportunities for commercialization, monetization, tech transfer, and spin-off companies.

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

Initially, the areas served by Florida Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University, Florida International University, and the University of Miami, but ultimately the state of Florida.

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

The potential improvement and/or cure of physical, mental, and public health conditions, production of a sustainable food supply, tourism industry impacts, and a geographic hub of start-up and spin-off companies commercializing marine research, known world-wide as a BlueTech Cluster. Increased technology transfer, spin-offs, and start-ups that result from the commercialization and monetization of marine and oceanographic research. Outcomes and measures for success of this effort will include increased philanthropic and business investment in marine research programs, an increase in collaboration between universities, and increased commercialization of research that will contribute to the health of our oceans and improve the human condition.

**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?**

Standard contract penalties.

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

N/A

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Kelly Skidmore
- b. **Organization:** Marine Research Hub of South Florida
- c. **E-mail Address:** [kskidmore@marineresearchhub.org](mailto:kskidmore@marineresearchhub.org)
- d. **Phone Number:** (954)527-2733

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Marine Research Hub of South Florida
- b. **County:** Statewide



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**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:** Bob Swindell

**e. E-mail Address:** bswindell@marinerresearchhub.org

**f. Phone Number:** (954)627-0131

**15. Lobbyist Contact Information**

**a. Name:** Teye Reeves

**b. Firm Name:** Smith, Bryan and Myers

**c. E-mail Address:** treeves@smithbryanandmyers.com

**d. Phone Number:** (850)728-5490