



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1825

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The manatee overlook is the first phase of a \$15 million plan to replace aging facilities in the oldest part of the Zoo, the Florida Realm. Funding for this project enables the Zoo to construct an overlook bridge that will give guests an immersive view of the vital work done at the Manatee Hospital – the largest non-profit manatee care center in the world. They will be able to safely see the effort it takes to save injured, sick, and orphaned manatees. The overlook also acts as an education tool for the public by showing firsthand the impact red tide, pollution, and boat strikes have on manatees.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,500,000	86%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	14%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	1,750,000	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



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

The Zoo applied for and received the following federal funding related to COVID-19:
 -PPP loan of \$2 Million (2020); PPP loan of \$2 million (2021) loans offset payroll expenses;
 -Shuttered Venues Operators (\$8 Million) to assist during the Zoo's 3-month shutdown.

11. 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	Design services, site preparation, preconstruction and permitting, construction of a manatee hospital overlook bridge for guests.	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,500,000

12. Program Performance

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

The funding will allow ZooTampa to provide an area where the public can safely view the effort it takes to save injured, sick, and orphaned manatees. The overlook also acts as an education tool for the public by showing firsthand the impact red tide, pollution, and boat strikes has on manatees. Given the recent increase in manatee deaths, it is imperative that there are facilities that can not only provide adequate care for orphaned, sick, or injured baby manatees, but educate the public about ways they can help the State's official Florida marine mammal. Of all the known causes of manatee fatalities, humans are directly responsible for about half of the deaths annually.

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

Construction of the manatee hospital overlook bridge will allow more school groups to visit the hospital without disrupting manatee care. In addition, the overlook bridge will feature educational signs and messages to educate the public on ways to help manatees. As part of a bigger project, a nursery pool is planned that will enable ZooTampa to have a dedicated recovery pool specifically for baby manatees.

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



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This project will ultimately enhance and preserve Florida's environment and save native Florida wildlife. The Zoo's hospital enables manatees to recover and be released back into Florida water. Preservation of a Florida species is a benefit to all Floridians.

It also enriches cultural experiences - the Zoo provides a unique cultural experience for families and provides them with vital information on how to protect and preserve Florida wildlife, especially manatees.

Improve Quality of Education-More than 150,000 school children are served each years through the Zoo's education department; they learn about threatened or endangered species and are able to observe these animals in action at the Zoo.

Protecting the General Public from Harm-the Zoo provides materials and programs to inform Zoo visitors about human/manatee interactions and habitat, particularly as it related to boating safety and observing no-wake zones.

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

More than 1.1 million visitors come to ZooTampa annually. Being able to observe manatees and develop an appreciation for saving Florida wildlife are important roles of the Zoo and Manatee Hospital.

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

This project will enable ZooTampa to directly educate more than 1.1 million annual visitors as the Zoo's Manatee Hospital care team works to rehabilitate injured, sick, and orphaned manatees and re-release them into Florida waters. The Zoo consistently surveys visitors on their experiences at the Zoo including their perceptions and attitudes about protecting native Florida species. Our hope is that the manatee hospital overlook bridge will increase the number of Floridians who will take action to preserve Florida wildlife.

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 of state dollars.

13. 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 City of Tampa owns the land and the buildings at ZooTampa. ZooTampa, as non-profit 501(c) (3) entity, operates the Zoo and Manatee Hospital.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number