



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1104

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

#### 4. Project/Program Description

The Firefighter Cancer Initiative (FCI) is a unique program led by the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, which was awarded designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This program aims to understand and address why firefighters are at increased risk of developing and dying of cancer relative to the populations that they serve. FCI supports novel translational research, widescale education and prevention initiatives, and collaboration with firefighters to develop and implement practices that can reduce noxious exposures associated with disease.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	73%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	558,329	20%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	200,000	7%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>2,758,329</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	2,000,000		No

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.

In the absence of state funding, FCI would suffer significantly. Because of the Florida Legislature's generous investment, FCI is at the forefront of the national effort to address excess cancer risk in firefighters and FCI's goal is to continue to lead in this way. FCI is, however, always seeking alternative funding sources to support its work, including federal and foundation grants.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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No

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

## 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

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.

### 13. 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Faculty, research team members and project management team	350,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Research equipment, supplies, and travel	1,480,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Research outreach, recruitment, and education	170,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,000,000</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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In 2022, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) evaluated the carcinogenicity of occupational exposure as a firefighter. After thoroughly reviewing the available scientific literature, IARC's Working Group classified occupational exposure as a firefighter as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), on the basis of sufficient evidence for cancer in humans. With this new classification, FCI will continue to expand firefighters access to cancer screening through its mobile clinic, which provides screenings on-site at fire stations; expand access to education on best practices for cancer risk reduction including on-line access to curriculum and developing guidelines for subgroups; facilitate prevention and earlier detection of disease; identify exposures that account for increased cancer risk including PFAS and PFOA. FCI will also field test new technology and methods that measure exposure in the field; and evaluate the impact of best practices on cancer risk reduction.

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

Expand research on characterizing firefighter cancer as well as expand access to cancer screening and earlier detection of disease through two mobile clinics; expand access for firefighters across the state to education on best practices for cancer risk reduction and prevention strategies, including virtual curriculum and education modules for firefighters and firefighter cancer survivors; and tailored guidelines for sub groups; identify exposures that account for increased cancer risk and field test new technology and methods that measure exposure in the field through wearable and mobile devices; evaluate the impact of best practices on cancer risk reduction; and work with IARC and WHO internationally to highlight the need for continued research on cancer in the fire service and collaborate with NIOSH at the Federal level in building the National Firefighter Cancer Registry.

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

Funds are invested in increasing participation in cancer screening and prevention for cancers overrepresented within the fire service, including access to these services through a unique mobile clinical infrastructure. Additionally, funds will support continued evidence-based education of Florida fire departments and sub groups within the fire service including Urban Search and Research and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) firefighters on cancer risk related to occupational exposures as well as best practices for risk reduction derived from our scientific progress to date. Funds will also provide for scientific inquiry and evaluation of cancer in the fire service and ways to track and evaluate exposures.

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

The Firefighter Cancer Initiative serves the Florida fire service, including career and volunteer firefighters and inspectors. FCI has engaged over 7,500 in research projects, over 500 firefighters have been screened by the FCI clinical team and ongoing COVID projects have included 6,500 first responders. FCI anticipates increasing this number by 1,000 in the coming year as well as continuing efforts nationally, as FCI leads the national conversation on cancer in the fire service.

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

FCI aims to increase the life expectancy of firefighters and their families by better understanding cancer risks related to occupational exposures. FCI research findings will result in developing new safety standards and best practices to reduce firefighters' increased risk of developing and dying of cancer. Outcomes will be measured in various ways, including number of firefighters engaged; number of firefighters screened for cancer; successful new technologies to monitor exposure; number of tumor specimens submitted to the tumor bank to identify biomarkers and therapeutics; continued analysis of the dataset linking the Florida Cancer Data System with State firefighter data. FCI plans to increase uptake of best practices, including cancer screenings, as well as increase the amount of federal dollars brought to Florida for this initiative.

#### 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?

Subject to the penalties put forth by the Florida Department Financial Services.

#### 15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number (305)243-6185

Ext.

#### 16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center,  
University of Miami

b. Municipality and County Miami-Dade

#### 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 Erin

Last Name Kobtez

e. E-mail Address ekobetz@med.miami.edu

f. Phone Number (305)243-6185

#### 17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name Kelly C. Mallette

b. Firm Name Ronald L. Book PA

c. E-mail Address kelly@rlbookpa.com

d. Phone Number (305)935-1866