



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1517

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

4. Project/Program Description

Founded in 1974, the UF's Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience has provided cutting-edge research in the study of fundamental issues in biology and has applied this information to human health, natural resources, and the environment. Recognizing the importance of its work and its positive impact on the state and region's workforce and economy, in 2021, the Legislature approved \$28.5 million for Whitney Lab construction (\$16.5 million state funds/\$12 million donor funds); however, due to significant cost increases, additional state support is needed to complete the originally proposed new 38,000 GSF building at Whitney Lab, replacing the 1974 space, to support research and education in neuroscience, coastal marine environmental biology, regenerative biology—including the sea turtle rehabilitation hospital—STEM education, bioengineering, and comparative functional marine genomics, and aide in the recruitment/retention of researchers and foster scientific collaboration.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	8,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	8,000,000

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)	8,000,000	75%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,700,000	25%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	10,700,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	16,500,000	Section 152	No

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.**



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

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

Revenue: \$76M Direct Student Aid and \$93M Institutional Support; Expenses: 1) \$76M Direct Student Aid; 2) \$93M-Campus Operations: \$8.7M-IT Infrastructure and Equipment for remote/distance learning; \$9.4M-Reimbursements for housing/study abroad; \$9.1M- campus health/safety; \$8.2M-Other operating/research costs: student mental health/basic needs; \$57.6M for lost revenues in the Student Union, educational business activities, parking, research service centers, museums/performing arts centers.

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
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:		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	Complete originally proposed technologically advanced training and research facility (approximately 38,000 gross square feet [GSF]): 14 State-of-the-Art Research and Training Labs; Sea Turtle Research Center and Hospital Expansion; expanded STEM Career Training Capacity (Masters, PhD and Undergraduate). Address escalated costs of construction/building/structural/equipment/lab materials.	8,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		8,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

Due to significant cost increases, additional state support is needed to complete the originally proposed new 38,000 GSF building at Whitney Lab, replacing the 1974 space, to support research and education in neuroscience, coastal marine environmental biology, regenerative biology—including the sea turtle rehabilitation hospital—STEM education, bioengineering, and comparative functional marine genomics, and aide in the recruitment/retention of researchers and foster scientific collaboration.

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

This support will result in a unique and highly functional research platform to focus on neuroscience, coastal marine environmental biology, regenerative biology – including Whitney Lab’s sea turtle rehabilitation hospital — STEM education, bioengineering, and comparative functional marine genomics.

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

Facility will position Whitney Lab's ability to secure more federal funding through 14 modern, multi-disciplinary research laboratories, train more students, retain more world class researchers and visiting scientists, expand public interface for K-12 science education as well as better coordinate research through connected laboratory and student spaces that are now separated into four buildings.

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

The served population includes K-12 and university/college students and all citizens in St. Johns and seven surrounding counties. Expected number of individuals served > 800.

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 support the development of small and emerging high growth potential businesses, offering them the strategic resources to achieve greatness and succeed in saving lives, advancing science, and shaping the future of medicine and biotechnology. Measured outcomes include benchmarking the nascent development and growth of biotech companies in 4 primary biotech areas: gene therapy, regenerative health, biopharma and analytical/applied. Additionally, annual economic impact analysis is performed to understand the specific results achieved.

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?

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number