



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2489

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Eckerd College Resilience Action Plan will position the College as a national leader in incorporating resilience strategies into long-term planning, serving as a model for communities across the state of FL. Recognizing the unique opportunities and risks afforded by Eckerd's coastal location along Tampa Bay, Eckerd has assembled a team of locally and nationally renowned experts in the field of living shoreline design (Environmental Science Associates), landscape architecture (SCAPE) and water resource consulting (Applied Sciences). Aligned with statewide resiliency initiatives, Eckerd seeks funding to complete the installation of the first phase of our living shoreline master plan, as well as support for two assessments which will facilitate the immediate actions needed to build resilience and improve infrastructure in the coming years.

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	305,890
Fixed Capital Outlay	400,000
Total State Funds Requested	705,890

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)	705,890	82%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	150,721	18%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	856,611	100%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	700,000		Yes

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?**



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Yes

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

Eckerd received \$7,824,823 through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund: \$3,574,283 for emergency aid paid directly to students, and \$4,250,540 for institutional relief. These dollars provided reimbursement for tuition, housing, room & board.

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.

Eckerd College is both the requesting entity and the owner of the waterfront land, portions of which will be converted to a living shoreline.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The faculty director of the project will receive a stipend of \$3000 (plus 40% fringe benefits), to help oversee the construction of the living shoreline and the incorporation of the shoreline and other resilience initiatives into Eckerd's teaching, research and community outreach efforts focused on the resiliency of our waterfront location.	4,200
Other Salary and Benefits	One student intern will dedicate approximately two hours per week to the project (excluding holidays and breaks), to be paid at the rate of Eckerd's minimum wage - plus 10% fringe benefits. The intern will assist the faculty director and Eckerd's director of sustainability with the coordination of educational outreach activities.	1,690
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Two key studies will be conducted as part of our Resilience Action Plan: 1) stormwater management and 2) groundwater. Both studies are critical to lay the foundation for the necessary infrastructure upgrades outlined in our plan for immediate action in the next 5 years. Studies will be conducted by Applied Sciences, the water resource consulting firm which helped to develop the Resilience Action Plan.	300,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funds will support the construction of the first phase of our living shoreline master plan developed by Environmental Science Associates - a total of 400 linear feet on campus, which opens to Boca Ciega Bay and is enjoyed by the boating and recreational fishing community of Pinellas County and beyond. Funds will also support stormwater infrastructure upgrades.	400,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		705,890

14. Program Performance

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

The Eckerd College Resilience Action Plan aims to: 1) align campus planning with sea level rise projections; 2) sustain and improve campus quality of life in spite of a changing climate, by creating a range of opportunities for interacting with the waterfront; 3) integrate ecosystems into campus life and sustain the campus as a living laboratory and an oasis of learning in a natural environment; and 4) incorporate climate adaptation into Eckerd's identity through enhanced curriculum and new regional partnerships that draw on best practices.

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

In 2021, Eckerd received a grant of \$150,721 from the Tampa Bay Environmental Restoration Fund to support the design and permitting of 1,230 linear feet of living shoreline. Funding from the State will support the construction of the first phase of our living shoreline master plan, 400 linear feet on Frenchman's Creek where dilapidated seawall will be converted into more natural and resilient habitat. The initiative aligns with the state's seagrass planting efforts by increasing habitat availability for bay wildlife and increasing biodiversity through intertidal zones. In addition, we will conduct the two studies which are critical to launch the infrastructure upgrades outlined in our Resilience Action Plan (groundwater and stormwater management).

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

Beyond the Eckerd students who will benefit from the living shoreline and other resilience initiatives, our vision includes increased public education and community outreach efforts that will bring a diverse spectrum of local students and residents to campus to learn about the benefits of a living shoreline and other ways to ensure the long-term resiliency of waterfront locations across the state. We envision our Resilience Action Plan as a model for communities around the state and nation, and will share lessons learned through various conference presentations across the US.

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

We expect the resiliency initiatives to impact 5000+ members of the local community: 2000 Eckerd students, plus members of our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, ASPEC (Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College), and middle and high school students who attend the College's numerous summer camps, including Marine Science Pre-College. Eckerd students will benefit from the incorporation of the living shoreline and resilience studies into various Marine Science, Biology and Environmental Studies courses, and will also have the opportunity to engage in collaborative research with faculty whose interests align with these resilience initiatives.

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



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The Resilience Action Plan outlines the immediate actions needed to build resilience in the coming 5 years, that will pave the way for larger interventions that target 50 years into the future and beyond. The goal is to reduce risk to campus by preparing for sea level rise, storms, flooding, and other emerging hazards faced by the College as a result of our waterfront location. The Plan's flexible framework is intended to guide long-term planning, by identifying potential adaptation geographies and projects and establishing criteria for prioritizing sites and projects. The Plan will set a new precedent for the region, drawing on best practices and positioning Eckerd as a leader in regional and statewide resilience efforts.

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?

Funding will be returned to the DEP if deliverables or performance measures are not met.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. **First Name** **Last Name**

b. **Organization**

c. **E-mail Address**

d. **Phone Number** **Ext.**

16. 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**

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. **Name**

b. **Firm Name**

c. **E-mail Address**

d. **Phone Number**