



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2761

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

As a public venue, staff and visitors to Ruth Eckerd Hall including students aged 5 to 95 who attend year-round classes at the on-site arts school, are vulnerable to security incursions. REH will invest close to \$1M in 2022-2023 to upgrade communications and surveillance systems so that visitors and users of the facilities will have added assurance that measures are in place to monitor suspicious activity, deter attacks, and in the case of a threatening situation like an active shooter, building security and first responders have the tools needed to respond quickly and efficiently to prevent injury and manage the threat. State funding would support enhanced surveillance systems, ensuring rapid response and real-time information to law enforcement and fire departments, including mobile alerts and status updates. It would also provide video records for law enforcement investigations and ensure unimpeded radio communication for emergencies in compliance with the fire code.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	482,000
Total State Funds Requested	482,000

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)	482,000	49%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	51%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	982,000	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.**



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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.

REH received \$11.7M in federal relief. As a not-for-profit dependent on public gathering, operations were severely impacted. Funds were used for payroll, operational expenses, and facility improvements to mitigate risk from COVID-19 such as the installation of an air purification system, contactless technology, and other strategic improvements to support reopening quickly and successfully.

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.

Ruth Eckerd Hall operates facilities owned by the City of Clearwater through long-term leasing and operating agreements. Ruth Eckerd Hall is responsible for the maintenance of the properties and all asset replacements. While the project will indirectly benefit the owner through improved security, the primary beneficiary of the capital investment are those using the facilities - students, employees, volunteers, and the public at large.

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	Installation of a digital video surveillance system on two campuses including the school (\$291K) Installation of Bi-Directional Amplifiers within a forty-year old structure to meet new fire code standards (NFPA 1225 2022) as required by local government (\$191K). This is the final project to complete our public safety initiatives.	482,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		482,000

14. Program Performance

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

Provide clear visibility to monitor and deter illegal activity on two campuses including Ruth Eckerd Hall, the Bilheimer Capitol Theater, and the Marcia P. Hoffman School of the Arts, ensuring rapid response and real-time information to law enforcement and fire departments, including mobile alerts and status updates. Provide video records for law enforcement investigations.
Ensure unimpeded radio communication for emergency personnel at 700, 800 MHz public safety frequencies with 100% coverage in compliance with fire code NFPA 1225 2022.

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

The project is being overseen by a security director with over 20 years in law enforcement in cooperation with local police and fire departments. Ruth Eckerd Hall employs its own on-site security at the campuses, who are trained to monitor systems, activate emergency plans, and support first responders appropriately. Clearwater's Community Connect initiative provides the technology to link a private surveillance system to the Clearwater Police Department in emergencies.

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

Visitors and users of the facilities will have added assurance that measures are in place to monitor suspicious activity, deter attacks, and in the case of threat, building security and first responders have the tools needed to respond quickly and efficiently. In addition, video records are available for law enforcement investigations.

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

The activities for mass gatherings include performances, classes, recitals, graduations, school field trips, banquets, trade shows, seminars and other special events. REH projects over 250,000 individuals annually will directly benefit from the safety measures this investment will provide including patrons, students, artists, volunteers, employees, and first responders.

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

The objective is to mitigate risk of injury and property damage so incident rates would be tracked similar to the ability to quantify the weapons stopped at the door by other safety measures. Any emergency situation would be reviewed post-incident to assess the role and impact of these enhancements and the resulting favorable outcomes.

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?

Unspent funds would be returned to the State.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**



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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