



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3195

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Student engagement via research is a cornerstone of the UWF institutional mission. The UWF Student Engagement and Research Center (SERC) will be dedicated to supporting research areas that are currently not fully resourced, including cross-disciplinary and non-laboratory research; it will enhance existing student-focused research activities to expand student, faculty, and community engagement. The building will contain rooms to design and execute student-centered projects, in state of the art reversible, secure research labs and open collaborative research space, while also enhancing campus capabilities for presenting creative, scholarly, and research projects. Educational Plant Survey: EPS Recommended, March 2022, Subset 3.2. The president sent a confirming letter dated April 2, 2022, to the Board of Governors Director of Finance and Facilities.

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	35,819,014
Total State Funds Requested	35,819,014

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)	35,819,014	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	35,819,014	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.

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:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Basic construction costs, environmental impacts/mitigation, site preparation, landscape/irrigation, plaza/walks, roadway improvements, telecommunications, electrical service, water distribution, sanitary sewer system, chilled water system, storm water system, permits, test, surveys, and furniture and equipment.	35,819,014
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		35,819,014

14. Program Performance

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



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Student research engagement has a strong link to student success as those projects energize the students for future career paths and goals. Undergraduate students who participate in research experience an increased persistence rate and higher gains in research skills that can translate into future employment. Additionally, undergraduate research has shown to be particularly effective at increasing retention and opening career pathway for students.

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

This space will be dedicated to supporting research areas that are currently not fully resourced, including cross-disciplinary and non-laboratory research; it will enhance existing student-focused research activities to expand student, faculty, and community engagement. The building will contain rooms to design and execute student-centered projects, in reversible, secure research labs and open collaborative research space.

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

The facility will allow students and faculty to conduct studies that are impactful to our region utilizing the local citizens and industry, while also enhancing campus capabilities for presenting creative, scholarly, and research products to the public.

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

The target student population at the undergraduate level are UWF's sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a current enrollment of more than 8,000 students in those classifications. Our graduate programs have more than 4,000 students enrolled in many disciplines utilizing various research techniques and methods. We expect this facility to rapidly increase UWF's ability to engage students at the undergraduate level for improving persistence and retention.

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

The expected benefit of this project is a student population with increased persistence and retention rates that have hands-on and high-impact experience for future opportunities. Those opportunities include local internships, graduate studies, and employment for increased student success. All these activities make our UWF graduates workforce ready.

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?

Failure to meet deliverables will result in a return of funds to administering agency.

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)



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- 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