



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1066

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds will be used to support the operations of the environmental education programming at Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. The Environmental Education Programming will provide an opportunity to learn about nature while providing a sanctuary for wildlife and people. Busch Wildlife Sanctuary is open seven days a week with free admission. Student field trips enhance their science curriculum and students take part in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) related educational content.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	2%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	150,000	0%
Local	220,709	1%
Other	29,250,200	97%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>30,120,909</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	500,000	105	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?  Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Private funds

**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**10. Status of Construction**

**a. What is the current phase of the project?**

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction    
  N/A

**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?**

**e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?**

**11. 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.**

**12. 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</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Salary, taxes & health benefits provided for personnel - 100% of 4 full-time staff in the Education department, 50% of 1 full-time Jr Naturalist Coordinator, 50% of 1 full-time Operations Director, and 100% of 2 Full-time Animal Care department allocated to the Environmental Education Center at the Sanctuary.	361,030
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Operations including \$25,000.00 scholarships for field trips for Title 1 schools; \$7,000.00 annual medical exams such as blood work and vaccinations for approximately 65 mammals and birds; \$25,000.00 of liability insurance; \$3,500.00 general education expenses; \$3,470.00 educational supplies; and \$75,000.00 of animal ambassador feed.	138,970
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<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>500,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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

A variety of public programs at the Sanctuary for students, children, and families with the goal of educating the public about native Florida wildlife and the importance of environmental conservation. We work to close the Nature Gap, a term created by the Center for American Progress to shed light on the stark reality that nature's benefits are unequally distributed by race & income.

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

Programs including field trips to Title 1 schools and other community groups, and travel directly to schools if there is a hardship in classes coming to visit. Exhibits and activities are highly tactile (Discovery Center interactive education activities include touch boxes, video monitors, and crawl through activities). Various height levels accommodate children, adults and physically challenged.

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

Grade-school children, but anyone is welcome. 10,000 plus

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

This unique facility offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about nature while providing a sanctuary for wildlife and people. We have something for everyone; young and old alike. From story time for parents with toddlers to family night walks, education activities appeal to a broad range of people. Measured by the number of guests & students who visit the Sanctuary annually. Children tend to perform better on standardized tests and have fewer attendance problems if they spend time outside. Measured by the number of students from across Florida who take field trips to Busch Wildlife Sanctuary to enhance their science curriculum and take part in our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) related educational content.

**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 in the contract?**

Forfeit of scholarship and materials funding.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No



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No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

Yes, Applied

Yes, Received

No

No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

18. 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



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e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*