



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1081

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

4. Project/Program Description

This project seeks \$1 million in legislative funding to preserve and revitalize Camp Welaka, a historic 640-acre Girl Scout camp, which has been in existence over 70 years, along the Loxahatchee River. The investment will address critical infrastructure needs through bathroom facility reconstruction and ADA compliance upgrades, while implementing vital environmental restoration measures including erosion control and reforestation of the protective tree canopy.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	76%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	315,000	24%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,315,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?
- a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.
- b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

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)? Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 8/4/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 05/31/2026

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

Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida will sustain ongoing operations and maintenance through multiple revenue streams including program fees, facility rentals, the Girl Scout Cookie Program, special events fundraising, and continued philanthropic support from community foundations and individual donors, all supported by our organization's demonstrated strong financial standing.

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.

Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida

12. 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		
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	The investment will be used for critical infrastructure improvements, including rebuilding the damaged bathroom facility and stabilizing eroding grounds and environmental restoration, including strategic replanting of the tree canopy and implementation of erosion control measures.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



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To preserve and revitalize Camp Welaka, a historic 640-acre Girl Scout camp along the Loxahatchee River that serves 10,000 Girl Scouts annually from six Florida counties (Martin, St. Lucie, Broward, Palm Beach, Okeechobee, and Indian River). This strategic investment will address critical infrastructure needs through bathroom facility reconstruction and ADA compliance upgrades, while implementing vital environmental restoration measures. These improvements will ensure continued access to outdoor educational programming that directly addresses documented needs in the 2024 State of Florida Girl Report, which shows that girls are significantly more likely to experience mental illness in their household - 15% more than high school boys, demonstrating the urgent need for safe, supportive outdoor spaces.

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

Activities include modernizing bathroom facilities to meet ADA compliance standards, upgrading program spaces for safe, accessible activities, and stabilizing waterfront areas for water safety education. Environmental protection measures will implement comprehensive erosion control, conduct strategic reforestation of the protective tree canopy, and stabilize grounds around existing facilities. Program enhancements will expand outdoor education opportunities, develop new leadership training spaces, and create accessible environmental learning areas. These improvements will ensure Camp Welaka's 640-acre property continues to provide essential outdoor educational programming that builds confidence, leadership skills, and environmental stewardship in Florida's youth.

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

The funding will support critical infrastructure and environmental improvements at Camp Welaka, enabling us to provide essential outdoor educational services to Florida's youth. Specific activities include modernizing bathroom facilities to meet ADA compliance standards, implementing comprehensive erosion control measures along our historic riverfront, stabilizing grounds to protect existing facilities, and conducting strategic reforestation to restore the protective tree canopy. These improvements will ensure safe, accessible outdoor programming that builds resilience and confidence in Florida's girls

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

Camp Welaka serves Girl Scouts ages 5-17 from six Florida counties: Martin, St. Lucie, Broward, Palm Beach, Okeechobee, and Indian River. The camp directly serves 10,000 girls and their family members annually through outdoor education, leadership development, and environmental programs.

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

The primary benefit of this project is to provide safe, modernized facilities at Camp Welaka that will serve 10,000 Girl Scouts annually from six Florida counties through essential outdoor educational programming and leadership development. Success will be measured through comprehensive facility usage metrics including program participation rates, ADA compliance, and quarterly occupancy data. Environmental impact will be tracked through regular assessments of erosion control effectiveness, tree canopy coverage, and waterfront preservation, ensuring the investment achieves its intended impact of providing a sustainable outdoor educational resource for generations to come.

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?

Beyond standard contract measures, we recommend additional penalties for this critical infrastructure and environmental restoration project at Camp Welaka. Financial penalties would be imposed for missing construction milestones that impact facility safety and accessibility. Performance bonds would be forfeited if environmental measures, such as erosion control and tree canopy restoration, fail to meet specified standards. Additionally, daily liquidated damages would apply for delays that affect program delivery or facility usage. These enhanced penalty measures would ensure accountability and timely completion of essential improvements that directly impact the safety and functionality of this vital outdoor educational facility.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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)



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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):

Hurricane Milton

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

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- 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



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- 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 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.