



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1122

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

The New College Freedom Institute will actively engage the college's students, the greater Florida community, and the world to address the growing polarization and decline of civil discourse in academia and society by promoting free speech, open inquiry, respectful dialogue, and an engaged citizenship. The Institute will raise New College's visibility and positively contribute to student enrollment and retention. NCF is requesting start-up funding to create the Freedom Institute.

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	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,000,000</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)	3,000,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.**
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**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	Four administrative personnel including 1 Institute Director, 1 assistant director, 1 Event coordinator and 1 director of outreach and communications.	810,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses to hold live events - symposia and debates; to recognize mentor and support next-generation leaders who promote freedom of speech and inquiry; to create and deliver professional development to NCF faculty and other Florida university and K-12 faculty; and to develop ways in which the Institute's research may contribute to a master's program in educational leadership. It will serve as the new home for some existing programs, including the Socratic Stage and student debate initiatives.	100,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Five teaching and research faculty. 3 Senior Fellows who will be the primary public advocates for the Institute's ideas in both teaching at NCF and in participating in public events.	945,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Expenses to hold live events - symposia and debates; to recognize mentor and support next-generation leaders who promote freedom of speech and inquiry; to create and deliver professional development to NCF faculty and other Florida university and K-12 faculty; and to develop ways in which the Institute's research may contribute to a master's program in educational leadership. It will serve as the new home for some existing programs, including the Socratic Stage and student debate initiatives.	1,145,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0



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<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>
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**13. Program Performance**

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

The Freedom Institute at New College of Florida has been formed to address the growing polarization and decline of civil discourse in academia and society by promoting free speech, open inquiry, respectful dialogue, and an engaged citizenship. Across the country, private and public university faculty often feel compelled to submit to prevailing ideology, afraid to lose their jobs and reputations if they resist. Undergraduate students too have felt this chilling effect on open dialogue in the classroom and on campus, with bullying and ostracism often the result of failing to conform to the accepted orthodoxy. The Freedom Institute will play an integral role in reversing these trends.

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

It will serve as the new home for some existing programs, including the Socratic Stage and student debate initiatives that are designed to foster critical thinking and civil discourse among conform to the college and high school students, as well as in the broader community.

In addition, the Freedom Institute will sponsor teaching and scholarship regarding free expression, constitutionalism, U.S. political history, and political economy. It will provide professional development programs for high school and college faculty in these areas, and it will develop and present develop courses open to the public as well.

The Freedom Institute will be located on the campus of New College of Florida in Sarasota, Florida. It will employ an executive director, resident and visiting distinguished faculty, resident and visiting research scholars, and associated administrative support staff.

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

The Freedom Institute at New College of Florida has been formed to address the growing polarization and decline of civil discourse in academia and society by promoting free speech, open inquiry, respectful dialogue, and an engaged citizenship. Across the country, private and public university faculty often feel compelled to submit to prevailing ideology, afraid to lose their jobs and reputations if they resist. Undergraduate students too have felt this chilling effect on open dialogue in the classroom and on campus, with bullying and ostracism often the result of failing to conform to the accepted orthodoxy. The Freedom Institute will play an integral role in reversing these trends.

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

Faculty, students and the community. Over 1000 individuals will be served with this appropriation.

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

The Freedom Institute will thrive and offer opportunities for free speech, open inquiry, respectful dialogue, and an engaged citizenship. This will be measured by the number of participates and a survey.

**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?**

No additional funding in the future.

**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):**



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**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
- 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  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.*