



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1222

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Intelligent Immunotherapy Initiative (i3) is an interdisciplinary program led by the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute and leveraging the nationally recognized expertise within the UF Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program (UFBTIP). i3 will develop AI-enabled and next generation personalized care paradigms for the prevention, detection, and treatment of chronic diseases associated with immune system dysfunction. i3 will utilize advanced AI models (i.e. digital twins) and world-leading immunotherapy expertise within the UFBTIP to improve prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, and more. Funding will establish "Intelligent Hubs of Excellence" (i.e. in Brain Health) and importantly establish and maintain leadership within the state of Florida in AI-enabled healthcare solutions.

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

**State Agency contacted?**  Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	5,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,000,000</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)	5,000,000	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>5,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

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?**  Yes

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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Future grant awards and philanthropic support could replace state funding for this initiative although the maintenance of leadership in AI-driven technologies and therapeutics is of keen importance to University of Florida and the state.

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

### 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	i3 will be co-directed by Drs. Elias Sayour and Duane Mitchell at the University of Florida. They will each devote 20% FTE to the leadership of this large-scale AI and immunotherapy initiative. Additionally, a full-time Director of Artificial Intelligence will be recruited to lead the AI team in the development of large-scale AI models and digital twins of health and disease.	500,000
Other Salary and Benefits	A full-time project coordinator and a full-time administrative assistant will be hired to manage the i3 project across its many stakeholders and collaborators and UF, UF Health, and throughout the state.	175,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Computer engineers, data scientists, clinical research coordinators, laboratory scientists, and research analysts recruited to lead the activities of i3.	2,000,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Large-scale data analysis and expansion of clinical research activities to analyze immune responses during the onset, progression, and treatment of chronic diseases associated with immune dysfunction (cancer, diabetes, neurodegenerative disease) and evaluation of novel diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic interventions to detect, prevent, and treat chronic diseases using the immune system.	2,075,000



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Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracts with partners to assist with data collection from participants throughout Florida and enrollment of participants throughout the state on prevention, detection, and therapeutic clinical trials.	250,000
<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>5,000,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The Intelligent Immunotherapy Initiative (i3), led by the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute and UF Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program, advances AI-driven personalized medicine for chronic diseases linked to immune dysfunction (cancer, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases). Using advanced AI models and world-leading immunotherapy expertise, i3 will transform disease prevention, detection, and treatment, establishing Florida as a leader in AI-enabled healthcare. New methods for disease prevention, detection, and immunotherapy treatment will be developed.

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

AI-powered immune profiling to detect early disease markers and optimize treatment response.  
 Development of digital twins for real-time disease monitoring and predictive modeling of outcomes and treatments.  
 Clinical trials and personalized immunotherapy treatments for cancer, diabetes, and neurodegenerative diseases.  
 Expand collaboration with NVIDIA and other corporate partners in advancing AI-enabled healthcare innovations.  
 Establishment of Immunotherapy Hubs of Excellence (IHEs), starting with the Brain Health IHE and involving partnerships throughout the state.

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

Access to AI-driven early disease detection and personalized immunotherapy treatments.  
 Expanded clinical trial availability for Floridians with chronic diseases, including cancer and neurodegenerative disorders.  
 Improved health outcomes through real-time immune monitoring and AI-optimized treatments.  
 Statewide outreach and prevention programs piloted at UF Health, FSU Health, and MUSC.  
 Job creation in biotech, AI, and clinical research sectors.

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

Persons with poor physical health (cancer, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases).  
 Elderly persons (immune dysfunction research for aging populations).  
 Economically disadvantaged persons (broader access to AI-driven healthcare).  
 Physically disabled individuals (neurodegenerative and stroke-related care).  
 General population (statewide implementation for immune-based chronic disease prevention)  
 Estimated Number of People Served:  
 Directly: 100-200 patients in clinical trials in the first phase.  
 Indirectly: Tens of thousands benefiting from AI-powered screening, early detection, and prevention strategies.

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

Improved Health Outcomes: Personalized immunotherapy will enhance survival rates and reduce disease progression.  
 Reduced Healthcare Costs: AI-driven early detection and prevention could save billions of dollars in healthcare costs in the state of Florida upon adoption of proven effective methods.  
 Economic Growth: Creation of new jobs in AI-driven biotech, clinical research, and healthcare sectors.  
 Advancement of AI-Enabled Healthcare: i3 will establish Florida as a national leader in AI-integrated personalized medicine.

Methodology for Measurement:  
 Clinical trial outcomes measuring survival rates, treatment efficacy, and quality of life.  
 AI model performance metrics tracking immune system health and disease progression.  
 Economic impact analysis based on job creation, private investment, and healthcare cost savings.



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**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?**

None

**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
- 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**



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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

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.*