



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1258

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

4. Project/Program Description

There are currently over 70 manatees under professional care with most at the state's two existing critical care facilities and the remainder at Mote and other limited secondary care facilities. Mote requests funding for critically needed expansion of the state's network of animal care facilities to treat injured and distressed manatees by building a new resilient state-of-the-art secondary care rehabilitation facility.

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	1,500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	91%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	500,000	9%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	5,500,000	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.
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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)? No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 10/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/31/2026

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

Philanthropic funding will be utilized for ongoing operations and maintenance.

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.

Mote Marine Laboratory

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	Mote facilities animal life support infrastructure experts for construction.	500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment and supplies (not contracted) to construct the manatee rehabilitation / holding facility.	1,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Contracted design and construction of state-of-the-art rehabilitation / holding infrastructure under FWC and partner guidance.	3,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

Manatee health/mortality continues to be of the utmost concern for Florida. There are currently over 70 manatees under professional care with most at the state's two existing critical care facilities and the remainder at Mote and other limited secondary care facilities. Mote requests funding for critically needed expansion of the state's network of animal care facilities to treat injured and distressed manatees by building a new resilient state-of-the-art secondary care rehabilitation facility.

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



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Mote will expand existing seawater and freshwater systems at the “shovel ready” Mote Aquaculture Research Park to support the manatee care network. Mote will install new state-of-the-art manatee rehabilitation pools designed to hold/rehab animals until they can be returned to their natural environment. Mote will provide all operational costs and staff for animal care and facility maintenance.

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

Manatee health/mortality is an utmost concern for Florida wildlife managers, receiving significant public attention. Habitat loss, harmful algal blooms, unusual mortality events, cold-stunning, and human interaction are making enhancing conservation efforts immediate. FWC manatee biologists/partners are working to respond to and rescue an unprecedented number of manatees, Mote can assist.

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

General public, residents and visitors. Healthy iconic manatee wildlife benefits Florida's culture, environment & economy

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

Manatee health and mortality continues to be of the utmost concern for Florida. Over 70 manatees under professional care in Florida with nearly 60 of these threatened animals located at the state’s two existing critical care facilities and the remainder at Mote and three other facilities. The need for significant expansion of secondary holding facilities continues to be a pressing need for Florida. Completion of a new state-of-the-art secondary care rehabilitation facility that can hold 12 manatees at our 200-acre Mote Aquaculture Research Park campus 13 miles inland and centrally located in the State.

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?

Funding would be withheld via a grant agreement with FWC for deliverables not achieved, e.g., percent of construction work not completed.

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)
- 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:



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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**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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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.