



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1260

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

These funds will support the expansion of AI Centers at Miami Dade College's School of Engineering and Technology in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies to fuel the continued growth and expansion of the school. They will also support the recruitment of new faculty, professional development for existing faculty, and enhancements to computing resources.

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
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	3,000,000	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)?

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
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Funds will support hiring new faculty and professional development for existing faculty in AI, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies, strengthening the college's instructional capacity.	1,500,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funds will enhance computing resources, upgrade equipment, support faculty travel for professional development, and provide essential supplies for AI and cybersecurity programs.	1,500,000
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		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

To drive Miami Dade College's School of Engineering and Technology forward in AI, cybersecurity, and emerging tech, these funds will expand AI Centers, develop new courses, recruit faculty, provide professional development, and enhance computing resources.

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



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Expanding AI Centers, developing new courses in AI and cybersecurity, recruiting expert faculty, providing professional development for staff, and upgrading computing resources to support advanced learning and research.

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

The project will provide students with access to expanded AI Centers, cutting-edge courses in emerging technologies, enhanced learning resources, and skilled faculty, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed for high-demand careers in AI, cybersecurity, and technology.

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

MDC's AI programs currently serve over 1,000 students annually and are poised for significant growth with the prospective expansion.

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

The project will enhance access to AI education, increase enrollment, and improve job placement in high-demand fields, measured through enrollment and graduation data, job placement rates, student feedback, and industry partnership outcomes.

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?

Funds will be returned to the state upon failure to meet delivery or performance standards.

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:

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



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- 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

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number



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