



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1292

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Ruth Eckerd Hall hosts disaster preparedness initiatives throughout the year for The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Clearwater Police Department, Pinellas County Emergency Management, and others. The main campus is designated as a Pinellas County emergency command center, as well as an emergency housing facility for the Clearwater Police Department, during natural disasters. In response to back-to-back hurricanes in the fall of 2024, Ruth Eckerd Hall is working closely with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to digitally blueprint the facility to assist with quicker response times from law enforcement in cases of emergencies. State funding would help to repair past weather-related damage to the facility and harden the structure against future hurricane damage and flooding.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	769,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>769,000</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)	769,000	49%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	800,000	51%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,569,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	820,000	3266A	Yes

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?  No

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

### 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?

07/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2026

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

Ruth Eckerd Hall will fund ongoing operations and maintenance of the facility.

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.

Ruth Eckerd Hall operates facilities owned by the City of Clearwater through long-term leasing and operating agreements. Ruth Eckerd Hall is responsible for the maintenance of the properties and all asset replacements. While the project will indirectly benefit the owner through improved hardening of the facility, the primary beneficiary of the capital investment are those using the facilities.

### 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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Replace external components (six doors and a section of glass wall) with hurricane-rated fixtures, replace the alarm control board to meet fire code, Repair the sewer lift station and sump pump to prevent flooding, provide additional generator for power during emergencies, and repair water-damaged parking lot to ensure safe entry/exit to the facility.	769,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>769,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The facility will be secured against future flooding and hurricane force wind damage for use by first responders, community partners and 458,000 patrons from local, national, and international markets who attend Ruth Eckerd Hall events annually and contribute an estimated \$144 million in economic activity to the community, including state and local tax collections.

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

Replace external components (six doors and a section of glass wall) with hurricane-rated fixtures, replace the alarm control board to meet fire code, Repair the sewer lift station and sump pump to prevent flooding, provide additional generator for power during emergencies, and repair water-damaged parking lot to ensure safe entry/exit to the facility.

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

The main campus in Clearwater is designated as a Pinellas County emergency command center, as well as an emergency housing facility for the Clearwater Police Department, during natural disasters. In response to back-to-back hurricanes in the fall of 2024, Ruth Eckerd Hall is working closely with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to digitally blueprint the facility to assist with quicker response times from law enforcement in cases of emergencies. The Hall also hosted fifteen high school graduations scheduled for the now severely damaged Tropicana Field in the aftermath of this year's hurricane season. Other law enforcement and community partnerships include making its large parking lot available to the Clearwater Police Department for regular traffic-stop training and, during the pandemic, working with Pinellas County Emergency Management to operate a drive-thru testing site.

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

Beneficiaries include the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Clearwater Police Department, Pinellas County Emergency Management, 480,000 patrons, students and others who use the facility.

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

The facility will be secured against future flooding and hurricane force wind damage for use by first responders, community partners, 458,000 patrons, students and others who use the facility.

**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?**

Disbursed funds for deliverables not met will be returned to the state.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No  Yes

**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):**

hurricane

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

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply



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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)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.



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#### 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.*